



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

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HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 11012017 09:00

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Advisory Novel influenza A virus detected in Colorado

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / IPs / Clinical Labs / ID Physicians

RECIPIENT INSTRUCTIONS: Local Public Health Agencies - Please forward to healthcare providers. This information is for the public health and health care community. Do not post this document on a public web or social media site

HEALTH ADVISORY | Novel influenza A virus detected in Colorado| Nov. 1, 2017

Health care providers: Please distribute widely in your office

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Key points

- Last week, an individual hospitalized with influenza in the San Luis Valley was found to be infected with a novel influenza A virus, H1N2v. This individual is thought to have had at least some contact with livestock, though the investigation is ongoing.
- H1N2v is a variant of swine origin and has been seen 11 times in the United States since 2005. It rarely spreads human-to-human.
- In response to this case, public health has temporarily increased influenza surveillance in the San Luis Valley. Public health has been in touch with providers in the San Luis Valley and provided them with separate instructions.
- Statewide, clinical laboratories should send specimens with untypeable influenza A test results to the CDPHE Laboratory, regardless of hospitalization status. Please see specimen collection/shipping guidelines below.

Background information

The San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are investigating a case of variant influenza virus in a patient in the San Luis Valley. The patient is recovering.

The virus is a “swine flu” that normally infects pigs. Though rare, it can spread to people -- usually after they have had contact with infected pigs. The virus has been identified as H1N2v, with the “v” designating a human case.

Variant viruses have shown limited human-to-human spread, but no spread from this case has been detected.

Illness from variant flu viruses is usually mild, with symptoms similar to seasonal flu. Cases are investigated to ensure the viruses are not spreading in humans and to limit further exposure of humans to infected animals if such animals are identified.

According to the CDC, there have been 52 variant virus infections reported in 2017, and this is the only one in Colorado this year. There have been 11 cases of H1N2v reported in the United States since 2005. Additional information about variant influenza cases can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/keyfacts-variant.htm>

Recommendations / guidance

Hospitals and laboratories should send “duplicate” swabs or residual aliquots of NP aspirates **for specimens with untypeable influenza A results** to the state lab for confirmation and subtyping by PCR (at no charge).

Specimen collection

The following specimens are acceptable to collect and submit “duplicate” specimens for influenza PCR testing and subtyping at the state lab:

- Nasopharyngeal swab **that has not been used in rapid flu testing** which is placed in viral transport media (or 1 ml of sterile saline).
- Nasal wash (in sterile container).
- Nasal (anterior nares) swab PLUS throat swab.
- Wood shaft swabs should **not** be used.

Specimen storage and transport

- Specimens should be stored at 4 °C until transport to the state laboratory.
- Specimens should be packaged for transport as diagnostic samples and shipped at 4 °C.
- Specimens must be received by the state laboratory within 72 hours following collection.
- Criteria for specimen rejection by the state laboratory include:
 - Incomplete labeling or documentation.
 - Specimens collected using wooden shaft swabs.
 - Specimens not received at 4 °C.
 - Insufficient specimen volume.
 - Specimens received greater than 72 hours following collection.

The CDPHE standard requisition form (request for analytical services #270/271) is required for each sample submitted. Test request forms can be ordered at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/request-analytical-services-forms>. In addition to customer information and patient information, collection date and source are required. If these fields are not filled in, the sample may be rejected or testing may be delayed.

Collection and transport systems designed for use for bacterial detection only will not be accepted (ex. eSwab, Aimes swab, Stuarts swab, etc.).

To ensure proper and timely delivery of all clinical specimens sent to the state lab for influenza confirmation, please make sure to address the specimens as follows:

CDPHE Laboratory Services Division

Attn: Molecular Science Lab

8100 Lowry Blvd

Denver, CO 80230

More information

Contact Samie Hoss, CDPHE influenza coordinator, at 303-692-2700.

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John W. Hickenlooper, Governor | Larry Wolk, MD, MSPH, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

