

Technical Memorandum

TO: Physicians and Clinical Staff

FROM: Dr. Matthew J. Bankowski, PhD, D(ABMM) Dr. Wesley Kim, M.D.

V.P. – Director, Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Medical Director

DATE: April 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Laboratory testing for **Swine Influenza**

Effective Immediately, April 28, 2009

Influenza testing for the the swine influenza virus will be performed every day using a real time RT-PCR molecular test. The test is more sensitive and specific than both rapid antigen and culture. It is capable of detecting the new strain of swine influenza virus and is the recommended test of choice. If the rapid antigen test is ordered and the result is negative, it is highly suggested that PCR testing be performed (i.e. test add-on) to confirm the negative result.

All positive specimens will be forwarded to the Department of Health (DOH), State Laboratory Division for subtype confirmation. A completed Hawaii DOH epidemiological form needs to be completed with every test order to expedite the process.

Test Information

Analyte	Unit Code	Specimen Requirement
Influenza type A and B using realtime PCR	6234	Nasal pharyngeal swab

Test Frequency Daily,7 days a week, twice a day

Patient Information and Specimen Transport

Collection kits are provided to each client for patient specimen collection. Nasal pharyngeal specimens are collected from the patient and transported, refrigerated in M4 (or M4-RT) transport media. A DOH form needs to be completed and submitted for every specimen collected.

Please contact the Microbiology Department with any questions at (808) 589-5203