

April 27, 2009

To: All Physicians, Hospitals and Clinics in Winnebago County

Re: Rapid Influenza Testing/Swine Influenza Virus (SIV)

In an effort to increase healthcare worker safety and to allow for a central method to collect accurate and timely rapid influenza testing, the Winnebago County Health Department offers the following recommendations:

Effective immediately; all bench top rapid influenza testing in a clinic setting should be discontinued. Based on recommendations from the CDC, *“Diagnostic laboratory work on clinical samples from patients who are suspected cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection should be conducted in a BSL2 laboratory. All sample manipulations should be done inside a biosafety cabinet (BSC).”*

All samples should be sent to one of the Rockford hospital’s clinical laboratories for rapid influenza testing. We fully understand that this will cause a delay in results, but strongly feel that in the interest of worker safety that this is a necessary precaution to take.

Samples should, **at a minimum**, be sealed in a biohazard bag and specimens should be labeled with the following information:

- Patient’s FULL name (Last, First, Middle initial)
- Patient’s date of birth (Month-Day-Year)
- Date and time of collection
- Specimen site (nasopharyngeal preferred)
- Location of collection (i.e., SPECIFIC clinic location and SPECIFIC physician’s office)
- Person taking collection
- 24-hour call back number for results

Samples **MUST** be in viral transport medium (i.e., M4) and maintained at a refrigerated temperature. Dry swab collection is **NOT** recommended.

Physician’s offices, clinics, etc. will be contacted with all test results. Patients who test positive for influenza A and meet the criteria set forth by the CDC as a “suspected SIV case” will have their samples referred to the Winnebago County Health Department for additional investigation.

Celebrating 150 Years and Beyond



Main Office – 401 Division Street Rockford IL 61104 (815) 720-4000 Fax: (815) 720-4001
North Main Annex – 2909 N. Main Street Rockford IL 61103 (815) 972-7400 Fax: (815) 282-5247
Millennium Center Annex – 220 S. Madison Street Rockford IL 61104 (815) 720-4000 Fax: (815) 962-1680
Sandcastle – 201 S. 8th Street South Beloit IL 61080 (815) 389-4167 Fax: (815) 389-0459
School Link Health Center – 330 15th Avenue Rockford IL 61104 (815) 972-7200 Fax: (815) 968-2035
Life Center – 921 West State Street Rockford IL 61102 (815) 720-4390 Fax: (815) 962-7305

www.wchd.org

Suspected SIV case risk factors according to CDC guidelines are:

1. Live in an area of the U.S. with confirmed case(s).
2. Travel recently or contact with persons with illness who were in affected areas within 7 days prior to illness.

The following phone numbers are for the Rockford hospital's laboratories:

OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center	815-395-5111
Rockford Memorial Hospital	815-971-5112
SwedishAmerican Hospital	815-966-2689

Please understand that this is a dynamic situation and recommendations may change on a daily basis. Any questions may be directed to the Winnebago County Health Department, Dee Dunnett at 815-720-4063, Dani Jordal at 815-720-4215, or Kara McCluskey 815-720-4075.

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_labworkers.htm