



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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June 27, 2013

To: Wisconsin Clinicians  
Infection Preventionists  
Local Health Department Staff

From: Jeffrey P. Davis, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist  
For Communicable Diseases and Emergency response

RE: Influenza testing and variant influenza A/H3N2 virus detection

The Indiana Health Department has identified four confirmed cases of variant influenza A/H3N2 (H3N2v) from an ill patient that had contact with many animals, including swine, while at a county agricultural fair held June 16 – 22, 2013 in Indiana. In addition 13 swine from the fair also tested positive for H3N2v.

Accordingly, health care providers in Wisconsin are reminded to consider influenza as a possible diagnosis when evaluating patients with acute respiratory illnesses (any two of the following; fever, cough, sore throat, rhinorrhea, nasal congestion) including pneumonia, even during the summer months. It is particularly important to consider influenza among those patients who report exposure to swine via petting zoos, fairs, farm visits or through slaughtering and processing.

When patients present with acute respiratory illness health care providers should request influenza RT-PCR testing. Rapid antigen influenza testing is discouraged.

Those patients with known or suspected exposure to swine within a week prior to illness onset can be tested at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, with the prior approval of the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. For approval of testing or if you have questions regarding this memo, contact Thomas Haupt, Wisconsin Influenza Surveillance Coordinator at 608-266-5326, [Thomas.haupt@wi.gov](mailto:Thomas.haupt@wi.gov) or call the Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Emergency Response at 608-267-9003.

**[Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Lab Requisition Form](#)**