State Hygienic Laboratory and Iowa Department of Public Health
Influenza Surveillance Testing Guidance 2019/2020

When to submit specimens to SHL:

- **Outpatient facilities** - Submit up to 2 specimens per week to contribute to surveillance regardless of in-house test method
- **Inpatient** - hospitalized patients with suspected Influenza and without other apparent cause regardless of in-house method or tests results

What specimens to submit to SHL:

- Combined nasal swab and throat swab into one tube OR Nasopharyngeal swab
- Do not submit swabs or specimens that have been used for rapid testing
- Must be in viral transport medium (OK to use any type of viral transport media, but not bacterial transport media)

SHL will run PCR for Influenza A and B and if positive will: Determine A subtype (H3 or 2009 H1N1 pdm) or Determine B lineage (Victoria or Yamagata)

SHL confirmatory influenza testing serves the following purposes:

- Demonstrates predictive value of rapid tests
- Situational awareness- when and where flu is circulating
- Novel virus detection
- Contribute samples to CDC and WHO- antiviral resistance, vaccine strain selection and match to current vaccine
- Surveillance testing is provided at no cost and is partially supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Thank you for your support of this program!


Patients must have influenza-like illness (*fever and respiratory symptoms without other apparent cause*). Contact IDPH or SHL for guidance in the event of an ILI outbreak.