TO: All RML Clients

FROM: Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Microbiology & Immunology
Linda Strycker, MT(ASCP), Manager of Microbiology

DATE: April 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Testing for the New Emerging Swine Influenza A Virus

Testing for the newly emerging Swine Influenza A virus on patients with an influenza-like illness (fever 100 F or greater, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, possibly vomiting and diarrhea) will be performed on nasopharyngeal specimens collected on flexible mini-tip nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs in viral transport media. Please collect two (2) swabs. An alternate specimen would be three (3) NP green CultureSwabs which should also be submitted in viral transport media. The extra swabs will be available, if necessary, to be sent to the Oklahoma State Health Department and possibly the CDC for further molecular testing. RML will not be collecting specimens from patients for testing at our patient service centers or laboratories.

The specimen will be tested by the rapid influenza A and B screen at RML, if positive will be sent onto the state laboratory. Specimens which test negative by the rapid influenza A assay and are from patients who have recently traveled to Mexico, South Texas or Southern California will also be sent to the state laboratory for follow up testing. Please inform the laboratory on the request sheet of any recent travel to the above three locations. Specimens which are influenza A negative and have no travel history reported will be held for 7 days. RML presently has a limited number of influenza A tests in the system and availability from the manufacturers is unknown at this time. Due to CDC biosafety guidelines, Swine Influenza A virus testing will be performed at RML facilities in St. John’s Medical Center and Jane Phillips Medical Center only. CDC has directed all laboratory work with suspected Swine Influenza A virus to be performed in a laminar flow biosafety cabinet.

The U.S. government has released 25% of the stockpiled antivirals (Tamiflu and Relenza) for treatment. The newly emerging Swine Influenza A virus is resistant to amantadine and rimantadine.

Orderable Test: Influenza A & B Screen; Order name C A/B FLU; Test # 6003125
Orderable Test: Influenza A Screen; Order name C FLUA SC; Test # 6001875

Specimen: Nasopharyngeal specimens collected on Two (2) flexible mini-tip nasopharyngeal swabs in separate viral transport media. Refrigerate

Please call Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D, Chief of Microbiology/Immunology at 918-744-2553 or Linda Strycker, MT(ASCP), Manager of Microbiology at 918-744-2500 ext 15575 if you have questions or information regarding the newly emerging Swine Influenza A virus.