CDPH
Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Subject: H5N1 Response: Reporting Influenza A Subtyping

Dear Laboratory Partner,

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to report test results for reportable conditions to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and local public health departments in accordance with requirements in 17 CCR Section 2505. Recently, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for influenza A(H5N1) (also known as "Bird Flu."), whose detection requires laboratory subtyping.

As a reminder, reporting of all influenza test results, including subtyping results, is required. Receiving these results via ELR enables CDPH to monitor circulating influenza A strains and testing trends, which is critical to informing the public health response to influenza A (H5N1). To assist in its timely response to influenza A(H5N1), **CDPH advises laboratories to report all influenza subtyping and specifically influenza type A subtype results via electronic lab reporting (ELR)**. CDPH publishes influenza data weekly in its Respiratory Virus Report.

If you are currently unable to send subtyping results to CDPH via ELR, please contact CalREDIEELR@cdph.ca.gov to discuss temporary alternatives for reporting.

Influenza Type and Subtype Results

Please report all influenza type A and type B results separately, **even if the type results are "not detected" or "inconclusive", etc.** Do not report a positive influenza result without type information when the test performed differentiates between influenza A and B and influenza A and B results can be reported separately. For example, report as "Influenza A detected" instead of "Influenza detected".

In addition to the influenza type results, please also report all influenza A subtype results (e.g., H3, H1, H5) separately for all subtype testing performed, **even if the subtype results are "not detected" or "inconclusive", etc.**

If a sample tests positive for influenza A virus but negative for subtypes A(H1) and A(H3), the sample might contain a novel influenza A virus, such as influenza A(H5), and should be **forwarded to a public health laboratory** for subtyping. Laboratories forwarding specimens to a public health laboratory should also notify the local health department.

As a reminder, if these tests are performed in your facility, please follow the requirements below.

- For multiplex tests, use appropriate **virus-specific LOINCs** for **each** disease result.
- Currently accepted LOINCs for H5 reporting to CalREDIE are:

  81320-4 FLUAV H5 ASIAN RNA CT RESP QN NAA H5A

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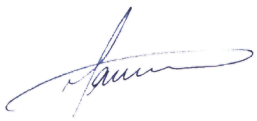
81321-2 FLUAV H5 ASIAN RNA CT RESP QN NAA H5B
44795-3 FLUAV H5 Asian RNA Spec Ql NAA+probe
38272-1 FLUAV H5 RNA NAA+probe Ql (Specimen)
68986-9 FLUAV H5A RNA XXX QL NAA+PROBE
68987-7 FLUAV H5B RNA XXX QL NAA+PROBE

- HL7 reporting for multiplex results: Report **each disease's** test results in **separate** and complete observation/result (OBX) segments.
- CSV reporting for multiplex tests: Report **each disease's** test results in **separate** and complete rows of the file.

For further guidance, please refer to the November 2024 communication, Reporting Multiplex Respiratory Panels and Subtyped Influenza A&B and RSV Results. Please **contact** CalREDIEELR@cdph.ca.gov with any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you again for your partnership in protecting the health of Californians.



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