

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES **DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Updated interim algorithm for clinicians to assist in decisions on testing and treatment for novel H1N1 (swine flu) virus in Kentucky August 26, 2009

Patient presents with Fever >37.8°C (100° F) and Respiratory symptom (may include cough, sore throat, etc) or Sepsis-like syndrome¹ No influenza testing recommended. Additional No Implement appropriate workup and follow up as infection control measures² clinically indicated. warranted. Patient has acute febrile respiratory illness³ and factors. • Patient's clinical condition indicates need for hospitalization or Patient should • Patient is pregnant *or* • Patient is living in an institutional setting where no previous cases have been identified Yes No

Consider additional workup for other respiratory conditions and co-infections if

Antiviral treatment should be considered based on clinical severity and risk

- stay home until symptoms resolve
- use hand, respiratory and cough hygiene
- call or seek emergency medical care, if warranted

Obtain any of the following: nasopharyngeal swab; nasal aspirate; nasal swab plus throat swab; and place in viral media⁴

- 1. Store in refrigerator while awaiting transport (do not freeze)
- 2. Send to KY Division of Laboratory Services⁵ for RT-PCR testing⁶
- Recommend early antiviral treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir and consider concurrent amantadine or rimantadine (to cover possible seasonal influenza), if patient is severely ill or at high risk for complications^{7,8}
- Use clinical judgment to decide whether additional antibacterial therapy is needed ⁹
- Consider chemoprophylaxis for high risk exposed contacts of suspect or confirmed novel H1N1 cases^{7,8}
- 1. As with seasonal influenza, infants, adults ≥65 years-old, and persons with compromised immune systems may have atypical presentations.
- 2. Information on infection control can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines infection control.htm
- 3. If you encounter a patient that may have extenuating circumstances that warrant testing, please contact Emily Adkins, RN at 502-564-5353 during regular business hours. If the situation is urgent and outside of business hours, please call our after hours contact line at 888-9REPORT.
- 4. See KY Division of Laboratory Services website: www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/info/lab
- 5. KY Division of Laboratory Services: ATTN: Virology, 100 Sower Blvd. Frankfort, KY 40601
- 6. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is the preferred laboratory test for identifying novel H1N1 (swine flu) virus. Rapid antigen tests and immunofluorescence tests have unknown sensitivity and specificity to detect novel H1N1 virus. For more information, please see http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/specimencollection.htm.
- 7. Persons at high risk of complications: Children less than 5 years old; persons aged 50 years or older; children and adolescents (aged 6 months–18 years) who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and who might be at risk for experiencing Reye syndrome after influenza virus infection; pregnant women; adults and children who have chronic pulmonary, cardiovascular, hepatic, hematological, neurologic, neuromuscular, or metabolic disorders; adults and children who have immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or by HIV); and residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities.
- 8. Information on use of antiviral agents can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm
- 9. Interim guidance for clinicians is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/

Please note: this algorithm does not apply to providers participating in the US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). For guidance related to ILI Net see: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/screening.htm Updated on 8/26/2009