

The Kentucky Laboratory Sentinel

August/September 2006



Public Health Influenza Planning

The KY Public Health Lab pandemic flu plan addresses several key areas: detection, distribution of diagnostic reagents, surge capacity, training, and partnerships. Presently, we have the ability to test for the H5N1 influenza virus using a polymerase chain reaction procedure (PCR). The identical sample type (nasopharyngeal swab) and submission procedure (viral transport media with cold packs) that is used for seasonal influenza analysis and identification will be used for H5N1 testing.

Department for Public Health Influenza Website

www.chfs.ky.gov/dph/influenza.htm

Center for Disease Control screening criteria for H5N1 influenza testing

Testing for avian influenza A (H5N1) is indicated for hospitalized patients with:

- Radiographically confirmed pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), or other severe respiratory illness for which an alternate diagnosis has not been established, AND
- History of travel within 10 days of symptom onset to a country with documented H5N1 avian influenza in poultry and/or humans (for a regularly updated listing of H5N1-affected countries, see the [OIE Web site](http://www.Oie.int/eng/en_index.htm) www.Oie.int/eng/en_index.htm and [the WHO Web site](http://www.who.int/en/) www.who.int/en/).

Testing for avian influenza A (H5N1) should be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with state and local health departments for hospitalized or ambulatory patients with:

- Documented temperature of $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($>100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$), AND
- One or more of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, AND
- History of contact with poultry (e.g., visited a poultry farm, a household raising poultry, or a bird market) or a known or suspected human case of influenza A (H5N1) in an H5N1-affected country within 10 days of symptom onset.

Patient is suspect case of influenza A(H5N1) and is laboratory confirmed by CDC as influenza A(H5) positive by:

- PCR, or
- Viral culture, or
- Influenza A(H5) specific serology



National Preparedness Month

The unpredictable threat of an emergency from a catastrophic flood or tornado to an influenza pandemic makes it essential that we prepare our homes, businesses and schools for the unexpected. There isn't a better time to do this than during September National Preparedness Month (NPM).

During this month, the Department for Public Health and KY Homeland Security want to encourage every Kentuckian to get a disaster supply kit, make an emergency plan, be informed and get involved. Disasters will happen, but by preparing for them and working together, we can help to minimize the impact they will have on our lives.

For more information on family emergency preparedness in Kentucky, visit the state's readiness web site at :

<http://homelandsecurity.ky.gov/families/protectyourfamily/>

CAP

Laboratory Preparedness Survey

It is time to order the LPS for 2007. If your lab participated in 2006 you will automatically receive the LPS for 2007. Didn't participate in 2006? Send me an email with your CAP number and you will get signed up.

If you have any changes or don't want to receive the 2007 survey, please contact Leighann.bates@ky.gov