

# MLS Laboratory Update: 2022-2023 Influenza and Respiratory Virus Season

OCTOBER 5, 2022

## Purpose of this Message:

This message serves to inform the healthcare community about MDH surveillance and laboratory testing strategies for the 2022-2023 influenza season. Our epidemiology partners have also shared this information with clinicians. The first attachment provides in-depth detail about everything having to do with the 2022-2023 influenza season (testing performed at MDH-PHL, Influenza Reporting Requirements, etc.). A second attachment provides a single page document of the specimen handling and shipping information that could be posted in your laboratory.

## Action Item:

- Sign up to contribute to the Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Activity webpage by providing weekly influenza, RSV, and other respiratory virus testing data from your laboratory. Click this link to provide your contact information: [2022-2023 Weekly Influenza and Respiratory Activity Participation Sign Up \(https://survey.vovici.com/se/56206EE36BAEEDF7\)](https://survey.vovici.com/se/56206EE36BAEEDF7)
  - This voluntary weekly data survey is for **submitters located in Minnesota**.
  - Facilities that contributed data to the 2022 “Summer Season” surveillance do not need to sign up again unless their contact information has changed.
- Review the guidance for specimen submission to MDH-PHL for the 2022-2023 influenza surveillance season.
  - This messaging is intended for **submitters located in Minnesota**.
- Register for webinar: The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) is offering a free, interactive webinar to discuss strategies for influenza surveillance, surveillance goals and recent zoonotic influenza cases on October 18, 2022. Clinical and public health laboratory partnerships will be emphasized to identify opportunities for supporting influenza surveillance and investigating potential zoonotic cases. Additionally, webinar participants are eligible for continuing education credits. For further information on this event view the [event flyer](#) and register for the event using the on-line registration form.

## Background:

Influenza surveillance in Minnesota includes year-round reporting of hospitalized influenza cases and submission of specimens from hospitalized patients with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)\* or suspicion of influenza to the Minnesota Department of Health - Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) for influenza PCR testing. Although surveillance has been ongoing, we are sending this notification as a reminder that the start to the 2022-2023 influenza season (set by CDC) is October 1, 2022. If you are not currently doing so, please begin utilizing the procedures described upon receipt of this notification.

## Additional Information:

### Included in the attached Update:

1. Specimen Submission to MDH–PHL
2. Testing Performed at MDH–PHL
3. Forms Required for Specimen Submission
4. Rapid Influenza Test Information
5. Influenza Reporting Requirements (Hospitalized Cases, Deaths, Critical Illness, Other)
6. How to Report Cases of Influenza
7. Weekly Influenza Activity Webpage
8. Contact Information for Influenza Surveillance (Specimen Submission, Case Reporting)

**Questions:** Please contact: Scott Cunningham, Virology Unit Supervisor; 651-201-5032, [Scott.Cunningham@state.mn.us](mailto:Scott.Cunningham@state.mn.us)

OR the MN\_LabSystem inbox at [health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us](mailto:health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us)

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.*