

# CHILDLAB<sup>®</sup>

## MEMORANDUM

To: ChildLab Clients  
From: Sue Hammond MD Chief, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Mario Marcon PhD Director of Microbiology, Virology and Specialty Functions  
Re: H1N1  
Date: September 15, 2009

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Everyone is expecting an unusual influenza season this year, although no one knows exactly what will happen. At ChildLab, a division of Nationwide Children's Hospital we have continued to see a low level of positive tests for influenza A over the summer on a weekly basis. This is distinctly unusual. The Ohio Dept of Health and the CDC have reported that practically all cases of influenza A at this time are due to the 2009 H1N1 subtype. Other parts of the country where school started earlier than in Ohio have seen rates of influenza go up quickly.

There are several tests that ChildLab can perform for influenza:

- Rapid, point of care, enzyme immunoassay (EIA) test which detects influenza A and B and can be performed on an anterior nares swab. Rapid Flu testing will be available at all Urgent Cares and select ChildLab laboratory service centers (draw sites) on or before October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- "RVD" DFA (direct fluorescent antibody) test which is more sensitive than the rapid EIA test, but requires an NP swab specimen (detects flu A, flu B, RSV, adenovirus, meta- pneumovirus and parainfluenzaviruses). Available now.
- PCR for influenza A and B (more sensitive than viral culture) Available now.
- PCR for H1N1; currently available by send out to a commercial reference lab or the Ohio Dept of Health Labs (testing restricted primarily to inpatients at this time)

The 2009 H1N1 influenza subtype is detected in these tests about as well as seasonal influenza, although they do not differentiate between seasonal A and novel H1N1 (except for PCR for H1N1).

We are currently evaluating reagents for specific H1N1 testing in our laboratory. The anticipated timeline for this to be available is early November. Specific testing for H1N1 is available as a send out test from at least one laboratory and the Ohio Department of Health on a very limited basis.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta ([www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu)) is only recommending specific testing for H1N1 in two clinical situations at this time. One is for patients who are ill enough to require hospitalization; the other is for defining cluster outbreaks.

Additional H1N1 information is available on the Nationwide Children's internet site at [www.nationwidechildrens.org](http://www.nationwidechildrens.org) under the News and Highlights column, and on [www.childlab.com](http://www.childlab.com) under News and Events. This situation will continue to evolve over the next few weeks and months. Updates will be available on the CDC website as well as on the Nationwide Children's and ChildLab internet sites.

For questions about individual specimens, contact ChildLab Customer Service at (614) 722-5477 or (800) 934-6575.