

## **Laboratory Services Influenza Testing FAQ's**

### **1. What tests will be performed?**

The state Public Health Laboratory will only test patients that are under the Sentinel Provider Network (SPN); Emerging Infection Program (EIP) Hospitals and selected Pre-Approved Requests. All other tests for H1N1 Influenza must be done through clinical referrals to reference and commercial labs.

### **2. How will results be reported?**

All reports will be faxed to the provider and a copy sent to the regional office.

### **3. What results will be reported?**

We will report each of the PCR markers tested. This will include Seasonal A; Seasonal H1; Seasonal H3; Seasonal B; Novel (Swine) A; and Novel (Swine) H1.

### **4. Who will be sent influenza test collection supplies?**

- SPN participants will get supplies shipped to them. Shippers will be returned each time a batch of specimens is sent to Nashville.
- EIP hospitals will provide their own swabs and collection supplies.
- Supplies for Pre-Approved tests will be the responsibility of the provider requesting the test.

## **5. What supplies are sent to SPN participants?**

SPN participants will get a set of shippers, swabs, requests, and viral transport media.

## **6. How do SPN participants get supplies?**

SPN participants can order supplies using a supply requisition form and sending it to

Jerry Hindman fax 615-262-6393 [jerry.hindman@tn.gov](mailto:jerry.hindman@tn.gov)

or

Susan McCool fax 615-262-6393 [susan.mccool@tn.gov](mailto:susan.mccool@tn.gov)

SPN can also contact their Regional SPN Coordinator

## **7. What is pre-approval?**

Since CDC has asked Public Health Labs to limit testing to those that allow us to monitor the changes in the virus and not test all persons suspected of an infection, we have limited routine testing to SPN and EIP Hospitals. However, we recognize that there are some circumstances that warrant testing individuals. We have established a process that allows providers to call public health to request H1N1 testing outside the SPN and EIP networks. No testing will be done without pre-approved clinical assessment for public health information.

## **8. What are the criteria for pre-approval?**

Pre-approval will be done based on specific information about the patient and the medical conditions.

All providers east of the Tennessee River call Dr. Robyn Atkinson of the Knoxville Regional Laboratory at 865-549-5217.

All providers west of the Tennessee River call Dr. Oristyne Walker of the Jackson Regional Office at 731-426-0686.

## **9. What form is used?**

There are three forms specific for each program:

- Emerging Infection program (EIP)
- Sentinel Provider Network (SNP)
- Pre-Approval – will be faxed to approved provider

## **10. What is the mailing address?**

EIP and SNP –

Division of Laboratory Services  
630 Hart Lane  
Nashville, TN 37216-2006

Pre-approved Specimens only –

All providers east of the Tennessee River will ship to  
Knoxville Regional Laboratory  
1522 Cherokee Trail  
Knoxville, TN 27950-9019.

All providers west of the Tennessee River will ship to  
Jackson Regional Laboratory  
295 Sumnar Avenue  
Jackson, TN 38302-0849.

## **11. Which lab do I send my specimen to for testing?**

EIP and SNP –

Division of Laboratory Services  
630 Hart Lane  
Nashville, TN 37216-2006

Pre-approved Specimens only –

All providers east of the Tennessee River will ship to:

Knoxville Regional Laboratory  
1522 Cherokee Trail  
Knoxville, TN 27950-9019

All providers west of the Tennessee River will ship to:

Jackson Regional Laboratory  
295 Sumnar Avenue  
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**12. How do I collect a specimen?**

The following should be collected as soon as possible after illness onset: nasopharyngeal swab, nasal aspirate, or a combined nasopharyngeal swab with oropharyngeal swab. If these specimens cannot be collected, a nasal swab or oropharyngeal swab is acceptable (see CDC specimen collection recommendations at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/specimencollection.htm>).

A dacron or polyester swab with plastic or metal shafts must be used. Cotton swabs or swabs with a wooden shaft cannot be used for PCR testing.

**13. How do I ship a specimen?**

Ship overnight delivery with specimen kept cold using cold ice packs. Send as a Biological Specimen, Category B.

**14. Who are the Sentinel Physicians?**

The Sentinel Provider Network (SNP) consists of approximately 65 Physician practices evenly located across TN.  
List attached.

Sentinel Providers will collect specimens from as many patients as feasible who meet ILI case definition on Mondays and/or Wednesdays.

- Collect up to a maximum of 10 specimens/week/provider
- Ship specimens at the end of the collection day(s)
- PCR testing is conducted after the receipt of specimens on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Supplies are replenished by state laboratory after receipt of specimens in time for the collection day(s) the following week
- Requests for supplies should be faxed using the order form provided by the regional coordinator.

#### **15. Who are the EIP hospitals?**

There are 18 hospitals in Middle Tennessee that have been recruited to send in appropriate specimens.

List attached

#### **16. What commercial labs are testing?**

Quest – performs Rapid Culture and uses Focus Labs for PCR

ARUP – has developed a PCR and is seeking FDA EUA status

Spectrum – working with Focus Labs to obtain their test kit

AEL – will send tests to Focus Labs

LabCorp – no formal response

#### **17. How long does it take to get results?**

Once received by the Laboratory, the results should be reported no later than 3 – 5 days. Results will be faxed.

<b>Sentinel Provider Organization</b>	<b>City</b>
Alexian Brothers Community Services	Chattanooga
Athens Medical Group	Athens
Bedford County Health Department	Shelbyville
Belmont University Health Services	Nashville
Benton Family Health Care Center	Benton
Cheatham County Health Department	Ashland City
Cherokee Health	Knoxville
CHOTA-Family Practice Associates	Madisonville
Comprehensive Medical Care	Chattanooga
Cool Springs Pediatrics	Franklin
Cumberland County Health Department	Crossville
Dickson County Health Department	Dickson
Dyer County Health Dept Primary Care	Dyersburg
East Town Urgent Care and Occupational Health	Knoxville
ETSU Family Medicine	Johnson City
ETSU Physicians and Associates	Kingsport
Family Clinic of Oak Ridge	Oak Ridge
First Choice Family Practice	Johnson City
Gibson County Health Dept Primary Care	Trenton
Grundy County Primary Care Center	Palmer
Health Loop Mid-South Family Practice	Memphis
Henderson County Health Dept Primary Care	Lexington
Henry County Health Dept Primary Care	Paris
Heritage Medical Associates	Nashville
Houston County Health Department	Erin
Humphreys County Health Department	Waverly
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics	Bristol
Jim Powers, M.D.	Nashville
Knox County Pediatric Clinic	Knoxville
Lawrence County Health Department	Lawrenceburg
Lee University Health Clinic	Cleveland
Loudon Pediatric Clinic, P.C.	Loudon
Madison Family Clinic (United Neighborhood Health)	Madison
Maury County Primary Care	Columbia
McNairy County Health Dept Primary Care	Selmer
Middle Tennessee University Student Health	Murfreesboro
Minute Clinic CVS Madison #6424	Nashville
Montgomery County Health Department	Clarksville
Overton County Health Department	Livingston
Phillips Medical Group	Talbot
Putnam County Annex	Cookeville
Rutherford County Health Department	Murfreesboro
Sequatchie County Health Dept of Primary Care	Dunlap
Sequoyah Health Center	Soddy-Daisy
Sevier County Health Dept Primary Care	Sevierville
Siloam Family Health Center	Nashville
Stewart County Health Department	Dover
Summit Medical Group	Maryville
Summit Medical Group at Northshore	Knoxville
Sumner County Health Department	Gallatin

<b>Sentinel Provider Organization</b>	<b>City</b>
Tennessee Tech University Infirmary	Cookeville
The Jackson Clinic	Jackson
Thomas Conway, M.D.	Newport
Tipton County Health Dept Primary Care	Covington
University Health	Chattanooga
University of Tennessee Student Health	Knoxville
UT Health Science Center Dept of Family Medicine	Chattanooga
UT Med Center Dept of Family Medicine	Knoxville
UTMG Saint Francis Family Practice Center	Memphis
Vanderbilt Student Health Services	Nashville
Warren County Health Department	McMinnville
Washington County Health Department	Johnson City
Williamson County Health Department	Franklin
Wilson County Health Department	Lebanon

<b>EIP HOSPITAL</b>
Baptist Hospital- Nashville
Centennial Medical Center – Nashville and Ashland City
Hendersonville Medical Center – Hendersonville
Horizons Medical Center – Dickson
Metro-General Hospital - Nashville
Middle Tennessee Medical Center - Murfreesboro
Northcrest Medical Center – Springfield
Saint Thomas Hospital – Nashville
Skyline Medical Center – Nashville
Southern Hills Medical Center – Nashville
Stonecrest Medical Center– Smyrna
Summit Medical Center – Nashville
Sumner Regional Medical Center – Gallatin
University Medical Center – Lebanon
Vanderbilt University Medical Center - Nashville
Veteran’s Administration Medical Center – Murfreesboro
Veteran’s Administration Medical Center – Nashville
Williamson Medical Center – Franklin