



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants  
Date: June 26, 2009

### **Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Predominant Flu Virus in California**

Novel influenza A (H1N1) is now the predominant influenza virus circulating throughout California. This conclusion is based on data from primarily hospitalized patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) tested at one of 24 California public health laboratories participating in the Respiratory Laboratory Network (RLN).

From May 24 - June 13, 2009, a total of 1016 specimens from primarily hospitalized patients with ILI were submitted to RLN laboratories; 27% (n=270) of specimens tested PCR-positive for influenza A. Of the specimens positive for influenza A, **92%** (n=248) were identified as novel influenza A (H1N1). Twice-weekly updates to statewide RLN data is available at: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/vrldl/Pages/default.aspx>.

### **Testing and Treatment of Hospitalized Patients with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)**

Healthcare providers in San Diego County are reminded to 1) request PCR testing and 2) promptly initiate antiviral treatment for all patients hospitalized with suspect novel influenza A (H1N1) infection, regardless of rapid influenza test results. A negative rapid flu test does not exclude the possibility of novel influenza A (H1N1) infection.

A suspect case of novel influenza A (H1N1) in San Diego County is defined as a patient evaluated by a healthcare provider who is determined to have ILI (fever >100.4° F AND cough or sore throat) with no other known or likely etiology. PCR testing for *hospitalized* patients with suspect novel influenza A (H1N1) infection is available at the San Diego County Public Health Laboratory, located at 3851 Rosecrans St, San Diego 92110.

### **Updated Interim Guidance on Screening for Novel Influenza A (H1N1)**

Recommendations regarding novel influenza A (H1N1) continue to change. An update has been made to the interim guidance on screening for novel influenza A (H1N1) which recommends that suspect cases discharged home receive infection control guidance specific to novel influenza A (H1N1). CDC infection control guidance in the home setting can be accessed at: [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance\\_homecare.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_homecare.htm)

The updated interim guidance can be accessed at [https://cahan.ca.gov/cahan/Documents/2%20-State%20and%20Local%20Health/San%20Diego%2037/Alerts/2009%20Alerts/H1N1FlowDiagram-color-blkwht\\_1.pdf](https://cahan.ca.gov/cahan/Documents/2%20-State%20and%20Local%20Health/San%20Diego%2037/Alerts/2009%20Alerts/H1N1FlowDiagram-color-blkwht_1.pdf)

Thank you for your continued participation.

#### **CAHAN San Diego**

County of San Diego, Health & Human Services Agency  
Community Epidemiology Branch  
Phone: (619) 515-6620, Fax: (619) 515-6641  
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255  
E-mail: [eman@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:eman@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
Secure Website: <http://cahan.ca.gov>  
Public-Access Website: <http://www.emansandiego.com>

*CAHAN San Diego Alerts are intended for the use of public health, medical and laboratory professionals in San Diego County, and should be considered confidential and **NOT DISTRIBUTED** further. An online CAHAN San Diego application is available at <http://www.emansandiego.com> for appropriate and interested individuals. If you are not an approved CAHAN San Diego subscriber and have received this communication in error, please reply to this message immediately and then delete it.*