

State of Montana DPHHS HAN UPDATE

Distributed via the DPHHS Health Alert Network (HAN) System

Tuesday May 5, 2009 3:40 PM

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DPHHS recommends you do forward this HAN message A.S.A.P. on to your local HAN contacts.

DPHHS Recommendations:

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) continues to support laboratory testing to identify cases of Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like). During the time period, April 28, 2009 until noon on May 4, 2009, the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) reported 328 specimens from patients with influenza-like illness; 20% of these specimens have identified seasonal influenza A viruses. No case of Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) has been confirmed in Montana at this time. We are now modifying the criteria for specimens that will be processed at no charge at MTPHL.

As of May 6, 2009, specimens submitted for patients meeting the criteria below will be processed at no charge to the provider when documentation is provided on the laboratory requisition form.

Specimens submitted without documenting the presence of influenza-like illness *and* either hospitalization *or* travel to an area with confirmed cases will be either not tested or billed to the submitter.

UPDATED DPHHS TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS (5/5/2009):

DPHHS will support laboratory testing costs for Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) for patients meeting the following criteria:

Patients who meet the case definition of influenza-like illness (ILI) **AND**

a.) who have traveled within 7 days to a community either within the United States or internationally where there are one or more confirmed Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) cases,

OR

b.) Patients admitted to the hospital with an ILI.

ILI is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F (37.8°C) or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

To qualify for state-supported testing, please document the presence of ILI and recent travel to an area with documented cases of Influenza A H1N1 (swine-like) or current hospitalization for ILI on the MTPHL requisition form.

Treatment with Antiviral Medications

Please use antiviral medications judiciously. Priority should be given for treatment of hospitalized patients and outpatients at high risk for influenza complications. Mild uncomplicated illness should not be treated.

Watch for further details regarding use of antiviral medications in a separate communication.

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline 1-800-701-5769

Visit the DPHHS Health Alert Network Website at www.han.mt.gov

The goal of Montana's Health Alert Network is to transmit information to local public health authorities as quickly as possible, and assign a suitable priority to the message that is sensitive to the impact of a health-related event providing information relative to the public health and safety of Montanans. For questions or comments relative to Montana's HAN system you may contact the DPHHS HAN Coordinator, Gerry Wheat at <<mailto:gwheat@mt.gov>>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification data base. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use please notify us as soon as possible by e-mail at hhshan@mt.gov <mailto:hhshan@mt.gov>
