

Updated Interim Guidance for Laboratory Testing of Persons with Suspected Infection with Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus in the United States

Laboratory Testing for Avian Influenza A H5N1 Virus Is Recommended:

Clinical Criteria

- Patient with illness that requires hospitalization or is fatal

AND

- Documented temperature of $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$);
- Radiographically confirmed pneumonia, acute respiratory disease syndrome (ARDS) or other severe respiratory illness without alternate diagnosis.

AND

Epidemiologic Criteria

At least 1 of following potential exposures (A, B or C) within 10 days of symptom onset

- A. Travel to country with documented H5N1 in poultry, wild birds and/or humans¹

AND at least 1 of the following:

- Direct contact with (e.g., touching) sick or dead domestic poultry;
- Direct contact with surfaces contaminated with poultry feces;
- Consumption of raw or incompletely cooked poultry or poultry products;
- Direct contact with sick or dead wild birds suspected or confirmed with H5N1;
- Close contact (approach within approximately 3 feet) of a person who was hospitalized or died due to severe and unexplained respiratory illness;

- B. Close contact (approach within approximately 3 feet) of an ill patient who was confirmed or suspected to have H5N1;

- C. Worked with live influenza H5N1 in a laboratory.

Laboratory Testing for H5N1 Virus Can Be Considered: (Consult with Public Health)

- Patient with mild or atypical disease who meets criteria A, B or C above
- Patient with severe or fatal respiratory disease whose epidemiologic information is uncertain, unavailable or otherwise suspicious, but does not meet criteria A, B or C

If Clinical and Epidemiologic Criteria Are Met:

- Initiate standard, droplet, and airborne precautions plus eye protection ²
- **NOTIFY PUBLIC HEALTH at 206-296-4774 and hospital infection control**
- Evaluate and initiate treatment as clinically indicated
- Collect and submit specimens for influenza virus testing after consultation with Public Health³
- Begin empiric antiviral treatment
- Help identify contacts, including healthcare workers

¹Avian influenza: Current H5N1 Situation: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/outbreaks/current.htm>

²Interim Recommendations for Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities Caring for Patients with Known or Suspected Avian Influenza: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/professional/infect-control.htm>

³Specimen Collection Guidelines: <http://www2a.cdc.gov/han/ArchiveSys/ViewMsgV.asp?AlertNum=00246>