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CDC GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF INFLUENZA ANTIVIRAL AGENTS AND RAPID INFLUENZA DIAGNOSTIC TESTS DURING THE 2010-2011 INFLUENZA SEASON

Official CDC HAN Info Service Message

SUMMARY

As influenza activity increases in the United States, clinicians are urged to consult CDC guidance on the use of influenza antiviral agents and rapid influenza diagnostic tests this season. Updated recommendations on the use of antiviral medications will be published in an upcoming Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), but an interim version of the recommendations is currently available on CDC's website at

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>. The updated guidance for health care professionals on the use of rapid influenza diagnostic tests is available at

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/clinical_guidance_ridt.htm. For the most recent summary of influenza activity in the United States, consult the CDC influenza surveillance report FluView at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Antiviral Agents Guidance:

The recommendations on the use of influenza antiviral agents contain information on treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza virus infection, and also provide a summary of the effectiveness and safety of antiviral medications. Highlights include recommendations for the following:

- 1) early empiric antiviral treatment of suspected or confirmed influenza among people with **severe, complicated, or progressive illness or those hospitalized for influenza**;
- 2) early empiric antiviral treatment of suspected or confirmed influenza among people at **higher risk** for influenza complications;
- 3) use of either oseltamivir or zanamivir for influenza A and B treatment or chemoprophylaxis, and recommendations *not* to use rimantadine or amantadine as influenza antiviral medications due to high levels of resistance to these medications among circulating influenza A viruses;
- 4) use of antiviral medications among children younger than 1 year of age;
- 5) use of local data on influenza virus circulation and influenza testing of respiratory specimens from patients with suspected influenza, when available, to help inform clinicians about influenza circulation; and
- 6) consideration of antiviral treatment for any previously healthy, non high-risk symptomatic

outpatient with confirmed or suspected influenza, based upon clinical judgment, if treatment can be initiated within 48 hours of illness onset.

Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests Guidance:

Recommendations on the use of rapid influenza diagnostic tests are available to help guide clinical decisions and to determine if outbreaks of respiratory illness in closed settings are due to influenza virus infection. The guidance also provides information for interpreting rapid diagnostic test results. Highlights include recommendations for the following:

- 1) use of rapid influenza diagnostic tests when a positive result will change the clinical management of patients or change outbreak control strategies in a population, especially if the setting includes hospitalized patients or persons at high risk for influenza-associated complications;
- 2) avoiding the use of negative rapid test results to guide decisions regarding treating patients with influenza antiviral medications due to the suboptimal sensitivity of rapid tests;
- 3) evaluation of rapid diagnostic test results in the context of other available clinical and epidemiological information; and
- 4) consideration of further influenza laboratory testing in the following circumstances:
 - a. when a patient tests negative by rapid test during periods of high influenza activity;
 - b. when a patient tests positive by rapid test during periods of low influenza activity; or
 - c. when a patient has had recent close exposure to pigs, poultry, or other animals and novel influenza A virus infection is possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For Information on Use of Influenza Antiviral Agents During the 2010-2011 Influenza Season go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>.

For Information on Use of Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Tests for the 2010-2011 Influenza Season go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/>.

For other inquiries, please visit www.cdc.gov/flu or call CDC's toll-free information line, 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

TTY: (888) 232-6348, is available 24 hours a day, every day.

PCR-CONFIRMED INFLUENZA TYPE B IDENTIFIED IN WASHOE COUNTY

The Health District's Communicable Disease Program has received the first report of PCR-confirmed influenza type B in Washoe County for this season. The specimen was collected January 3, 2011 by a local health care provider participating in the Influenza Surveillance Program and tested positive for influenza type B by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) at Nevada State Public Health Laboratory. All lab-confirmed influenza cases reported as of January 8, 2011 are included below (Table 1 and Figure 1). In recent weeks, the number of lab-confirmed RSV cases reported in Washoe County has been more than double that of influenza (Figure 2).

The weekly report for influenza surveillance in Washoe County is available on-line at: <http://www.washoecounty.us/health/cdpp/is.html>. For questions regarding the Influenza Surveillance Program in Washoe County, please contact Denise Stokich at 328-6188.

Influenza is a reportable disease as defined in Nevada Administrative Code 441A. Washoe County health care providers must report influenza cases with a positive laboratory test (including rapid tests performed in the office or lab) by faxing reports to (775) 328-3764 or by calling the Communicable Disease Program at (775) 328-2447.

Table 1. Lab-confirmed influenza cases reported by type and subtype, Washoe County, 2010-11 Influenza Season

Influenza A (2009 H1N1)	Influenza A (Seasonal H1)	Influenza A (Seasonal H3)	Influenza A Unsubtyped	Influenza B	Influenza Type Unknown	Total
2	0	23	69	10	15	119

Figure 1. Influenza Positive Tests Reported, Washoe County Influenza Surveillance, 2010-2011.

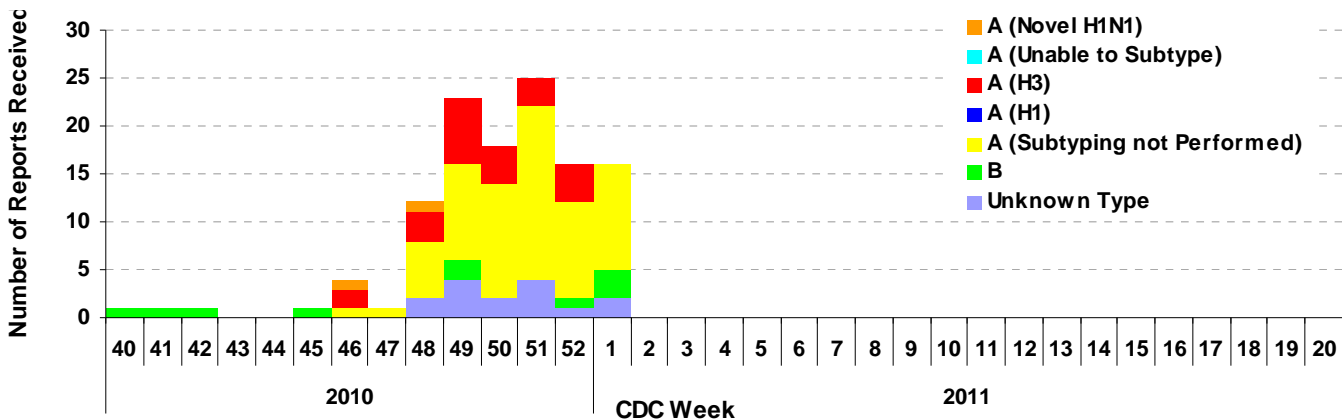


Figure 2. Number of Influenza & RSV Cases, Washoe County Communicable Disease Surveillance, 2010-2011.

