



This is an official

DHEC Health Update

Distributed via Health Alert Network
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2009-2010 SC Influenza Surveillance

Background Information

This update is to provide healthcare professionals with the latest information regarding:

- An overview of SC influenza surveillance and reporting systems
- State-mandated influenza surveillance components
- Voluntary influenza monitoring networks
- Resource Links
- Attachments: Influenza hospitalization and death reporting form, positive rapid influenza test reporting form, and local health department contact information.

Overview of SC Influenza Surveillance and Reporting Systems

South Carolina influenza surveillance consists of both mandatory and voluntary reporting systems for year-round influenza surveillance. These networks provide information on influenza virus strain and subtype and influenza disease burden. Combined, these systems assist us in:

- Determining when and where influenza activity is occurring in the state
- Determining what influenza viruses are circulating
- Detecting changes in influenza viruses
- Tracking influenza-related illness
- Understanding the impact of influenza on deaths in SC

Data from these systems are reported on DHEC's influenza surveillance website:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm>

State-mandated influenza surveillance components

SC State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20 requires reporting of diseases and conditions to local and state health departments.

State-mandated influenza-related reportable conditions are:

- positive influenza cultures
- positive rapid antigen tests
- influenza-related deaths

- influenza A, novel or avian (not H1 or H3)
- influenza hospitalizations

Positive Influenza Cultures

Viral isolates obtained by culturing nasopharyngeal, throat or other respiratory specimens are the gold standard for influenza virus detection. Submission of influenza cultures is essential for determining the circulating influenza strains and subtypes. Viral isolate surveillance also guides influenza vaccine composition decisions made by CDC and WHO for the following season. Laboratory reports of influenza culture results should be reported to DHEC within 7 days either electronically via CHES or using the DHEC 1129 card.

Positive Rapid Antigen Tests

Rapid antigen tests detect influenza virus type A or B specifically, or types A and B without distinguishing them, from nasopharyngeal or throat specimens, or other specimens, depending on the rapid antigen testing kit used. Test kit results are available to the clinician in approximately 30 minutes. These kits can **NOT** determine influenza subtypes.

A positive rapid influenza worksheet is attached and should be used for reporting the total number of positive rapid antigen test results to the Regional Health Department each week. Worksheets may be faxed or emailed to the local health department. Those wishing to email weekly data should call their local health department to make arrangements. Providers should submit worksheets by **noon** each **Monday** for the preceding week.

Influenza-related Deaths

Laboratory confirmed influenza deaths, pediatric and adult, are reportable to DHEC within 7 days. DHEC will investigate such cases. Information on pediatric deaths will be submitted to the CDC for national monitoring purposes. Laboratory confirmation may include culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA, rapid test or autopsy results consistent with influenza.

Influenza A, novel or avian (not H1 or H3)

Human infections with novel or avian influenza virus A (not H1 or H3) must be reported **IMMEDIATELY** to DHEC.

Influenza hospitalizations

Hospitals should submit the total number of laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations identified each week by age group (0-4, 5-18, 19-24, 25-49, 50-64, 65+). Laboratory confirmation may include culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA or rapid test.

A positive influenza hospitalization reporting worksheet is attached. These should be completed by hospitals and sent to the Regional Health Department each week by **noon** each **Monday** for the previous week. This form should be completed by hospitals only and should be used for aggregate reporting. If deaths are reported, the Regional Disease Surveillance and Response Coordinator will follow up to obtain additional information.

Voluntary Influenza Monitoring Network

The voluntary influenza monitoring network consists of two components: 1) submission of specimens for viral culture and isolation, and 2) monitoring and reporting of influenza-like illness (ILINet).

DHEC Viral Isolate Network

Culture and isolation of influenza specimens is essential for providing information on circulating influenza strain and subtype. DHEC provides culture media, packaging, processing and shipping labels free of charge to participating providers. DHEC is *not* currently enrolling new providers for the viral isolate network.

Influenza-Like Illness Network (ILINet)

ILINet monitors the number of patients presenting with influenza-like symptoms in the absence of another known cause. ILI is defined as fever (temperature of >100°F) plus a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of another known cause. Providers submit weekly reports to the CDC of the total number of patients seen each week stratified by age group. **In order to learn more about ILINet or to enroll, contact Chasisity Springs at 8036-898-0890 or springcb@dhec.sc.gov.**

References

- **DHEC Influenza Monitoring Website:**
www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flu.htm
- **DHEC H1N1 Flu Website:**
<http://www.scdhec.gov/flu/swine-flu.htm>
- **DHEC Influenza-related updates and advisories:**
www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/acute/flualert.htm
- **SC 2009 Reportable Disease List**
www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf
- **CDC Influenza surveillance website:**
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm/>
- **CDC H1N1 website:**
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of outbreaks/clusters of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2009 List of Reportable Conditions available at:
<http://www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-009025.pdf>

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

Regional Public Health Offices – 2009

Mail or call reports to the Epidemiology Office in each Public Health Region.

Region 1

Anderson, Oconee

220 McGee Road
Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 260-4358
Fax: (864) 260-5623
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda

1736 S. Main Street
Greenwood, SC 29646
Phone: 1-888-218-5475
Fax: (864) 942-3690
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

Region 2

Greenville, Pickens

PO Box 2507
200 University Ridge
Greenville, SC 29602-2507
Phone: (864) 282-4139
Fax: (864) 282-4373
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union

PO Box 4217
151 E. Wood Street
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217
Phone: (864) 596-2227, x- 210
Fax: (864) 596-3443
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-993-1186

Region 3

Chester, Lancaster, York

PO Box 817
1833 Pageland Highway
Lancaster, SC 29720
Phone: (803) 286-9948
Fax: (803) 286-5418
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886

Region 3 (continued)

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland

2000 Hampton Street
Columbia, SC 29204
Phone: (803) 576-2749
Fax: (803) 576-2993
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-554-9915

Region 4

Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter

PO Box 1628
105 North Magnolia Street
Sumter, SC 29150
Phone: (803) 773-5511
Fax: (803) 775-9941
Nights/Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion

145 E. Cheves Street
Florence, SC 29506
Phone: (843) 661-4830
Fax: (843) 661-4859
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

Region 5

Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg

PO Box 1126
1550 Carolina Avenue
Orangeburg, SC 29116
Phone: (803) 533-7199
Fax: (803) 533-7134
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40
Aiken, SC 29801
Phone: (803) 642-1618
Fax: (803) 643-8386
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or
1-800-614-1519

Region 6

Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg

1931 Industrial Park Road
Conway, SC 29526-5482
Phone: (843) 915-8804
Fax: (843) 365-0085
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

Region 7

Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600
N. Charleston, SC 29405
Phone: (843) 953-0060
Fax: (843) 953-0051
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

Region 8

Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper

219 S. Lemacks Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone: (843) 525-5910
Fax: (843) 549-6845
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

DHEC Bureau of Disease Control

Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

1751 Calhoun Street
Box 101106
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: (803) 898-0861
Fax: (803) 898-0897
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902



www.scdhec.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.



**SC laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalization and death
summary report (For Hospital Use)**

Reporting hospital: _____

County: _____

Date of report: ____/____/____

Reporting week: ____/____/____ - ____/____/____ (Sunday-Saturday)

Contact name: _____

Contact telephone: _____

	Weekly number by age group	
Number of persons hospitalized with laboratory confirmed influenza*	0-4	
	5-18	
	19-24	
	25-49	
	50-64	
	65+	
	Unknown	
	TOTAL	
Number of persons who died from laboratory confirmed influenza*	0-4	
	5-18	
	19-24	
	25-49	
	50-64	
	65+	
	Unknown	
	TOTAL	

Complete this form and fax to the Regional Health Department, even if there were no influenza hospitalizations or deaths in the preceding week. This report should be sent by noon Monday.

*Includes RT-PCR, viral culture, DFA, IFA, and rapid tests

**Positive rapid influenza test results summary reporting form
2009-2010**



Guidance for use of this worksheet:

1. Summary reporting of positive rapid tests, does not take the place of reporting positive influenza viral culture results or rapid influenza viral culture results, which are still reportable using the DHEC 1129 Cards or electronically via CHES.
2. **Fax this information NO LATER THAN NOON ON THE MONDAY OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK** to the **Region-specific Health Department**. The contact numbers for Region-specific Health Departments are available at:
http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf
3. If you wish to submit this form via email, contact your Region-specific Health Department.

Reporting week: ___/___/___ - ___/___/___ (Sunday – Saturday)

Reporting Facility/Practice: _____

County: _____

	Influenza Type				
	A	B	A or B	A and B	Unknown
Sunday					
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					
Total positive					