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**PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY  
EARLY RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS (RSV) AND  
SEASONAL INFLUENZA ACTIVITY  
NOVEMBER 16, 2022**

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The Riverside University Health System - Public Health (RUHS - PH) provides this guidance based on current information. Updated guidance will be issued as new information becomes available.

**Situation**

An early wave of RSV activity and circulation of influenza and other respiratory viruses has led to increased hospitalizations among children and has contributed to stresses on the pediatric healthcare delivery system in Riverside County and other jurisdictions in California. The California Department of Public Health issued a Health Advisory on November 12, 2022, which provides guidance on vaccination, testing, treatment, and other preventive measures for respiratory viruses. The Health Advisory is attached for your reference and can be located at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/CAHAN/Health-Advisory-Early-Respiratory-Syncytial-Virus-Activity-and-Use-of-Palivizumab.aspx>

**Disease reporting for RSV:**

- Health Care Facilities should report laboratory-confirmed RSV associated fatal cases in children under 5 years of age.
- RSV-associated deaths in children < 5 years old who are co-infected with COVID-19 or Flu should be reported for both conditions.

- Report to Disease Control by faxing the following document to 951-358-5102 or through CalREDIE by uploading the form, medical records, laboratory results, and any other relevant materials to the electronic filing cabinet.

## **INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING**

The Influenza Reporting Guidance for the 2022-2023 influenza season has been updated. The reporting requirements are outlined below.

Required by California Department of Public Health:

- Mandatory reporting of laboratory-confirmed\*\* flu associated fatal pediatric cases <18 years of age.
- Mandatory reporting of influenza-associated deaths in children <18 years of age who are co-infected with COVID-19 should be reported for both conditions.
- Influenza due to novel strains.

Required by order of the Public Health Officer for Riverside County:

- Mandatory reporting of laboratory-confirmed\*\* influenza associated fatal cases age 18-64 years and ICU cases age 0-64.
- Complete the Severe Influenza Case History Form (ICU and Fatal Cases age 0-64 years) located at: [https://www.ruhealth.org/sites/default/files/PH/Disease%20Control/docs/cd\\_ph%209070%20form.pdf](https://www.ruhealth.org/sites/default/files/PH/Disease%20Control/docs/cd_ph%209070%20form.pdf) and fax to Disease Control at (951) 358-5446, or through CalREDIE for participating health care facilities.
- For reported cases of severe or fatal influenza associated cases, it is recommended specimens be sent for further sub-typing/characterization.
- Mandatory reporting of any respiratory disease outbreak (please note that acute respiratory outbreak instructions in this guideline do not apply to COVID-19 outbreaks).

## Surveillance Testing

Please send laboratory confirmed positive influenza specimens to the public health laboratory for additional surveillance testing using the submittal form below.

## Specimen Collection and Submission

The Public Health Laboratory can perform testing for both Influenza A/B and RSV. Operational hours to receive specimens are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Please submit the RUHS Public Health Influenza Specimen Submittal form with all specimens, form is located at:

<https://www.rivcolab.org/Portals/17/pdf/Forms/2021/April/CLI.CSR.FRM.003%20V3-%20Influenza%20Submission%20Form%20Fillable%20Protected.pdf>

Specimens that do not have this form will cause delays in testing. Please contact the Public Health Laboratory at (951) 358-5070 for questions on specimen submission. Disease Control can be reached at (951) 358-5107 for questions on reporting influenza cases and outbreaks.

## Strategies to Address Respiratory Infections:

- Prevention via vaccination for flu and COVID-19 or via pre-exposure prophylaxis for RSV for premature babies at highest risk
- Testing and treating early for COVID-19 (e.g., with Paxlovid) and for Flu (e.g., with Tamiflu) for individuals at elevated risk of severe disease
- Recommending general good practices such as encouraging patients to stay home when sick, cleaning frequently used surfaces, hand washing, voluntary masking in public indoor spaces
- Reminder to go over asthma control and control of other underlying cardiac/pulmonary conditions which could lead to hospitalization when combined with respiratory illness
- Discussing symptomatic treatment that can safely occur at home with over the counter or prescription medications
- Submitting resource requests through the MHOAC