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## **PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY** **INFLUENZA UPDATE** **JANUARY 14, 2020**

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### **Situation**

Influenza activity in the United States and California remains elevated and widespread. Locally in Riverside County, over 1,000 individuals tested positive for influenza in outpatient health care facilities during December 2019. Unusually for this time in the season, influenza B viruses were reported more frequently than influenza A. As of January 10, 2020, 17 ICU cases and four flu-associated deaths have been reported in the county.

CDC issued a Health Advisory recommending influenza vaccination and prompt antiviral treatment of severely ill and high risk patients with suspected influenza without waiting for laboratory confirmation. Providers are strongly urged to encourage their unvaccinated patients to get this year's flu shot unless contraindicated.

The CDC Health Advisory is located at [www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/](http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/).

### **Laboratory Testing**

Health care providers are encouraged to submit positive influenza rapid tests on all ICU patients, all fatal cases 0-64 years, and all pediatric cases under 18 years of age who are tested in an outpatient setting to the Riverside County Public Health laboratory for confirmatory testing and subtyping. The Public Health lab can be reached at 951-358-5070 for questions on specimen submission.

### **Influenza Surveillance and Reporting**

The Influenza Reporting Guidance for the 2019 - 2020 influenza season has been updated. The reporting requirements are outlined below:

- All providers **must** report laboratory-confirmed\*\* influenza in associated fatal pediatric cases aged 0-17 years (by state requirement) **and** laboratory-confirmed\*\* influenza associated fatal cases aged 18-64 years and ICU cases aged 0-64 (by order of the Riverside County Public Health Officer).

- Complete the Severe Influenza Case History Form (ICU and Fatal Cases age 0-64 years) located at <http://www.rivco-diseasecontrol.org/Services/ReportingGuidelines.aspx> and fax to Disease Control at (951) 358-5102, or through CalREDIE for participating health care facilities.
- In addition to the situations above, flu outbreaks in the following settings **must be reported**:
  - Outbreaks in institutions (e.g. long-term care facilities, prisons, sleepover camps) with at least **one** case of laboratory-confirmed influenza in the setting of a cluster ( $\geq 2$  cases) of influenza like illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period.
  - Outbreaks associated with hospitalizations or fatalities.
  - Outbreaks with potential public health importance (e.g., case(s) have recent exposure to swine, recent travel to an area where novel influenza is circulating, or contact with a confirmed case of swine or novel influenza).

\*\*Laboratory confirmation can include any positive test performed by any clinical, commercial or local public health laboratory, including by positive rapid antigen testing, direct fluorescence assay, viral culture or PCR. Since rapid antigen tests may yield a relatively high proportion of false positive results when influenza prevalence is low, it is recommended that a positive rapid antigen test result be followed up with confirmatory testing. This may include a direct fluorescence assay, culture or polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Positive rapid antigen samples should be sent to the RUHS-Public Health Lab.

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