



## Florida Department of Health

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Guidance

Focus Area: Surveillance

Guidance document number 2009-5

### Protocol for Reporting Deaths with Novel Influenza A H1N1 Infection for Medical Examiners, Hospitals, and Clinicians

Version 1.0

August 11, 2009

#### Summary:

Report immediately all deaths occurring in people **with** novel influenza A H1N1 infection.

- Report any death of a person with confirmed or probable novel influenza A H1N1 infection to your county health department. Reports can also be made to the Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE) at 850-245-4401.
- In the case where a death has occurred in a person who suffered from an illness clinically compatible with influenza, and confirmatory laboratory tests for novel influenza A H1N1 are pending, please notify your county health department of the fatal case with suspected infection from novel influenza A H1N1.

Note: As with all communications about the pandemic due to the novel 2009 influenza A H1N1 virus, this document may become outdated as the situation changes. Documents on this topic after August 11, 2009 supersede this one. This document will be posted on the Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE) website [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/swineflu/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/swineflu/index.html)

#### How and when should deaths occurring in people with novel influenza A H1N1 infection be reported?

- Report immediately all deaths occurring in individuals **with** confirmed or probable novel influenza A H1N1 infection.
- Please utilize the case definitions listed below when reporting deaths in people with influenza A H1N1.
- In the case where a death has occurred in a person who suffered from an illness clinically compatible with influenza and confirmatory laboratory tests for novel influenza A H1N1 are pending, please notify your county health department of the fatal case with suspected infection from novel influenza A H1N1.
- Reports should be made to the appropriate county health department. Reports can also be made to BOE at 850-245-4401. To find a list of county health department epidemiology contacts, please visit the following website: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/topics/contact.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/topics/contact.htm)

## **Case Definition for Mortality with Novel Influenza A (H1N1):**

### **Confirmed:**

A death occurring in a person meeting the confirmed surveillance case definition (see below) for novel Influenza A H1N1 following a recent\* infection.

### **Probable:**

A death occurring in a person meeting the probable case definition (see below) for novel Influenza A H1N1 infection following a recent\* infection.

### **Comment:**

\*There should be no period of complete recovery between the illness and death.

Many people who die with laboratory confirmed novel influenza A H1N1 in Florida have complicated medical histories. The extent to which novel influenza A H1N1 infection contributed to each of these deaths is variable and often unknown. The Florida Department of Health counts deaths occurring in persons **with** confirmed novel influenza A H1N1 infection, without determining the exact contribution of this infection to the death. Novel influenza A H1N1 infection would be coded as the underlying or primary cause on a death certificate for **some but not all** of these deaths.

### **Surveillance Case Definitions for Infection with Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus:**

The CDC novel Influenza A H1N1 case definition can be found at the following website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/casedef.htm>

The case definition was last updated by CDC on June 1, 2009 12:15 PM ET

**Influenza-like-illness (ILI)** is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

A **confirmed case** of novel influenza A H1N1 virus infection is defined as a person **with an influenza-like illness** AND **laboratory confirmed** novel influenza A H1N1 virus infection by one or more of the following tests:

1. real-time RT-PCR
2. viral culture

A **probable case** of novel influenza A H1N1 virus infection is defined as a person with an influenza-like-illness who is

- positive for influenza A, but negative for human H1 and H3 by influenza RT\_PCR

For further information please contact BOE at 850-245-4401

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