



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Influenza Surveillance, 2017-2018 Season: Summary of Instructions for Hospitals (9/29/2017)

Influenza-associated hospitalizations and influenza-associated deaths are reportable to the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH). This information is shared with relevant local health departments through the CT Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CTEDSS).

The Emerging Infections Program (EIP) at the Yale School of Public Health conducts enhanced surveillance activities for residents of Middlesex and New Haven Counties on behalf of the DPH and in this capacity is acting as an agent of the State. The goals of enhanced surveillance are to determine age-specific rates of influenza-associated hospitalizations, rates and risk factors for serious complications, effect of surveillance methods, and level of adherence to vaccination recommendations. Staff of the DPH or Yale EIP may request supplemental information on patients. If you have questions, please contact Alan Siniscalchi (DPH: 860-509-7994) or Kim Yousey-Hindes (Yale: 203-764-5942).

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations - The case report form is available on the DPH website at:

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/infectious_diseases/pdf_forms/icp_flu_hosp_deaths_form.pdf

- Must be reported ***within 12 hours*** on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of possible influenza infection (i.e. patients with compatible illness regardless of the results of the initial rapid antigen and/or DFA test), respiratory specimens from all flu-associated hospitalizations should be submitted to the CT DPH State Public Health Laboratory (CT SPHL) for PCR testing (see submission criteria and detailed instructions, below).
- For after hours or holiday reporting, report on the next normal business day.

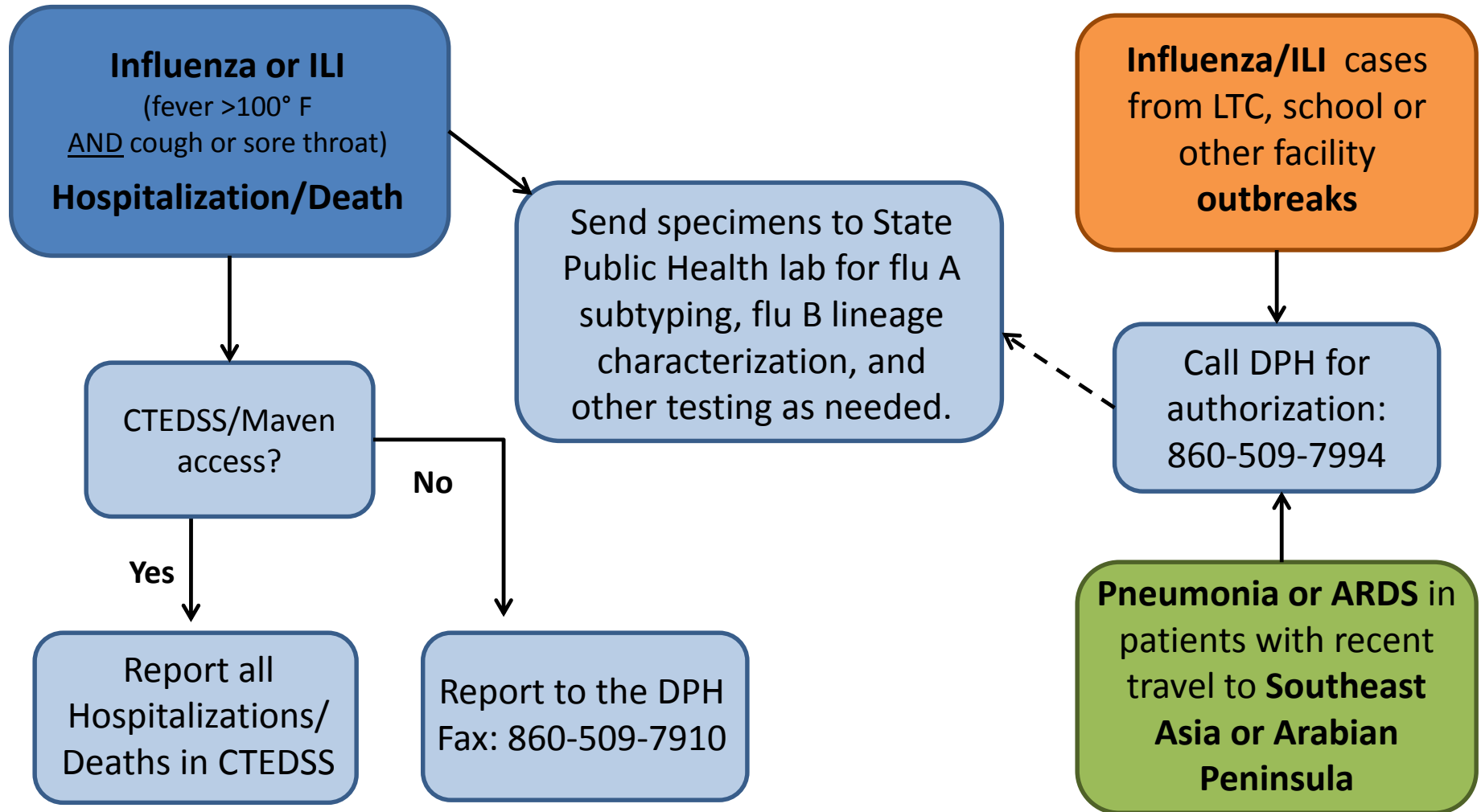
Direct reporting is available through the web-based CTEDSS and *we encourage you to use this option as it will help speed dissemination of information*. See: <https://edss.dph.ct.gov>. Reporting is also done by sending the case report form via fax to the DPH Epidemiology Program at **860-509-7910**.

Influenza-associated Deaths (Using the above form, provide both date and causes of death). All possible influenza-associated deaths must be reported to the DPH within 12 hours, even if influenza was not the primary cause of death. Please save respiratory specimens for post-mortem PCR testing. Reporting is done by web-based entry into CT EDSS at: <https://edss.dph.ct.gov> or by faxing reports to the DPH Epidemiology Program at 860-509-7910.

Criteria for Submission of Specimens to the CT SPHL for PCR Testing

- To monitor circulating influenza strains throughout the season and to determine the effectiveness of this season's vaccines, subtyping is done on specimens obtained from the following patients who present with influenza-like illness (ILI: fever $>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ [100°F] plus cough or sore throat), *regardless of rapid flu testing status*.
 1. All hospitalized patients with ILI or confirmed influenza A or B (request influenza testing),
 2. All patients with ILI and recent close exposure to swine, sick poultry at farms and agricultural settings, or migratory birds (request influenza testing, note exposure to swine, poultry, or other birds);
 3. All patients with pneumonia and/or Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) developing within 17 days of travel to Southeast Asia or within 14 days of travel in or near the Arabian Peninsula, contact the DPH Epidemiology Program at **860-509-7994** to discuss possible avian flu or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus [MERS-CoV] testing (provide travel history);
 4. Selected non-hospitalized patients with ILI associated with outbreaks in long-term care facilities or schools or severe respiratory illness with or without fever in children, contact the DPH Epidemiology Program at **860-509-7994** to discuss possible respiratory viral panel testing for enterovirus and other respiratory viruses.
- There is no charge to the health care provider. Detailed testing instructions are available at: http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/infectious_diseases/flu/pdf/flu_lab_instructions.pdf
- The laboratory Clinical Test Requisition form (OL-9B) is available at: http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/laboratory/labhome/forms/clinical_test_requisition_ol9b_fill.pdf

Influenza Surveillance 2017-18, Connecticut: Summary of Special Instructions for Hospitals



Questions??

Call Alan Siniscalchi (DPH) 860-509-7994 or Kim Yousey-Hindes (Yale EIP) 203-764-5942