

**To: Clinicians, Laboratorians, Local Health Departments**

**From: Lynn Sosa, MD, Director of Infectious Disease and State Epidemiologist**

**Jafar H. Razeq, PhD, HCLD(ABB), Laboratory Director**

**Date: October 16, 2025**

**RE: Year-round Respiratory Viral Disease surveillance**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health conducts year-round surveillance for respiratory viral diseases (RVD), including COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Traditionally the RVD season is October 1–May 31 of each year, so peak activity is anticipated in the coming months.

### **Epidemiologic Disease Surveillance**

- Clinicians are encouraged to consider RVDs and order appropriate diagnostic testing in patients with consistent symptoms or epidemiological risk factors. Influenza testing should be considered in patients with exposure to wild birds, livestock (poultry, cattle, swine) and raw animal products, or attendance at agricultural fairs.
- [Hospitalizations and deaths](#) from COVID-19, influenza or RSV are reportable conditions.
- Cases of A(H5) or non-subtypeable (A) influenza are Category 1 conditions and should be reported to the Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program by telephone.

### **Laboratory Surveillance**

- All influenza A specimens that are A(H5) or non-subtypeable (not A(H1) or A(H3)) should be sent to the State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) for confirmation.
- If a hospital lab is unable to subtype influenza A, please send specimens from hospitalized inpatients to SPHL for [accelerated subtyping](#). **If your laboratory has the capability to subtype, but has limited capacity please contact [Kristen.Soto@ct.gov](mailto:Kristen.Soto@ct.gov). We may be able to provide reagents and other testing materials to reduce the financial burden of performing this testing at your hospital.**
- Laboratories are asked to submit respiratory specimens from patients with symptoms of a respiratory viral disease according to the following criteria for year-round surveillance.
  - Ten (10) specimens per week for patients with influenza, including both A and B
  - Ten (10) specimens per week for patients with COVID-19Please note, if hospitals have less than 10 specimens per week that meet submission criteria, they should send what is available.

**Questions may be directed to the Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program at (860) 509-7994 or SPHL at (860) 920-6689 during normal business hours or (860) 509-8000 evenings and weekends.**