



Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County

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| <p>FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 04/27/2009</p> <p>TO: Laboratories in Grant County Healthcare Administration in Grant County Healthcare Infection Control Staff in County</p> | <p>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</p> <p>Anieca Ashley, RN 509-766-7960 x13 Carol Schimke, RN 509-766-7960 x22</p> |
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**SWINE FLU ADVISORY #3 – Mask and Laboratory Supplies Inventory
Washington State Public Health Laboratories Advisory to Clinical Labs in
Washington State**

Face Masks (surgical masks) and Respirators (N95)

Grant County Health District is advising all hospitals/healthcare facilities to inventory their supply of N95 and surgical masks. Very rough approximation of masks quantity estimates for current stage of your preparedness are provided below. For reference, the amount of N95 masks needed could equal a number of all employees in a patient-care capacity per day times four weeks (28 days); the amount of surgical masks needed could equal approximately 3x monthly facility patient load.

Examples:

N95 masks: 20 employees working daily for 28 days = 20 X 28 = 560 N95 masks needed for this facility

Surgical masks: 1000 patients /month = 1000 X 3 = 3000 surgical masks needed for this facility

- N95 masks should be used by all staff providing patient care to individuals with flu-like symptoms.
- Surgical masks should be used on all patients with flu-like symptoms or those sharing areas with patients who have flu-like symptoms if N95 is not available.
- A distance of 6 feet is recommended to separate patients with and without influenza-like illness.

For consistency with various national and international estimates, this document defines close contact as a distance of up to 6 feet. (Referenced: Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator Use in Certain Community Settings Where Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Transmission Has Been Detected)

Laboratory Supply

Grant County Health District is recommending laboratories **increase their supply of Influenza A/B rapid testing kits** due to increased influenza surveillance. Kits distinguishing influenza A from B are recommended. In addition to the kits more supplies will be necessary to accommodate the previous request for obtaining **two respiratory (nasopharyngeal) swabs**, one for rapid flu testing and one for swine flu testing, as well as **viral media tubes** (mostly purple Bartlett’s media transparent plastic tube with a blue top).

Laboratory Testing

Please obtain travel history for the preceding 14 days on patients whose specimens are to be tested by DOH for swine flu testing.

At this time we are requesting you contact the Grant County Health District regarding all specimens needing to be sent to DOH for swine flu testing (**Please contact Anieca Ashley RN at 509-766-7960 ext. 13**). Grant County Health District will consider ALL specimens collected within seven days of symptoms onset. April 24th release by state public health laboratory (WSPHL) is included.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT AS THE CURRENT SITUATION CHANGES, RECOMMENDATIONS MAY CHANGE. YOU WILL BE ADVISED ACCORDINGLY.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Washington State Public Health Laboratories

Advisory to Clinical Labs in Washington State

In order to enhance the surveillance for this novel virus, the Washington State Public Health Laboratories (WAPHL) is requesting that all laboratories testing for influenza submit positive Influenza A samples to WAPHL for confirmation and for sub-typing, until further notice.

Specimen types to be submitted are:

- Viral Culture and PCR Laboratories: Please refer all specimens that are positive for influenza A to WAPHL for confirmatory testing and sub-typing, until further notice. Submit actively growing positive viral cultures in the viral tube with 2 ml of viral culture media on dry ice.
- Rapid Testing Sites: Please forward all specimens testing positive for influenza A to WAPHL for confirmatory testing and sub-typing, until further notice. Send an aliquot (2ml) of the original suspension (not exposed to kit reagents) in viral transport media on chemical cold packs.
- For patients presenting with influenza-like-illness (ILI) within 7 days of travel to San Diego or Imperial counties in California or to San Antonio, Texas, or Mexico send a nasopharyngeal specimen in viral transport medium to the WAPHL for testing. Specimen must be received at WAPHL within 72 hours after collection for PCR testing.

Laboratories should refer to the Washington State Public Health Laboratories Directory of Services for directions on packaging and shipping.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/PHL/Forms/DirServ30.pdf>

This virus is considered a BSL2 agent at this time. Clinical laboratories opting to perform virus culture should do all work in a biosafety cabinet. Additional respiratory and eye protection is recommended.

If you need technical assistance or have specific questions, please contact Yolanda Houze at 206-418-5471 or 206-391-5119, Denny Russell at 206-418-5562, or Beth Wieman at 206-418-5458.

For more information on swine influenza, see:

www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/index.htm

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