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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Health Care Providers
From: Dr. Isaac Benowitz, State Epidemiologist
Subject: Updated Influenza Submission and Reporting Guidance
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Updated Influenza Submission and Reporting Guidance

The 2024–2025 influenza season has been [particularly active](#). Health care facilities are seeing an increased number of individuals for testing, which is resulting in a dramatic increase in test specimens sent to Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for subtyping and reported to the Maine CDC. To reduce the testing volume at HETL, the Maine CDC is making the following changes to submission and reporting requests:

Submission Guidance

Until further notice, for influenza, HETL will only test the following specimens:

- **For facilities that do not perform subtyping:**
 - Hospitalized patients.
 - Patients with known exposures to domestic or wild birds, cattle, swine, or wild animals.
 - Specimens that test positive for both influenza A and influenza B
- **For facilities that perform subtyping:**
 - Specimens that tested positive for influenza A and negative for seasonal H1 or H3 virus subtypes.
 - Specimens that tested positive for both Influenza A and Influenza B

If Ct values are available **and** are 32 or more, do not send to HETL for subtyping.

Influenza B specimens should only be sent upon request.

Reporting Guidance

Influenza hospitalizations, influenza outbreaks, novel influenza A, and pediatric influenza-associated deaths are notifiable conditions and must be reported to the Maine CDC.

Other influenza positive laboratory results are not required to be reported; however, the Maine CDC appreciates getting reports of positive results as it helps us quantify the season, monitor demographic groups that are most heavily affected, and monitor changes in the season throughout the state. To streamline use of this important information, the Maine CDC requests facilities submit positive test results electronically.

All facilities should either:

- A. Submit reports electronically through electronic laboratory reporting (ELR) or
- B. Register for and begin using [SimpleReport](#). SimpleReport is an electronic, fast, free, and easy way to report point of care influenza results to Maine CDC. Only one person from an organization needs to sign up and, within about a week, the facility will be up and running. This will allow the Maine CDC to receive these reports immediately without the burden of manually entering each report into our surveillance system.

For more information:

- HETL Influenza Surveillance Form
 - <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/public-health-systems/health-and-environmental-testing/micro/documents/HETL%20Influenza%20Surveillance%20Form.docx>
- SimpleReport
 - <https://www.simplereport.gov/>