

Novel Influenza A Virus Infections

Case Definition

- Novel influenza A virus infections are all human infections with influenza A viruses that are different from currently circulating human influenza H1 and H3 viruses. These viruses include those that are subtyped as non-human in origin and those that are unsubtypeable with standard methods and reagents.
- The clinical presentation of illness should be compatible with influenza virus infection (fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$, with cough and/or sore throat).

Laboratory criteria for diagnosis

- A specimen from a human that is reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) or culture-positive for influenza A and tests negative for currently circulating human H1 and H3 subtypes or thought to be of animal origin.
- All specimens collected from cases of human infection with unsubtypeable influenza A viruses detected by a public health laboratory should be sent to CDC's Influenza Virus Surveillance and Diagnosis Branch for additional laboratory testing.

Case classification

- **Confirmed** – A case of human infection with a novel influenza A virus confirmed by CDC's influenza laboratory or using methods agreed upon by CDC and CSTE as noted below.
 - Novel subtypes will be detected with methods available for detection of currently circulating human influenza viruses at state public health laboratories (e.g., real-time RT-PCR). Confirmation that an influenza A virus represents a novel virus will be performed by CDC's influenza laboratory. Once a novel virus has been identified by CDC, confirmation may be made by public health laboratories following CDC-approved protocols for that specific virus, or by laboratories using an FDA-authorized test specific for detection of that novel influenza virus.
- **Probable** – A case meeting the clinical criteria and epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case, but for which no confirmatory laboratory testing for influenza virus infection has been performed or test results are inconclusive for a novel influenza A virus infection.
- **Suspected** – A case meeting the clinical criteria, pending laboratory confirmation. Any case of human infection with an influenza A virus that is different from currently circulating human influenza H1 and H3 viruses is classified as a suspect case until the confirmation process is complete.

Reporting

- A completed case report form should be submitted on the CDC Novel Influenza A Reporting System found on the Secure Access Administrative System (SAMS) for each laboratory confirmed human infection with a novel influenza A virus. In order to report cases within this system, each person who will be entering data from the state or local health department will need access to SAMS. To obtain access to SAMS, please email Lenée Blanton (LBlanton@cdc.gov).
- CDC will verify provisional case reports via consultation with the State or Territorial Epidemiologist. Following these procedures, all cases with a verified and confirmed case status will be published in Table I of the *MMWR*.