



# Dallas County Health and Human Services

## Influenza Specimen Acceptance Procedures

*Interim Guidance as of May 6, 2009*

### **Criteria for Acceptance and PCR Testing of Specimens at Dallas County Health and Human Services Laboratory:**

*Due to the large number of samples received for influenza testing, DCHHS is prioritizing PCR subtyping testing of specimens from hospitalized patients (inpatient and ICU patients) with severe acute respiratory illnesses.*

- On the laboratory submission form, clinicians need to clearly indicate the reason for PCR testing, and communicate any reason for prioritization of testing, based on the above guidelines.
- Medical providers within Dallas County should contact DCHHS at (214) 819-2004 to coordinate receipt and testing of specimens.
- Cases not meeting above criteria may be discussed on an individual basis on consultation with DCHHS.
- Specimen submitters outside of Dallas County should contact their respective local Health Authority to coordinate specimen submission, patient reporting, and follow-up.

### **Criteria for Specimen Handling:**

- Follow current guidance for submission and storage of samples as indicated on our website.

### **Communication of Test Results:**

- Test results will be faxed when available to the submitting physician. The results will also be communicated to the respective local health department of the cases county of residence.
- Testing results of specimens received from outpatient clinics and providers may not be available for some time. Inquiries regarding status of pending tests may be directed to: (214) 819-2004.

The DCHHS Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Laboratory will test specimens collected from residents of the following Counties: Collin, Dallas, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, Rains, Rockwall, Van Zant.