



## Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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# Missouri State Public Health Laboratory

## Strategy for Summer 2025 Influenza Surveillance

June 2025

### BACKGROUND

Conducting surveillance to monitor seasonal influenza viruses and to detect novel influenza A virus infections remains critical to inform public health actions. As in previous years, CDC, in collaboration with State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) public health agencies, is employing a multi-faceted summer influenza strategy for seasonal influenza activity monitoring and novel influenza virus detection. Much of this strategy includes activities that have been recommended and in place for many years prior to the current animal outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5) in the United States; however, enhanced influenza A subtyping is still recommended. Your participation in this strategy will assist the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services in monitoring for avian influenza across the state.

CDC is encouraging clinicians to consider influenza testing for both seasonal and novel viruses of individuals with compatible illness (e.g., respiratory illness with or without a fever or conjunctivitis) throughout the summer. Of particular interest are persons who are severely ill or hospitalized, have recent history of relevant exposures (e.g., dairy cattle, raw milk, wild birds, poultry, swine, agricultural event attendance), or those participating in communal activities or living in congregate settings, such as summer camps.

For Laboratories who perform influenza testing, it is recommended to submit positive specimens to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) for further testing and characterization. Positive influenza A specimens that have not been subtyped, or those which were unsubtypeable, should be sent to the MSPHL as soon as possible.

### WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF YOU

The MSPHL is requesting that our public health partners (including commercial laboratories) proactively increase respiratory sample submissions to our laboratory during the summer months when influenza transmission is typically low. We ask that samples meeting any of the criteria below be prioritized:

- Specimens from patients that meet the criteria for avian influenza A(H5N1) testing
- Influenza positive or suspect-positive specimens from severely ill patients, including those who are hospitalized or in the intensive care unit (ICU)
- Influenza A positive specimens that have not been subtyped
- Influenza A positive specimens that are subtype negative on tests designed to provide an influenza subtyping result (ex. BioFire)
- Influenza A positive specimens that are subtype influenza A(H1) and not influenza A(H1)pdm09 on tests designed to provide an influenza subtyping result

### PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' vision is optimal health and safety for all Missourians, in all communities, for life.

## RESOURCES

For the most up-to-date information and specimen collection/submission guidance, please refer to the following:

### **Strategy for Summer 2025 Influenza Surveillance**

[https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious\\_disease/influenza/Documents/Summer 2025 Influenza Surveillance Guidance May 2025 CLEARED.pdf](https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious_disease/influenza/Documents/Summer_2025_Influenza_Surveillance_Guidance_May_2025_CLEARED.pdf)

### **Criteria for Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Testing**

<https://www.cdc.gov/bird-flu/prevention/hpai-interim-recommendations.html>

### **Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Specimen Collection**

[https://health.mo.gov/lab/pdf/sphl\\_avianflu\\_instructions.pdf](https://health.mo.gov/lab/pdf/sphl_avianflu_instructions.pdf)

### **Seasonal Influenza**

<https://health.mo.gov/lab/pdf/influenza-covid-surveillance-specimen-submission-guidance.pdf>

### **Missouri State Public Health Laboratory Website**

<https://health.mo.gov/lab/>

## HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE?

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