



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES
DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
PO BOX 369
TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0369

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

www.nj.gov/health

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

POONAM ALAIGH, MD, MSHCPM, FACP
Commissioner

To: Health Officers, Regional Epidemiologists, Hospital Infection Control
Practitioners, OB/GYN Practitioners

From: Lisa McHugh, MPH
Influenza Surveillance Coordinator

Date: October 7, 2010

Subject: Influenza Surveillance in Pregnant Women

During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asked states to monitor the impact of 2009 H1N1 influenza in pregnant woman. From April 2009 to May 2010, NJDHSS received 28 reports of pregnant woman diagnosed with severe influenza. In addition to surveillance activities, CDC established a Pregnancy Flu Line to provide guidance for providers caring for pregnant or postpartum women suspected of having influenza. The CDC Maternal Health Influenza Response Team recently announced the continuation of surveillance efforts and the Pregnancy Flu Line for the 2010-2011 influenza season. Details regarding these programs can be found below.

Surveillance

- NJDHSS is asking providers to report all ICU admissions and deaths among pregnant and postpartum women with a laboratory* confirmed influenza infection within 72 hours of diagnosis.
- Providers wishing to obtain additional influenza testing at the New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories may submit specimens on patients meeting the above criteria.
- The case report form (attached) should be completed on all patients meeting the above criteria and faxed to 609-826-5972. Alternatively, providers with access to the Communicable Disease Reporting and Surveillance System (CDRSS) may enter case information requested on the form into the appropriate fields of CDRSS.

Pregnancy Flu Line

- Providers wishing to get clarification on CDC guidance for providers caring for critically ill pregnant or postpartum women via telephone consultation with board-certified OB/GYN may call 404-368-2133 (24 hours/7 days).

Please contact Lisa McHugh at 609-826-5964 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued assistance.

*Laboratory testing for influenza virus infection includes identification of influenza A or B virus infections by a positive result by at least one of the following methods:

- Influenza virus isolation in tissue cell culture from respiratory specimens
- Reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing of respiratory specimens
- Immunofluorescent antibody staining (direct or indirect) of respiratory specimens
- Rapid influenza diagnostic testing of respiratory specimens
- Immunohistochemical (IHC) staining for influenza viral antigens in respiratory tract tissue from autopsy specimens
- Four-fold rise in influenza hemagglutination inhibition (HI) antibody titer in paired acute and convalescent sera (single serum samples are not interpretable)