

## Louisiana Influenza Specimen Submitter Recruitment Letter

Dear <NAME>,

As you are aware, the 2013-2014 flu season is upon us. CDC and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) are implementing a new project this year: Influenza Virologic Surveillance Right Size Project. The goal of this project is to ensure that the appropriate number of samples are being tested at state labs and at CDC to accurately understand the level of flu activity and detect novel subtypes in a timely manner. For <STATE/LOCAL JURISDICTION NAME>, this means we need to increase the number of samples tested at our state laboratory.

We are hoping this program is something your facility will be interested in participating in by collecting swabs on patients with ILI symptoms. We will provide all supplies for collection and shipment of samples for this surveillance. There is also no consent or IRB approval needed because it is a diagnostic test that will generate a report to be sent back to the submitting facility/ordering physician. Rapid test positivity is NOT a requirement, in fact we prefer to have either unscreened samples or a mix of rapid positive and negative. The only additional effort involved on the provider side is the collection of a 2nd NP or nasal swab from the patient. Because there is no screening prerequisite, this can be done at the same time a swab is collected if a rapid test is ordered. Your providers would simply set one day of the week to collect the additional swabs on ILI patients, and at the end of the day a courier would come pick up all of the samples kept on icepacks in a cooler which we provide.

<INFLUENZA COORDINATOR NAME> (copied here, phone: ###-###-####) is our Influenza Surveillance Coordinator, please don't hesitate to contact him/her directly with any questions or for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

<NAME>