Example Strategy for Collecting Weekly Influenza Alternate (non-PHL) Data

Lessons from Minnesota on Collection of Alternate Data

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The Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS) is a statewide, voluntary network of public and private clinical laboratories that provides electronic communication to over 500 members. Through the MLS, there is a subgroup of over 100 laboratories that volunteer to participate in weekly influenza testing data submission. Laboratories that participate complete a brief survey that collects information about the number of rapid tests for influenza and RSV performed each week and also PCR testing and collects Respiratory Virus Panel (RVP) results, if laboratories have that testing capacity. An alternate data flow chart describing the flow of data from the clinical/commercial laboratory network to MDH and CDC is shown in Figure 1. The questions contained in the 2013-2014 influenza testing survey used to collect these data can be found in Appendix A.

Data provided by these volunteer MLS labs are incorporated into MDH’s weekly influenza statistics page found at: [http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/stats/flustats20.pdf](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/diseases/flu/stats/flustats20.pdf) and attached (appendix C). Our participation rates ranges from 80% to 90% during the influenza season. During the peak month of the 2013-14 influenza season, we received data on over 1,500 molecular tests and over 3,800 rapid antigen tests per week.

![Figure 1. Minnesota Alternate Data Flow](image-url)

Figure 1. Minnesota Alternate Data Flow
Appendix A: MDH Weekly Flu 2013-2014 Survey

Facility

Submitter Number (Required) ________________________________

Your Name (Required) ________________________________

Please enter your facility’s county. We are using this information to group the results into regions. (If you are entering data for more than one facility, please choose the county that is most representative of the data)

Rapid Influenza and RSV

Reminder: Use whole numbers only, please report only one result per specimen tested.

Please indicate rapid Influenza test results for the past week (Sunday thru Saturday):

Total number of rapid Influenza tests performed ____

Number of rapid Influenza A positive: ____

Number of rapid Influenza B positive: ____

Number of rapid Influenza A and B positive (i.e. dual infection): ____

Number of rapid Influenza A/B (not differentiated) positive: ____

Please indicate rapid Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) results for the past week (Sunday thru Saturday):

Total number of rapid RSV tests performed: ____

Number of rapid RSV positive: ____

Influenza PCR (Answer this section when testing for Influenza only)

Reminder: Use whole numbers only, please report only one result per specimen tested.

Please indicate the PCR Influenza test results for the past week (Sunday thru Saturday):
Total number of specimens tested for Influenza by PCR: ____

   Number of PCR positive Influenza A - not typed: ____

Number of PCR positive Influenza A H1 (2009): ____

Number of PCR positive Influenza A H1 (seasonal; not 2009): ____

Number of PCR positive Influenza A H3 (seasonal): ______

Number of PCR positive Influenza A non-typeable: ______

Number of PCR positive Influenza B: _____

Number of PCR equivocal/indeterminate by PCR: ___

Respiratory PCR (Answer this section when testing for other respiratory pathogens as part of a commercial RVP assay including influenza)

Please indicate the Respiratory Virus PCR test results for the past week (Sunday thru Saturday):

   Total number of specimens tested for respiratory viruses by PCR: ____

   Number of PCR positive Influenza A - not typed: ____

   Number of PCR positive Influenza A H1 (2009): ____

   Number of PCR positive Influenza A H1 (seasonal; not 2009): ____

   Number of PCR positive Influenza A H3 (seasonal): ______

   Number of PCR positive Influenza A non-typeable: ______

   Number of PCR positive Influenza B: _____

   Number of positive RSV by PCR: _____

   Number of positive Human Metapneumovirus by PCR: _____

   Number of positive Rhinovirus by PCR: _____

   Number of positive Parainfluenza 1 by PCR: _____

   Number of positive Parainfluenza 2 by PCR: _____

   Number of positive Parainfluenza 3 by PCR: _____

   Number of positive Adenovirus by PCR: ____
Number of positive Coronavirus HKU1 by PCR: ____
Number of positive Coronavirus NL63 by PCR: ____
Number of positive Coronavirus 229E by PCR: ____
Number of positive Coronavirus OC43 by PCR: ____
Number of equivocal/indeterminate by PCR: ____

Influenza and RSV Cultures

Please indicate the Respiratory/Virus culture test results for the past week (Sunday thru Saturday):

Total number of specimens set up for respiratory viral cultures, etc.: ____
Number of Adenovirus positive cultures: ____
Number of CMV positive cultures: ____
Number of Enterovirus positive cultures: ____
Number of Influenza A positive cultures: ____
Number of Influenza B positive cultures: ____
Number of Human Metapneumovirus positive cultures: ____
Number of Parainfluenza type 1 positive cultures: ____
Number of Parainfluenza type 2 positive cultures: ____
Number of Parainfluenza type 3 positive cultures: ____
Number of Rhinovirus positive cultures: ____
Number of RSV positive cultures: ____
Number of Other viruses cultured: __
If other, specify: ________________________

Comments:
______________________________________________________________