Influenza Surveillance Needs You

Collect and Submit Nasopharyngeal Swabs

From at least two individuals experiencing influenza-like-symptoms (ILI) symptoms weekly

AND

Any individuals with ILI who are pregnant, hospitalized, have recently traveled internationally, or have had contact with bird/poultry flocks or pigs/swine

Pregnant Women
Hospitalized Patients
International Travel
Bird/Poultry flocks
Pigs/Swine

Why is this important?

To detect novel influenza

Antigen detection tests are not reliable for detecting the start of influenza season or novel influenza. Detection using molecular assays is important for characterization of influenza A viruses with pandemic potential.

To identify what else is circulating

Besides testing for influenza, our state laboratory also uses a bead-based multiplex molecular assay to detect 16 additional respiratory pathogens* including their subtypes.

To determine illness severity

Specimen submission gives us the opportunity to measure how many influenza-related hospitalizations and deaths have occurred.

To determine the geographic spread

Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing allows us to know where influenza is circulating when combined with ILI% in outpatient settings to assess geographic spread.

For more information visit http://AlabamaPublicHealth.gov/Influenza

*RSV (A and B), Coronavirus (229E, OC43, NL63, and HKU1), Human metapneumovirus, Rhinovirus/enterovirus, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza (1, 2, 3, and 4), Human bocavirus, Chlamydia pneumoniae, and Mycoplasma pneumoniae