



# Respiratory Surveillance Needs You



## Collect and Submit Nasopharyngeal Swabs

From at least **two individuals** experiencing influenza-like illness (ILI) or COVID-19-like illness (CLI) symptoms **weekly**



Non-household members

### AND

**Any individuals** with **ILI** or **CLI** who are pregnant; hospitalized; recently traveled internationally; have diabetes, cardiovascular disease, or obesity; or have had contact with bird/poultry flocks or pigs/swine



Pregnant Women



Hospitalized Patients



International Travel



Bird/Poultry flocks



Pigs/Swine



Diabetes



Cardiovascular Disease



Obesity

## Why is this important?

### To detect novel influenza or coronaviruses



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

### To identify what else is circulating



Besides testing for influenza and SARS-CoV-2, our state laboratory uses a bead-based multiplex molecular assay to detect 16 additional respiratory pathogens\*.

### 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



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/Flu>

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