

# LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
<b>NOVEL INFLUENZA</b>	<b><i>Influenza A</i></b>
<b>PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION</b>	
<b>KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read about Influenza in the CD Manual.</li> <li>• See the case definition for Influenza in the CD Manual.</li> <li>• Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19<sup>th</sup> ed., pp 323 - 331.</li> <li>• Refer to the North Carolina Pandemic Influenza Plan <a href="http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/pandemic.html">www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/pandemic.html</a> and your local county or district pandemic influenza plan.</li> <li>• Print and review reporting forms:                             <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Novel Influenza (DHHS/EPI #75)</i></p> </li> </ul>
<b>CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION</b>	
<b>COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize Appendix B-2, Human Influenza A (H5) Domestic Case Screening Form (CDC) from the state pandemic plan to collect information from clinical records and patient interview to determine whether testing for novel influenza is indicated.</li> </ul>
<b>REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although rapid flu testing may be conducted by a local physician or hospital to indicate an Influenza A virus, confirmation of novel viruses can only be performed at the SLPH or CDC.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initially, the CDC's influenza laboratory will confirm an influenza A virus represents a novel virus.</li> <li>○ Once the existence of a novel influenza virus has been confirmed by the CDC, public health laboratories, following CDC-approved protocols, may begin confirming laboratory results.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease.</li> <li>• Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. The 2010 CDC case definition specifies an influenza A virus subtype that is different from the currently circulating human influenza H1 and H3 viruses.</li> <li>• Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated.</li> </ul>

APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.</li> </ul>
<b>IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES</b>	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure.</li> <li>If probable source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information utilizing the Domestic Case Screening Form.</li> </ul>
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the local health director, implement control measures in accordance with the local pandemic influenza plan when indicated.</li> </ul>
<b>REPORTING INVESTIGATION</b>	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already <i>entered</i>.</li> <li>Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.</li> <li><b>Be aware that reporting requirements may change should the novel influenza virus begin circulating widely.</b></li> </ul>
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the course of the investigation, look for symptoms of disease in other exposed individuals and implement quarantine in accordance with your local Pandemic Influenza Plan if indicated.</li> <li>Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation and isolation in accordance with your local Pandemic Influenza Plan if indicated.</li> </ul>
<b>SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS</b>	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the submission of viral swabs to the SLPH in accordance with your local pandemic plan and the state plan if indicated.</li> </ul>
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform local Preparedness Coordinator.</li> <li>Call the PHPR 24/7 pager (877) 236-7477.</li> </ul>
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take precautions to protect healthcare personnel from possible exposure in accordance with the OSHA guidance update on Protecting Employees from Avian Flu (Avian Influenza) Viruses at: <a href="http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_AvianFlu/avian_flu_guidance_english.pdf">www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_AvianFlu/avian_flu_guidance_english.pdf</a>.</li> </ul>

<b>RISK COMMUNICATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Any case of Novel Influenza will be a high profile case. Each county should have a pandemic plan that should be that should be ready for implementation when needed. Immediate notification of state public health authorities, local health director and other emergency authorities is paramount.</li><li>• Any case of this disease will pique interest among media, health professionals, government officials, and the public.</li><li>• Outbreaks and individual cases will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and a press release.</li><li>• NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.</li></ul>
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