

# Interim Guidance for Local Health Departments on Reporting and Coordinating Lab Specimen Shipment for Patients with Suspected Influenza A H7N9 or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

December 2015

**Note:** This is an interim guidance. If you are looking at a paper copy, it may be out of date. The most up-to-date version is available at:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/MERS/Documents/MERS-CoV-LHD.pdf>

## 1. LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1.1 Facilitating Specimen Transport to the State Public Health Laboratory

- Please help coordinate timely transport of specimens to the State Public Health Lab from the facility evaluating the patient by the LHD/OSPHL courier service. (If folks at the facility say they have a system in place for timely transport, we'll take them at their word, and more power to them.)
- Information on collection and shipment of MERS specimens to OSPHL is available at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/Pages/test.aspx?TestID=396>
- Information on collection and shipment of H7N9 specimens to OSPHL is available at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/SubmittingSamples/Pages/submittin-g-flu.aspx>

### 1.2 Investigating Reported Cases of MERS of H7N9 and Notifying ACDP

- **Please notify** the Public Health Division **Epi on call** (971-673-1111) if you are contacted by a clinician **about any such suspect cases**.
- For more information about investigation of suspect, presumptive, or confirmed cases of H7N9 or other novel influenza A strains, see the *Novel Influenza* Investigative Guideline: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/ReportingCommunicableDisease/ReportingGuidelines/Documents/novel-flu.pdf>
- MERS Investigation would be similar to novel influenza investigation with minor modifications. We'd use the methods outlined in the Investigative Guidelines cited above. If you get a report, just give us a call.

## RESOURCES

**For information ACDP shared with clinicians about recognizing suspect cases (including criteria for testing), see:**

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/MERS/Documents/MERS-CoV-Recognizing.pdf>

**For information we've shared with clinicians about testing & specimen collection, see:**

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/DiseasesConditions/DiseasesAZ/MERS/Documents/MERS-CoV-Testing.pdf>