

ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE ALERT

Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH)
Public Health Influenza Surveillance Alert: March 29, 2016

Maricopa County Department of Public Health has received several reports of clusters of severe influenza-associated complications: 1) cardiomyopathy leading to heart failure and death and 2) hemorrhagic pneumonia associated with MRSA. We are also experiencing a record number of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases with a likely increase in adult deaths related to influenza. To better characterize morbidity and mortality related to influenza in Maricopa County, we request healthcare providers to report cases of SEVERE or FATAL influenza cases with associated cardiomyopathy/myocarditis or hemorrhagic pneumonia to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

What we are looking for:

- 1) Laboratory confirmed influenza infection by **rapid test, PCR, OR culture**

AND

- 2) Severe Cardiomyopathy or Myocarditis (severe defined as significant loss of cardiac function and/or reliance on a left ventricular assist device (LVAD))

OR

- 3) Severe Hemorrhagic pneumonia (severe defined as requiring ECMO or prolonged intubation)

If your facility identifies patients that meet the above criteria, **please save any influenza and MRSA specimens and/or isolates, if available.** If no specimens are available, but the patient is still hospitalized, please consider collecting and saving a nasopharyngeal swab specimen for potential testing at the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory after consultation with your local health department.

Healthcare providers can report cases during business hours to Maricopa County Department of Public Health **Monday – Friday 602-506-6767**. After hours and on weekends/holidays cases can be reported to the Disease Reporting Line at 602-747-7111.

We also encourage clinicians to order influenza testing on any individual who develops clinical signs and symptoms consistent with severe or fatal cardiomyopathy, myocarditis or hemorrhagic pneumonia. The flu season peaked very late this year and transmission is still ongoing. CDC reports that the flu vaccine is a good match this season with about 60% effectiveness overall.

We thank you for your support in learning more about this important public health issue.

Thank you for your assistance!

*Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Offices of Epidemiology*