

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Communicable Disease Epidemiology
1610 N.E. 150th Street Shoreline, Washington 98155-7224
Tel: (206) 418-5500 FAX: (206)418-5515

April 28, 2009

Dear Lab Director:

The human swine flu outbreak continues to grow in the United States and internationally. As of April 28, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are reporting 64 confirmed cases of swine flu in the United States. Current information about the swine flu outbreak can be found at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>.

In order to enhance surveillance for influenza in Washington, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is requesting that laboratories reporting notifiable conditions electronically via PHRED add influenza to the list of conditions being reported. Although influenza is not a notifiable condition, DOH in collaboration with local health jurisdictions in Washington is actively investigating this outbreak due to a novel influenza virus. WAC 246-101-205 states that laboratory directors shall "Cooperate with public health authorities during investigations of an outbreak of suspected outbreak of disease."

If you have general questions regarding this request, feel free to contact me at 206-418-5500. For technical questions regarding adding influenza to the list of conditions reported through PHRED, contact Rita Altamore (Rita.Altamore@DOH.WA.GOV).

Thanks you very much for your help with this outbreak investigation.

Sincerely,



Anthony A. Marfin, MD, MPH
Washington State Department of Health
State Epidemiologist for Communicable Disease