

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
NOVEL INFLUENZA	75	<i>Influenza A</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Influenza in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Influenza in the CD Manual. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 323 - 331. • Refer to the North Carolina Pandemic Influenza Plan www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/pandemic.html and your local county or district pandemic influenza plan. • 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> 	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> ○ Initially, the CDC's influenza laboratory will confirm an influenza A virus represents a novel virus. ○ 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. • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. • 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. • Contact healthcare provider if further testing of the patient is indicated. 	

APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria.
IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. If probable source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview patient to obtain additional information utilizing the Domestic Case Screening Form.
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the local health director, implement control measures in accordance with the local pandemic influenza plan when indicated.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>. Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record. Be aware that reporting requirements may change should the novel influenza virus begin circulating widely.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Refer symptomatic individuals to healthcare provider for evaluation and isolation in accordance with your local Pandemic Influenza Plan if indicated.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH (SLPH) TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the submission of viral swabs to the SLPH in accordance with your local pandemic plan and the state plan if indicated.
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (PHPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform local Preparedness Coordinator. Call the PHPR 24/7 pager (877) 236-7477.
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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: www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_AvianFlu/avian_flu_guidance_english.pdf.

RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.• Any case of this disease will pique interest among media, health professionals, government officials, and the public.• Outbreaks and individual cases will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and a press release.• NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.
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