### Local Health Department Disease Investigation Steps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NC Reportable Disease/Condition</th>
<th>Infectious Agent(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOVEL INFLUENZA</td>
<td>Influenza A</td>
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### Preparing for Investigation

**Know the Disease/Condition**

- Read about Influenza in the CD Manual.
- See the case definition for Influenza in the CD Manual.
- Refer to the North Carolina Pandemic Influenza Plan [www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/pandemic.html](http://www.epi.state.nc.us/epi/gcdc/pandemic.html) and your local county or district pandemic influenza plan.
- Print and review reporting forms:
  - *Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)*
  - *Part 2: Novel Influenza (DHHS/EPI #75)*

### Conducting Investigation

**Collect Clinical Information**

- 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**

- 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.
  - 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**  
- 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**  
- 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**  
- 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)**  
- Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered.
- Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete.

- Be aware that reporting requirements may change should the novel influenza virus begin circulating widely.

**CASE FINDING**  
- 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**  
- 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)**  
- Inform local Preparedness Coordinator.
- Call the PHPR 24/7 pager (877) 236-7477.

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES**  
- 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](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_AvianFlu/avian_flu_guidance_english.pdf)
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<th>RISK COMMUNICATION</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Any case of Novel Influenza will be a high profile case. Each county should have a pandemic plan that should be ready for implementation when needed. Immediate notification of state public health authorities, local health director and other emergency authorities is paramount.</td>
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<td>• Any case of this disease will pique interest among media, health professionals, government officials, and the public.</td>
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<td>• Outbreaks and individual cases will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and a press release.</td>
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<td>• NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.</td>
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