



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

**Date:** April 3, 2024

**To:** Medical Laboratory Directors

**From:** David Blythe, MD, MPH *DB*  
Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak  
Response Bureau

Robert A. Myers, PhD *R.A. M.*  
Director, Laboratories Administration

**Re:** Resumption of Enhanced Surveillance for Influenza A positive  
specimens on April 3, 2024.

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CDC has recently confirmed a human infection in Texas with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1) virus. Therefore, to maintain vigilance for the appearance of A(H5N1) in Maryland, effective today (April 3, 2024), and in accordance with the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.06.01.03, **the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is requesting that laboratories submit all influenza A positive specimens to the MDH Laboratory** for typing and possible further characterization.

As always, we request immediate submission of specimens from any suspected novel influenza A infections. Priority testing to detect non-seasonal influenza viruses, such as H5N1 or H7N9 will be done if patients meet recommended clinical and epidemiological criteria (contact your local health department to confirm criteria are met and to coordinate the submission of these specimens to the State Laboratory).

Please visit the laboratory website

<https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/Pages/influenza.aspx> and select [Specimen Submission Guidelines for Suspect Influenza Virus Infection](#)

[\(10-31-2023\)](#) for more information on submitting influenza specimens to the MDH Laboratory.

Let us know if you have any questions about this updated guidance.

cc: Dr. Nilesh Kalyanaraman  
Dr. David Blythe  
Dr. Monique Duwell  
Dr. David Crum  
Mr. Brian Bachaus  
Ms. Curi Kim  
Ms. Maya Monroe