

# TESTING FOR PATIENTS WITH SUSPECT AVIAN/PANDEMIC STRAIN INFLUENZA

**Patient with suspect Avian Influenza—Contact Public Health IMMEDIATELY!**

**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) 24/7 number: 800-362-2736**

**University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) 24/7 number: 319-335-4500**

\* Testing is available at UHL for patients that meet the appropriate clinical and epidemiologic characteristics. \*

\* Testing for avian influenza is only performed following approval from IDPH. \*

\* Health care providers should contact UHL for guidance on optimal specimen collection and for rapid transport of specimens to the lab. \*

## **CDC recommends testing for avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection for a patient who:**

- has at least one of the following potential exposures within 10 days of symptom onset:
  - A) History of travel to a country with influenza H5N1 documented in poultry, wild birds, and/or humans, AND had at least one of the following potential exposures during travel:
    - direct contact with sick or dead domestic poultry and/or poultry feces;
    - consumption of raw or incompletely cooked poultry or poultry products;
    - direct contact with sick or dead wild birds suspected or confirmed to have influenza H5N1;
    - close contact (approach within 1 meter [approx. 3 feet]) of a person who was hospitalized or died due to a severe unexplained respiratory illness;
  - B) Close contact (approach within 1 meter [approx. 3 feet]) of an ill patient who was confirmed or suspected to have H5N1;
  - C) Worked with live influenza H5N1 virus in a laboratory.
- requires hospitalization or is fatal; AND has or had a temperature of  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ); AND
- has radiographically confirmed pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), or other severe respiratory illness for which an alternate diagnosis has not been established.

## **Seek testing consultation for:**

- A patient with mild or atypical disease (hospitalized or ambulatory) who has one of the exposures listed above (criteria A, B, or C); OR
- A patient with severe or fatal respiratory disease whose epidemiological information is uncertain, unavailable, or otherwise suspicious but does not meet the criteria above (examples include: a returned traveler from an influenza H5N1-affected country whose exposures are unclear or suspicious, a person who had contact with sick or well-appearing poultry, etc.)