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**SUBJECT:** Swine Influenza Laboratory Update

**DATE:** April 30, 2009

Our laboratory's routine test methods will detect the new strain of swine influenza A (sH1N1), but at this time we are unable to differentiate it from the seasonal human influenza A (hH1N1 and H3N2) strains that are still circulating. Definitive identification of the swine influenza A is presently available only through public health laboratories (NY State and CDC). The Monroe County Department of Public Health will continue screening suspect cases and decide which samples will be forwarded to the state lab. **Please call the Disease Surveillance Unit if you have a suspect case of swine influenza A (753-5164, after-hours: 753-5905).**

All specimens sent to our laboratory will continue to be processed in the usual manner. Those positive for Influenza A by either rapid or culture methods will be reported to public health officials and they will decide whether or not specific typing is warranted. This decision will be based on a variety of factors including travel history, up to date epidemiology, and prudent use of available resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Virology Laboratory at 275-7801 with any questions you may have about laboratory issues. Up to date information on influenza activity (positive laboratory tests) generated by our laboratory can be found at the following URL:  
[http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/pathology\\_lab\\_medicine/clinical\\_labs/news\\_publications/seasonal\\_respiratory\\_virus\\_surveillance.cfm](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/pathology_lab_medicine/clinical_labs/news_publications/seasonal_respiratory_virus_surveillance.cfm)

We will provide you with laboratory updates as the swine flu outbreak continues to evolve and more definitive information about diagnostic testing becomes available.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Dr. Marilyn A. Menegus, Director of the Virus Laboratory, via the methods listed above.