

Health Alert: Influenza CAP Proficiency Testing Survey

Health Alert
April 11, 2005

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This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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**FROM: JULIA M. ECKSTEIN
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SUBJECT: Influenza in CAP Proficiency Testing Survey VR1-A 2005

The Association of Public Health Laboratories has learned that a current College of American Pathologists (CAP) proficiency sample contains Influenza A subtype H2N2. This sample and any material derived from this sample, including all cell cultures, must be destroyed immediately. Please see message below that CAP is sending by fax to all laboratories that received this PT sample.

“For the VR1-A 2005 Survey, Specimen VR1-05 was identified as Influenza A. The strain used for this specimen was ATCC VR100. This is an influenza A strain of the H2N2 subtype. Viruses of this subtype have not been seen in the North American population since 1967, and as such are not addressed in the formulation of the current influenza vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Because of this, we are asking that you IMMEDIATELY destroy any materials you may have retained or derived from this Survey.”

If you have any questions, please contact the CAP Customer Contact Center at 1-800-323-4040, Option 1.