

Health Advisory:

Investigation of Influenza-Associated Parotitis

February 11, 2015

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.health.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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February 11, 2015

**FROM: GAIL VASTERLING
DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: Investigation of Influenza-Associated Parotitis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently assisting multiple states, including Missouri, in a national investigation of influenza-associated parotitis. Influenza-associated parotitis has been rarely reported; however, more than 130 cases of parotitis in children and adults with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported this influenza season from multiple jurisdictions across the United States. The majority of these cases have tested negative for mumps or other etiologies. In an effort to ascertain cases of influenza-associated parotitis, your assistance is requested in identifying individuals with signs and symptoms of acute parotitis and obtaining diagnostic specimens for further evaluation.

If you identify a patient with acute parotitis, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) asks that you perform the following steps to assist with this investigation, in addition to performing your usual diagnostic work-up.

1. Notify your local public health agency (LPHA), or DHSS at 573/751-6113, and provide the location of your clinic/hospital, the patient's name and contact information, and identify the patient as an individual who has a clinical diagnosis of acute parotitis. The LPHA (or DHSS) will use this information to contact the patient to complete a case report form.
2. In addition to any other diagnostic testing you perform, please obtain a separate nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal swab, AND a buccal swab, if possible and place them in 1-3 ml of viral transport media. Swab specimens should be collected using swabs with a synthetic tip (e.g., polyester or Dacron[®]) and an aluminum or plastic shaft. If you are unable to obtain these specimens, please inform the LPHA (or DHSS) when you report the case. A test request form is available at: https://webapp01.dhss.mo.gov/LIMSForm_APP/SelectTest.aspx
3. If your facility is served by the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory's (MSPHL's) courier system, the specimens can be sent to MSPHL via that courier. Otherwise, your LPHA (or DHSS) can assist you with sending the specimens to MSPHL for diagnostic testing related to the investigation. Please label specimens: "Parotitis Study."
4. Specimens sent to MSPHL will ultimately be sent to CDC for additional diagnostic evaluation.

DHSS requests that you continue to collect specimens through March 6, 2015, to assist with the investigation.

Please remember that parotitis is a clinical diagnosis and can be caused by a variety of pathogens including mumps, Epstein-Barr virus, human herpes virus 6, parainfluenza 1 and 3, influenza A, Coxsackie A virus, echovirus, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, and human immunodeficiency virus. *Staphylococcus aureus* may cause suppurative parotitis, which may be suggested by the expression of pus from Stetson's duct. Parotitis may also be caused by other non-infectious causes including medications, tumors, immunologic diseases, and obstruction of the salivary glands.

Questions should be directed to your LPHA, or to DHSS' Bureau of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 573/751-6113 or 800/392-0272 (24/7).

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