

Memo

To: CVH Nursing and Physician staff

From: Kenneth I. Freedman, M.D., MBA, FASAM,
Medical Director, Ambulatory Care Services and
Chair, Infection Control Committee
Laurie Wassil, RN, CIC,
Infection Control Practitioner and
Co-chair, Infection Control Committee

Date: 12/22/05

Re: Rapid Influenza Testing and Treatment

Testing for influenza is available through Clinical Laboratory Partners (CLP). Nasopharyngeal swabs and aspirates are the recommended specimens to submit for rapid influenza A and B testing. **Throat swabs are NOT recommended.** The kit **must** be kept refrigerated at all times, before and after culture is obtained. When ordering a culture for influenza culture, you must contact the lab at x6760 to deliver the specimen kit. Cultures should be obtained during the operating hours of the lab (7am – 3pm, Mon – Fri). If a culture is required during non-operating lab hours, contact the lab through the hospital operator; the specimen will need to be collected the following morning. The collected specimen **MUST** be placed immediately in the pink liquid transport media and transported **ON ICE** or **KEPT REFRIGERATED**.

The results of the culture should be available within 24 hours. The lab will contact the unit directly for any positive result. The unit nurse will immediately notify the physician. Amantadine is available for the treatment of influenza A and should begin within the first two days of illness onset. A limited supply of Tamiflu may also be available for those patients unable to tolerate the Amantadine.

For any further clarification, please contact the lab @ x6760, Laurie Wassil @ x5419, or Ken Freedman @ x5104.

cc: Barbara Forgit, RN, CNA, MPA, Director of ACS
Cynthia Conrad, MD, PhD, COPS
Jerilynn Lamb-Pagone, RN, Director, MOSD
Dr. Kenneth Marcus, Acting CEO