



January 16, 2014

This is a message from the LA County Department of Public Health.

The CDPH issued a health alert on 1/15/14; Medical and Health Coordination Center Activated in Response to Ongoing Flu Activity [id: 3472664].

Below is the modified summary.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health would like to remind healthcare professionals of the importance of antivirals for the treatment of influenza in patients at high risk for complications from this disease. Antivirals should be administered as soon as possible for high-risk patients presenting with influenza-like illness and should not be delayed when waiting for confirmatory testing. In addition, because of reports of patients that have tested negative by rapid test, but then tested positive by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing, all hospitalized patients with clinical signs and symptoms consistent with influenza should be started immediately on antiviral medications, regardless of influenza rapid test result. In these situations, respiratory specimens (from both upper and lower respiratory tract) should be sent for confirmatory PCR testing.

Influenza reporting requirement in Los Angeles County differ from state and federal requirements. LACDPH requires reporting of influenza-associated death of all ages within 7 calendar days from identification. Hospitalizations and intensive care cases are not reportable. (For cases among residents of the Cities of Long Beach or Pasadena, please contact their local health departments at 562-570-4302 or 626-744-6000, respectively.)

To report an influenza-associated death fill out the LACDPH form attached here or located online at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/EpiForms/InfluFatalForm.pdf>

Fax completed forms to the Acute Communicable Disease Program (213) 482-4856.

Additional information from the CDC regarding antiviral recommendations can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/index.htm>

For questions please contact Wendy Manuel or the doctor-on-call: phone (213) 240-7941 or email [wmanuel@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:wmanuel@ph.lacounty.gov)