



Influenza Activity in Vermont

To: Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Ambulatory Care Centers and Long-term Care Facilities
From: Patsy Kelso, State Epidemiologist for Infectious Disease

– Please Distribute Widely –

The Health Department Laboratory has reported the first positive influenza PCR for the 2012-13 flu season. Influenza A (H3) was confirmed in an adult from Windsor County. Influenza activity remains low in the United States, with most states reporting sporadic activity.

Information for healthcare providers is available on the Health Department web site at:
<http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/flu/provider.aspx>

The page includes links to current influenza information, including:

- 2012-2013 influenza antiviral medications summary for clinicians
- Vaccine information
- Infection control guidelines

Influenza surveillance data is available at:
<http://healthvermont.gov/prevent/flu/flusurveillance.aspx>

This page includes information about Vermont, regional and national influenza activity. Laboratory test results from the Health Department Laboratory are updated each Wednesday for the previous week. There is also data on influenza-like illness visit trends for selected Vermont hospital emergency departments and outpatient settings.

Surveillance testing: The Health Department Laboratory performs influenza testing primarily for public health surveillance purposes to document influenza activity in the community. Influenza RT-PCR testing to confirm influenza and determine type is performed at the Laboratory on Tuesday and Friday of each week, and is available to providers who contribute to the national sentinel surveillance program. If you would like to have RT-PCR testing for influenza available to your practice, please join the sentinel provider program by calling (802) 863-7240.