

Title: Accelerated Subtyping of Influenza A in Hospitalized Patients

Dear Hospital Clinicians and Laboratory Colleagues--

On January 16, 2025, CDC released a [HAN](#) requesting expanded and accelerated subtyping for hospitalized patients with influenza A. To align with this request, we are asking clinicians and laboratory staff in Oregon hospitals to prioritize and expedite seasonal flu subtyping for individuals hospitalized with influenza A, rather than batching the tests.

If your laboratory **does** conduct subtyping for seasonal flu (H3 and H1), please do so for all hospitalized influenza A patients. If results are not subtypeable, specimens **must** be sent to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) to rule out influenza A (H5). Laboratories are required to immediately notify state public health officials that the specimen did not subtype: 971-673-1111.

If your laboratory **does not** conduct subtyping for seasonal flu (H3 and H1), please expedite shipment of influenza A-positive specimens, preferably to OSPHL; alternatively, to a reference laboratory that can test for H1, H3, and H5 (e.g., ARUP, LabCorp, Quest). OSPHL specimen submission guidance can be found in the [2024-2025 Influenza Surveillance Guidance \(pdf\)](#).

If a patient is admitted and has already tested positive for influenza via a rapid test, please re-test using an assay that can provide subtyping results. If a patient has [risk factors](#) for contracting influenza A H5, contact state public health officials at 971-673-1111.

This is part of a national effort to increase the breadth and timeliness of surveillance for influenza A(H5), which has become enzootic in the U.S. and has been confirmed as infecting 66 humans during 2024. See attached information from CDC's Health Alert Network or click [here](#).

Thank you for your collaboration on behalf of public health. Contact the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory with specimen submission questions at 503-693-4100. For questions about this notice or influenza A H5, please contact the OHA Epidemiologist On Call at 971-673-1111.

For the full text of the CDC's HAN Alert: CDCHAN-00520, click here:

[https://www.cdc.gov/han/2025/han00520.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_486-DM142615&ACSTrackingLabel=HAN%20520%20-%20Health%20Advisory%20\(for%20COCA%20partners\)&deliveryName=USCDC_486-DM142615](https://www.cdc.gov/han/2025/han00520.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_486-DM142615&ACSTrackingLabel=HAN%20520%20-%20Health%20Advisory%20(for%20COCA%20partners)&deliveryName=USCDC_486-DM142615)