



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Administrative Center
600 W. 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801-1030
Office: (563) 326-8618 Fax: (563)326-8774
www.scottcountyiowa.com/health



News Release – For Immediate Use

October 16, 2009

Re: H1N1 Testing

Contact: Public Information Officer at 563-326-8618

The Scott County Health Department wants to reemphasize that if you have influenza, it is safe to assume that you have the H1N1 virus. This is the only flu virus circulating in our community. It is most important to note that you should not expect to be tested for the H1N1 virus.

The *only* patients who should be considered for influenza diagnostic testing include:

- Hospitalized patients with suspected influenza
- Patients for whom a diagnosis of influenza will inform decisions regarding clinical care, infection control, or management of close contacts.
- Patients who died of an acute illness in which influenza was suspected.

The available rapid test performs very poorly for detection of the new H1N1 virus, so a negative test means very little in a person with symptoms. The reliable test, called PCR, takes too long to perform to influence treatment decisions, which must be made within 48 hours of the start of illness if antiviral medications are to have any beneficial effect. Healthy people with influenza do not generally need antiviral meds.

The Scott County Health Department and healthcare community are urging individuals to stay home if they are sick. Do not report to your local emergency departments, but call your primary care physician first instead.

For additional information about H1N1, visit www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/flu_h1n1.php or call the Iowa Flu Hotline at 1-800-447-1985.