

Clinical Specimens Needed for Outbreak Investigations

Healthcare Provider Information

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) is investigating a potential outbreak, cluster, case of public health importance. In order to identify the source of the disease, ADPH must receive laboratory results performed by your in-house or reference lab, or receive specimens to test at the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL). In outbreak situations, ADPH prefers all specimens be sent to the BCL for testing.

What if the patient has no insurance to cover the testing?

- Collect the specimen and
 - If your lab or practice uses the online BCL Webportal follow the ADPH Partner Instructions, http://www.adph.org/bcl/assets/Partners_Instructions.pdf. The ADPH Area Investigator (AI) will provide the outbreak number.
 - If your lab or practice does not use BCL Webportal, complete a BCL Requisition Form for each specimen and test ordered. Download the form at http://www.adph.org/bcl/assets/BCL_Requisition_Form.pdf and follow EPI Partner Instructions, http://www.adph.org/epi/assets/EPI_Partners_Instructions.pdf. ADPH AI will provide the outbreak number.
- Properly packed specimens can be dropped off at your local county health department to be couriered to BCL overnight or you can ship it directly at your expense to:
ADPH/BCL
8140 AUM Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

Does the state offer specimen collection and shipping supplies?

- ADPH only provides influenza specimen collection and shipping supplies. Email flutestkit@adph.state.al.us and request the individual items needed or influenza test kits.

Who do I call if I have a question?

- Call your Area Investigator, <http://www.adph.org/epi/Default.asp?id=1438>, or Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division at 1-800-338-8374.