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## MEMO

**TO:** Laboratory Influenza Surveillance Participants

**FROM:** Jill K. Baber, MPH, Influenza Surveillance Coordinator

**RE:** Guidelines for Reporting Influenza and RSV Testing for the 2018-19 Season

**DATE:** September 26, 2018

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) would like to thank our sentinel laboratories for participating in this voluntary program. This data helps us calculate percent positivity for influenza testing, which is crucial for seasonal characterization and decision-making. The NDDoH often highlights the excellent quality of our sentinel laboratory data at national conferences and meetings. Your participation is truly appreciated.

Surveillance for the 2018-19 season officially begins the week of September 30, 2018. For our continuing participants, please begin reporting for the 2018-19 season as soon as you are ready (if you haven't already). The primary method for sentinel reporting is via fax (this year's report is attached), or through a web-based electronic report form, which can be accessed from the NDDoH influenza website. To submit your report, go to [www.ndflu.com](http://www.ndflu.com) and click on the "lab reporting" link on the left-hand side of the screen. If your laboratory is not listed, please contact the NDDoH at 701.328.2378 to add your lab to the dropdown menu.

Reports include the total number of influenza and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) tests performed each week in your facility, along with the number of positive influenza and RSV tests. RSV reporting is optional, and we know some labs to not do this testing. Reporting will continue through May 25, 2019. If your lab is willing to report year-round, please continue through September 2019. Submit your report each Monday for the previous week. Weeks run Sunday to Saturday. For example, a report for September 30 - October 6, 2018 should be submitted October 8<sup>th</sup>. Please submit a report even for those weeks when testing is zero. Data that testing is not being conducted are helpful data, too! Year-round submissions are greatly appreciated.

As a reminder, laboratory sentinel reporting does not replace influenza case reporting. Influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota, and all influenza laboratory positives must be reported for each North Dakota resident with a positive test. Please contact the NDDoH if you have questions regarding reportable disease reporting.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in the Influenza and RSV Laboratory Surveillance Program. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. If you have questions regarding the program, please call us at 701.328.2378 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.

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**LABORATORY REPORTS  
OF INFLUENZA AND RSV TESTING**  
2018-2019 Influenza and RSV Surveillance

Name of Laboratory

Report for the 7-day period ending \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
(Period ends Saturday at Midnight)

Check if  
Revised  
Report

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Number of  
Positive Influenza  
Specimens

Total Influenza  
Specimens  
Tested

Number of  
Positive RSV  
Specimens

Total RSV  
Specimens  
Tested

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**Fax this form to:**  
**Jill Baber**  
**Influenza Surveillance Coordinator**  
**1.701.328.2499**  
(No Cover Sheet is Required)