

Case Definition

Confirmed Case:

Clinical evidence¹ with laboratory confirmation of infection:

- Isolation of influenza virus from an appropriate clinical specimen
OR
- Demonstration of influenza virus antigen in an appropriate clinical specimen
OR
- Significant rise (e.g. fourfold or greater) in influenza IgG titre between acute and convalescent sera
OR
- Detection of influenza RNA

Clinical Evidence

Clinical illness defined as influenza-like illness (ILI) is characterized as follows: acute onset of respiratory illness with fever and cough and with one or more of the following:

- Sore throat
- Arthralgia
- Myalgia
- Prostration that could be due to influenza virus.

In children under 5, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present. In patients under 5, or 65 and older, fever may not be prominent. Note: Illness associated with novel influenza viruses may present with other symptoms.

Reporting Requirements

Report confirmed cases to DHW Surveillance via Panorama.

Follow-up weekly on hospitalized patients until discharge or death (maximum 4 weeks) and update in Panorama.

Additional Forms

None.

Additional Comments

In addition to the symptoms of ILI noted above, severe ILI may also include complications such as pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), encephalitis or other severe and life-threatening complications.

¹ See Clinical Evidence section.