

## **Greater Cincinnati Health Council Hospital H1N1 Testing Protocol Talking Points**

- Greater Cincinnati Hospitals follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for H1N1 testing.
  - Only hospitalized patients with flu-like illness may be tested for H1N1.
  - Local or state Health Departments may request H1N1 testing for individuals who are part of a group or cluster of influenza-like illness cases that are being investigated by a local health district.
- When and where to seek care if you think you have the flu:
  - Those who have flu symptoms, coupled with other risk factors such as asthma or diabetes should contact their health care providers.
  - Those exhibiting severe symptoms should go to the Emergency Department.
    - Severe symptoms in children:
      - Fast breathing or trouble breathing
      - Bluish or gray skin color and/or purple or blue discoloration of the lips
      - Signs of dehydration such as dizziness when standing, absence of urination, or in infants, a lack of tears when crying
      - Severe or persistent vomiting which may include being unable to keep liquids down
      - Inability to wake up or interact, is less responsive than normal and becomes confused
      - Irritability and lack of desire to be held
      - Flu-like symptoms that improve, but then return with a fever and worse cough
      - Seizures (such as uncontrolled convulsions)
    - Severe symptoms in adults:
      - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
      - Purple or blue discoloration of the lips
      - Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
      - Signs of dehydration such as dizziness when standing or absence of urination
      - Sudden dizziness
      - Confusion
      - Severe or persistent vomiting, which may include being unable to keep liquids down
      - Flu-like symptoms that improve, but then return with fever and worse cough
      - Seizures
  - Treatment for flu-like illness will be the same, regardless of whether patients have been tested.
  - Rapid tests may be performed in the Emergency Department or in physicians offices to determine a diagnosis of flu, though these tests will not specify the type of flu.