

# Solstas Lab Link Bulletin

November 1, 2013

## 2013-14 Flu Season Recommendations

### Birmingham Lab

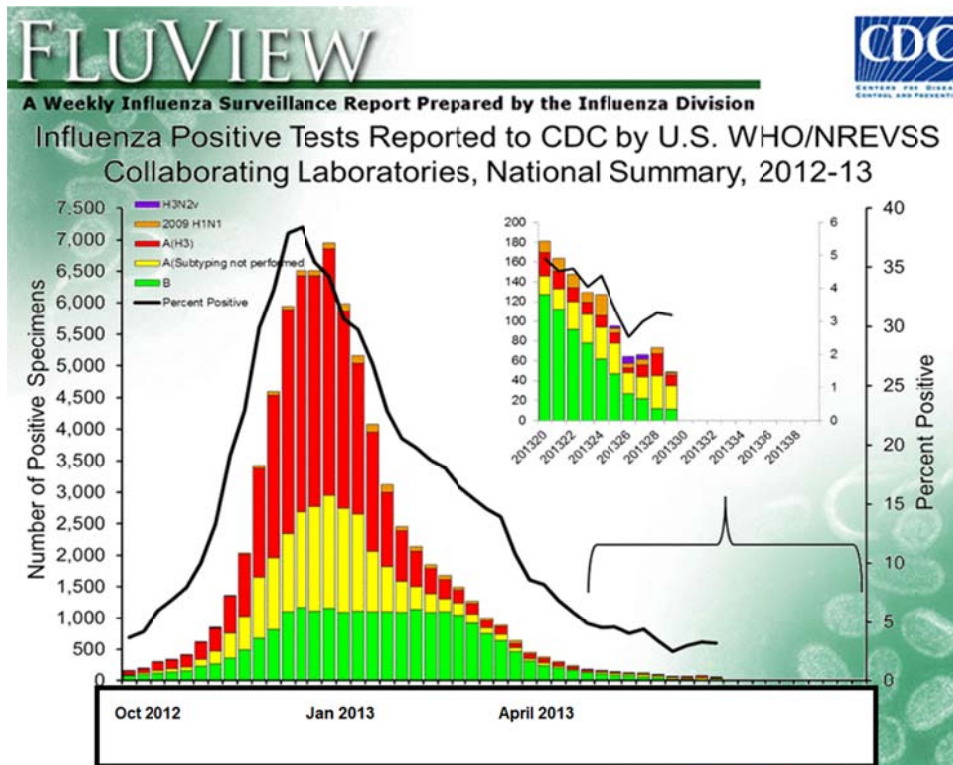


Dear Valued Partner:

In preparation for the 2013-14 flu season, Solstas is providing the following information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and associated Solstas test information:

The CDC has recommended vaccination for flu in individuals six months of age and older. The flu vaccine is developed annually targeted against the most active flu strains predictive for the season. However, other factors including a patient's weak immune system response, exposure to non-covered flu strains and other infectious agents including, but not limited to, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, adenovirus, respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus and parainfluenza virus may cause flu or flu-like symptoms following exposure.

Flu activity typically begins in October and, according to 2012-13 data from the CDC, flu activity peaked from mid-January through the beginning of March. (1) Influenza A, H3 subtype, was the most prevalent. People age 65 and older were the most impacted with more than 50% of hospitalizations occurring in this age group. In most years, 90% of flu-related deaths occur in people age 65 and older. However, other age groups may be significantly impacted as 154 flu-related deaths occurred in children during the 2012-13 season, a significant increase over the 2011-12 season. (2,3)



Solstas is here to assist in diagnosing influenza and other respiratory cases. We are pleased to provide you on the following page the testing options available.



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<u>Seacoast Unit Code</u>	<u>Test Description</u>	<u>Specimen Type</u>	<u>TAT</u>	<u>CPT Code</u>	<u>2013 Medicare Maximum Limit</u>
70504	<b>Influenza A and B, Rapid with reflex to Influenza A and B, PCR</b> Offers the quick turn-around-time of rapid testing coupled with the additional sensitivity of RT-PCR when the rapid test is negative. <b>*RT-PCR performed at an additional charge when Rapid Test is Negative (CPT 87502).</b>	<b>Nasopharyngeal Swab in VTM or nasal aspiration/washing in sterile cup</b>	1-3 days	87804QW 87804QW/59  <b>*87502 (applied when Rapid A&amp;B is negative)</b>	\$15.91 \$15.91  <b>\$109.75</b>
70535	<b>Influenza A and B, PCR</b> Offers a highly sensitive and specific method for influenza detection.	<b>Nasopharyngeal Swab in VTM or nasal aspiration/washing in sterile cup</b>	2-3 days	87502	\$109.75
3100	<b>Influenza A and B, Rapid</b> Offers a quick way to diagnose flu influenza related respiratory problems. Published sensitivities are less than the viral culture or RT-PCR.	<b>Nasopharyngeal Swab in VTM or nasal aspiration/washing in sterile cup</b>	1 day	87804QW 87804QW/59	\$15.91 \$15.91
5563	<b>Respiratory Viral Profile, PCR</b> Offers high sensitivity and specificity for the detection of influenza A, influenza A H1, influenza A H3, and influenza B, RSV A & B, parainfluenza 1 2 & 3, human metapneumovirus, rhinovirus, and adenovirus.	<b>Nasopharyngeal Swab in VTM or nasal aspiration/washing in sterile cup</b>	2-3 days	87633	\$533.35
6082	<b>Respiratory Viral Culture</b> Offers a traditional detection method for influenza A and B, adenovirus, Parainfluenza 1 2 & 3, RSV, and metapneumovirus.	<b>Nasopharyngeal Swab in VTM or nasal aspiration/washing in sterile cup</b>	7 days	87254 x8	\$208.40

If you have any questions, please call your dedicated Solstas Client Relationship Specialist directly, or contact our Customer Service Department at 1-888-664-7601. Thank you for choosing Solstas Lab Partners. [www.solstas.com](http://www.solstas.com)

#### References

1. CDC: Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC, National Summary , 2012-2013 Season through July 13, 2013. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2012-2013/WhoLab30.htm>
2. CDC: Number of Influenza Associated Pediatric Deaths by Week: 2009-2010 season through present. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>
3. CDC: What Should You Know for the 2012-2013 Influenza Season Q&A. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pastseasons/1213season.htm>