



H5N1 INFLUENZA

Protocol Overview and Methods:

Causative agent is an *Influenza* virus. Human cases of *Influenza A* (H5N1) infection have occurred in several Asian and Middle Eastern countries. It is believed that human H5N1 cases result from contact with infected birds or surfaces contaminated with excretions from infected birds. Sporadic human cases have occurred after recent direct or close contact with infected poultry that were sick or dead. Other H5N1 risk factors include visiting a live poultry market and prolonged, unprotected close contact with a sick H5N1 patient.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory (DPHL) can identify H5N1 via molecular real time reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR).

- Molecular methods are used to detect specific segments of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that these organisms contain. If present, DNA segments from *Influenza* H5N1 are amplified until there is a sufficient quantity for the instrument to detect. **Any positive qPCR results are considered preliminary positive and must be sent to CDC for confirmation.**

Contact Information:

DPHL Director: 302-223-1520. Answering service is available at the same number during non-business hours.

For More Information:

24/7 CDC Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156

<http://www.cdc.gov/az/>