

To: ISU VDL Clientele (Reference Document)

- Posting to website as follow-up to 11/1/10 VDL client letter.

From: Rodger Main, ISU VDL Director of Operations

Date: November 29, 2010

Subject: Swine Influenza Diagnostic Services

This reference serves to update ISU VDL clients on swine influenza diagnostics at the ISU VDL, and clarify the effects of the USDA's recently revised "National Surveillance Plan of Influenza Virus in Swine" on case-compatible submissions to the ISU VDL.

The "National Surveillance Plan for Swine Influenza Virus in Pigs" (version 3.2) is the outcome of significant collaborative efforts between the USDA, National Pork Board, American Association of Swine Veterinarians, and Public Health Officials. The primary revision was the addition of an "[Anonymous Surveillance Stream](#)".

See Attached: ["Producer Guide to Influenza Surveillance in Pigs"](#)
["Pork Check-Off Special Edition, Partnering for Influenza Virus Surveillance"](#)

Swine Influenza Diagnostics Services at the ISU VDL:

I. Standard ISU VDL Client Fee-for-Diagnostic Service Case Submissions

- Swine influenza virus (SIV) diagnostics are commonly incorporated into swine respiratory disease panel diagnostic work-ups. (e.g., PRRS, SIV, PCV-2, M. hyo, + bacterial culture & sensitivities)
- Full-spectrum of SIV diagnostic services are available per client request
- Provided as a confidential laboratory-client diagnostic service
- Test results for non-reportable diseases are confidential veterinary medical records
- SIV is not a reportable disease
- **Fee-for-Service (VDL Client Pays → VDL Case Results Reported Only to VDL Client)**
- **No Change from Status-Quo**

II. USDA's "Traceable Influenza Surveillance Stream"

- VDL clients must provide written consent indicating the desire for their VDL diagnostic submission to be included in USDA's "Traceable Influenza Surveillance Stream".
- VDL conducts USDA's defined influenza diagnostic testing regimen.
- Test results are forwarded to both VDL client and USDA.
- Resulting influenza virus isolates are made available to the VDL client and USDA.
- Influenza diagnostic results and influenza virus isolates forwarded to the USDA retain the direct link and traceability to the participating VDL submission. (e.g., traceable to specific submitting veterinarian, animal owner, and diagnostic laboratory.)
- **No charge to VDL client for USDA-defined influenza diagnostic testing**
 - USDA-defined influenza diagnostic testing regimen includes
 - Influenza A screen, pH1N1 differential, virus isolation, full-length sequencing of the hemagglutinin, matrix, and neuramidase genes.
- **Similar to USDA's influenza surveillance program operating since June 2009.**

III. USDA's "Anonymous Influenza Surveillance Stream"... *(This is what's new.)*

- Veterinary diagnostic laboratories across the US anonymously select a subset of diagnostic specimens from swine respiratory disease investigations into the USDA's influenza surveillance program.
- The sampling of diagnostic specimens submitted into this stream are stripped of VDL submitter-specific information (e.g., submitting veterinarian and animal owner), assigned unique identification numbers to remove traceable links to VDL case submissions, and are identifiable only to the state of origin.
- VDL conducts the USDA's influenza surveillance testing regimen and anonymously submits test results, clinical specimens if requested, and resulting viral isolates only to the USDA.
- Submitting veterinarian, animal owner, and diagnostic laboratory identifiers are removed from all test results, clinical specimens, and viral isolates forwarded.
- This surveillance stream resembles historical use of diagnostic specimens in applied diagnostic medicine research and epidemiology.
- Diagnostic specimens from case-compatible VDL submissions where the animal(s) state of origin is identified will by default be eligible for inclusion in this anonymous stream.

Summary Statements:

- No change in SIV Fee-for-Diagnostic Services provided
- Written consent is required for participation in USDA's "Traceable Influenza Surveillance"
- Diagnostic specimens from case-compatible VDL submissions where the animal(s) state of origin is identified will by default be eligible for inclusion in this anonymous stream.
- ISU VDL initiated participation in "Anonymous Influenza Surveillance" on November 15, 2010.

We hope this update on SIV diagnostic services and clarifying the effects of USDA's recently revised "National Surveillance Plan of Influenza Virus in Swine" on case-compatible submissions to the ISU VDL is useful.

Please don't hesitate to call myself or your corresponding ISU VDL diagnostician (515-294-1950) with any questions or concerns.

The ISU VDL remains committed to serving your diagnostic service needs and keeping you informed.

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