

This is an official **CDC HEALTH ADVISORY**

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Request for Reports of All Deaths among Children With Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Virus Infection

During the 2003-04 influenza season, severe complications from influenza and influenza-associated deaths among children have been reported by several states.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requests that health care providers report all deaths associated with laboratory-confirmed influenza virus infection among children younger than 18 years of age to their state health department. Contact information for each state health department is available on the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' website http://www.cste.org/members/state_and_territorial_epi.asp.

State health departments are asked to report information about these fatal cases to CDC. A death is considered to be influenza-associated if a diagnosis of influenza has been made based on laboratory testing of clinical or autopsy specimens, by one or more of the following:

- a. Viral culture
- b. Direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) staining
- c. Reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR)
- d. Rapid influenza diagnostic test
- e. Enzyme immunoassay (EIA)
- f. Immunohistochemical staining of autopsy tissue

In addition, cases of influenza-associated encephalopathy in persons younger than 18 years of age should also be reported to the state health department.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES