

OKLAHOMA

Virologic Surveillance Program



We need your help!

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Public Health Lab are recruiting laboratories to participate in virologic surveillance.

What is a Virologic Surveillance program?

This is a program in which laboratories (i.e., sentinel sites) voluntarily submit positive flu specimens to the OSDH Public Health Laboratory (PHL) for additional characterization. Influenza virus specimens are subtyped to monitor circulating strains of influenza A and detect novel strains.

After the OSDH PHL completes influenza subtyping, specimens are submitted to the CDC for genetic and antigenic characterization. The CDC further analyzes positive samples for susceptibility to influenza antivirals. This virologic surveillance program is conducted year-round.



Why is Surveillance important?

Influenza viruses constantly change; therefore, year-round surveillance to monitor activity trends and antigenic changes is essential. It's important to monitor for a major change in the circulating virus, referred to as antigenic shift. A major change could result in a circulating virus with pandemic potential due to a large percentage of the population being susceptible. This surveillance can help public health professionals make informed decisions about routine circulating viruses and respond to novel viruses.

Join Our Team!

Are there other benefits to Virologic Surveillance?

This virologic surveillance system is one of the primary ways public health collects influenza genomic information needed to inform decisions about vaccine components during the upcoming influenza season. Information collected from sentinel providers is used to monitor the timing, location, and impact of influenza viruses year-round.

What would participation mean for my laboratory?

Participation in this surveillance program involves submitting a minimum number of positive specimens for additional characterization:

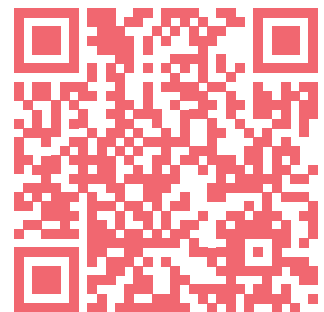
- **Peak Season:** 4-5 positive specimens per week.
- **Acceleration/Deceleration Phases:** 2-3 positive specimens per week.
- **Summer/Off-Season:** 1-2 positive specimens per week.

By submitting specimens to the PHL, your laboratory contributes to Oklahoma's ViralView, a resource that provides real-time respiratory disease trends that are updated weekly and available year-round for monitoring.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) and Public Health Laboratory (PHL) will provide respiratory virus surveillance kits and arrange courier services to pick up specimens directly from your facility. There is no cost to your practice or your patients.

How do I sign up?

Our team will contact you once we receive your information to discuss participation. For any additional questions, please feel free to email us at Respiratory@health.ok.gov



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[Oklahoma.gov/health/viralview](https://oklahoma.gov/health/viralview)

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