

March 2009

## **Influenza Serology by Complement Fixation - Discontinuation of Testing**

To Health Care Providers:

The Public Health Laboratories is no longer offering routine influenza serology by Complement Fixation (CF) because influenza CF serology does not provide a reliable indicator of immunity or response to vaccination. It is also not recommended for the diagnosis of acute influenza infection.

Influenza serology will only be performed at the request of Public Health Officials as part of an epidemiologic or outbreak investigation, and in support of The Hospital for Sick Children Pediatric Encephalitis Registry.

For patients with suspected acute influenza infection, submit a nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate and request "influenza virus detection".

### **For Further Information:**

- Preventable Disease Laboratory at **416-235-5728**
- Public Health Laboratory Helpline at **1-800-640-7221**
- For the Specimen Collection Guide and previous Labstracts refer to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion website: [www.oahpp.ca](http://www.oahpp.ca)