

Influenza-Associated Death, Pregnancy-Associated

Clinical Definition

An influenza-associated death is a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness that was confirmed to be influenza by an appropriate laboratory or rapid diagnostic test. There should be no period of complete recovery between the illness and death. An influenza-associated death in a pregnant woman or woman up to 6 weeks post-partum should be reported.

A death should not be reported if:

- There is no laboratory confirmation of influenza virus infection.
- The influenza illness is followed by full recovery to baseline health status prior to death.
- The death occurs in a woman more than 6 weeks after delivery.
- After review and consultation there is an alternative agreed upon cause of death.

Laboratory Criteria

Laboratory testing for influenza virus infection may be done on pre- or post-mortem clinical specimens, and include identification of influenza A or B virus infections by a positive result by at least one of the following:

- Influenza virus isolation in tissue cell culture from respiratory specimens;
- Reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing of respiratory specimens;
- Immunofluorescent antibody staining (direct or indirect) of respiratory specimens;
- Rapid influenza diagnostic testing of respiratory specimens;
- Immunohistochemical (IHC) staining for influenza viral antigens in respiratory tract tissue from autopsy specimens;
- Four-fold rise in influenza hemagglutination inhibition (HI) antibody titer in paired acute and convalescent sera.