



## SWINE FLU UPDATE - TESTING INFORMATION FOR DOCTORS

There are two testing options for patients presenting with flu-like symptoms:

### **1. Test for Swine Flu for patients that meet DHS case definition**

VIDRL is the authorised state laboratory for Swine Flu testing. DHS has indicated that if the following criteria are met, there will be no cost to the patient:

- a) Influenza-like illness (Fever ( $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), cough, sore throat, rhinorrhoea, diarrhoea, vomiting)
- b) Travel to USA, Mexico, Canada, Panama, Japan, OR contact with a confirmed case.

If these criteria are met, the swab should be collected and sent to Melbourne Pathology.

### **1. Test for Swine Flu for patients that DO NOT meet DHS case definition**

If the above conditions are NOT met, Melbourne Pathology will screen for Influenza A, B, Paraflu 1 and Paraflu 3 routinely. This may take up to 3 working days.

All patients undergoing testing for flu will be required to sign a payment authority stating that they are aware that there **MAY** be a non-rebatable fee of up to \$70 for the testing.

**For further information, consult the DHS website - [www.dhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au)**