

Medical & Allied Branch
Dr Lorraine Doherty

HSS(MD)7/2006

To:

All General Practitioners (*for onward dissemination to practice staff*)

Directors of Public Health, HSS Boards (*for onward dissemination to all Consultants in Public Health Medicine and Specialist Registrars*)

Consultants in Communicable Disease Control, HSS Boards

Medical Directors, HSS Trusts (*for onward dissemination to medical staff*)

Consultant Microbiologists

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Our Ref: HSS(MD)7/2006
Date: 29th February 2006

Dear Colleague

Northern Ireland Avian Influenza Diagnostic Algorithm

There has been an increase in the number of countries internationally which have been affected by outbreaks of Avian Influenza in poultry, including a number of countries in Europe. Up to date information on developments in Avian Influenza and geographic spread is available on the website of the World Health Organisation at www.who.int .

The attached diagnostic algorithm has been produced by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) in Northern Ireland and outlines the basic steps in the diagnosis of a patient with suspect Avian Influenza. The relevant contact details for specialist advice are also included.

This algorithm may be subject to change depending on developments in the arena of Avian Influenza diagnosis and practitioners are urged to regularly review the algorithm on the CDSC(NI) website at www.cdscni.org.uk . In addition, practitioners are advised to read the diagnostic algorithms on Avian Influenza produced by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) which are available on their website at www.hpa.org.uk . These algorithms are being regularly updated by HPA and practitioners are advised to check the website regularly.

Information on Avian Influenza is also available on the DHSSPS website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk . This site gives basic information on Avian Influenza, an update on current epidemiology and provides the links to the other websites detailed above.

Yours sincerely



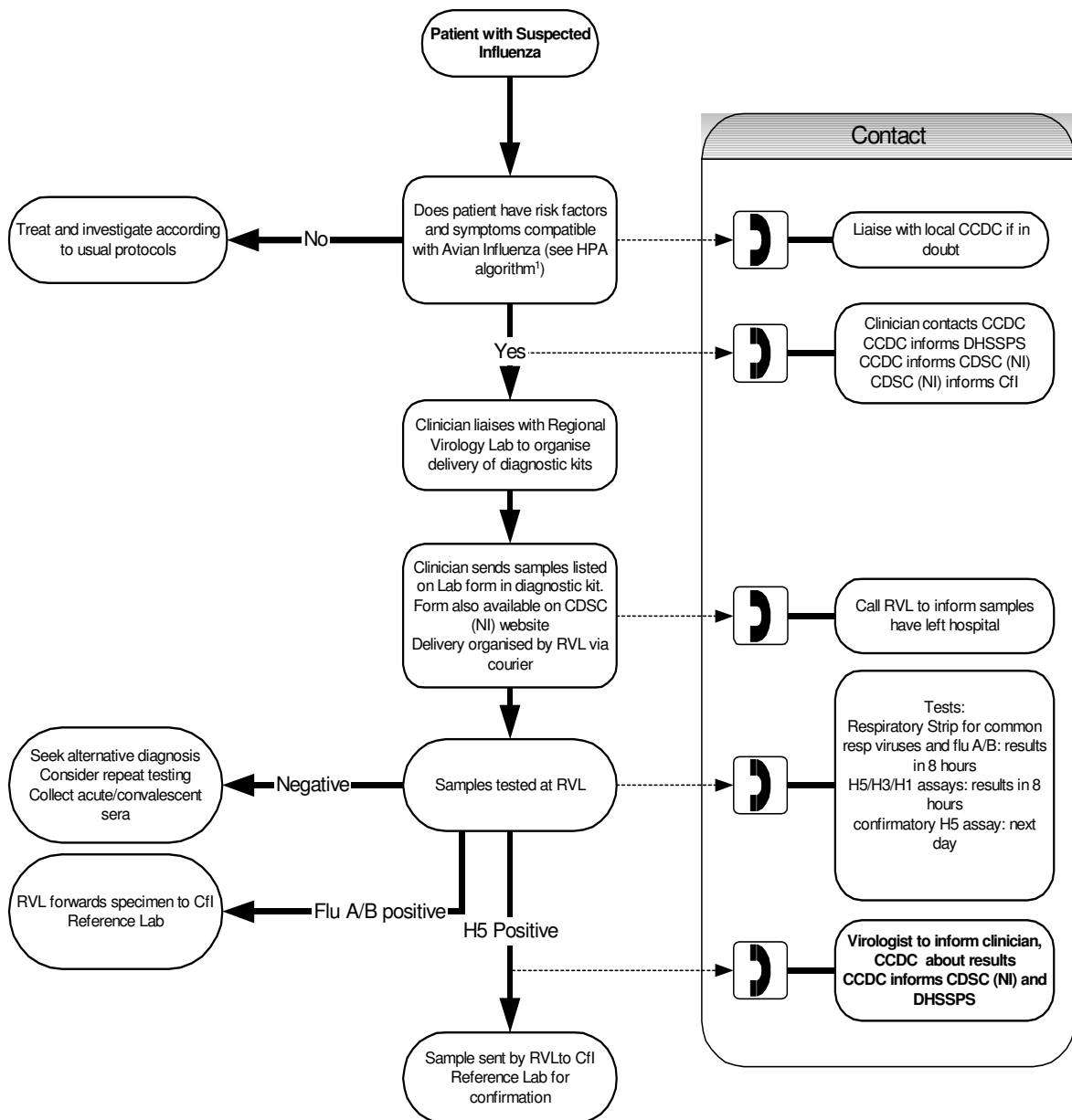
Dr Lorraine Doherty
Senior Medical Officer (Communicable Diseases)

cc: Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Deputy Chief Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Dr E Mitchell, Principal Medical Officer, DHSSPS
Pandemic Influenza Team, DHSSPS
Ms Claire Baxter, Information Officer, DHSSPS
Dr Lourda Geoghegan
Regional Epidemiologists

This letter is available at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk and also on the DHSSPS Extranet which can be accessed directly at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk> or by going through the HPSS Web at <http://www.n-i.nhs.uk> and clicking on DHSSPS.

Northern Ireland Avian Influenza Diagnostic Algorithm

Tuesday 14 February 2006



¹ HPA algorithm available at www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/avian/algorithm/htm

Other phone numbers

CDSC (NI)
028 9026 3765 (24 hours)

Regional Virus Lab
9-5: 028 9024 0503 Ext 2662
Out of hours: Ask for virology biomedical scientist on-call
:

CCDC phone numbers

Dr. Michael Devine – Northern Board
9-5: 028 2531 1146
Out of hours: 028 9081 0672 - ask for public health doctor on-call

Dr. Richard Smithson – Western Board
9-5: 028 7186 0086
Out of hours: 028 7134 5171 - ask for public health doctor on-call

Dr. Vinod Tohani – Southern Board
9-5: 028 3741 4565
Out of hours: 028 3833 4444 - ask for public health doctor on-call

Dr. Philip Donaghy – Eastern Board
Dr. Maureen McCartney – Eastern Board
9-5: 028 9032 1313
Out of hours: 028 9040 2222 - ask for public health doctor on-call