To: ISU VDL Clientele (Attn: Submitters of Swine Diagnostic Cases)  
From: Rodger Main, ISU VDL Director  
Date: June 24, 2016  
Subject: Upcoming Change to USDA’s Type A Influenza (IAV) Surveillance of US Swine Program  

The USDA recently announced upcoming changes to the USDA’s Type A Influenza (IAV) Surveillance of US Swine Program. These changes (effective June 27, 2016) are being made in an effort to maintain an effective national surveillance program in the face of substantially less USDA funding available to support it.

The primary changes include a discontinuation of USDA payment for the IAV screening PCRs; much more restrictive IAV PCR CT cut-offs required for eligibility for USDA-covered further testing; and a reduction to only 1 sample per case being eligible (pending it meets IAV PCR CT cut-off values) for USDA subtyping, virus isolation, and sequencing reimbursement. These changes are clearly significant to VDL submitters actively participating in this program. A more detailed summary of these program changes are shown on page 2 of this communication.

The ISU VDL will continue to provide a full-complement of IAV diagnostic options and client choice for active participation in USDA’s IAV Surveillance in US Swine Program.

A summary of ISU VDL’s routine IAV molecular diagnostic, sequencing, and virus isolation testing options updated to reflect modifications to the USDA IAV Surveillance Program are listed below for your reference:  
(Effective date, June 27, 2016)

IAV Screen:  (PCR) - $25 per sample (submitter expense)

IAV Screen & Subtype All: (PCRs) - $35 per sample (submitter expense)
- Includes subtyping of all positive samples.

IAV Screen & Subtype 1 USDA: (PCRs) - $30 per sample (submitter expense)
- Includes subtyping one positive sample per case.

IAV Screen & Subtype All USDA: (PCRs) - $35 per sample (submitter expense).
- Includes subtyping of all positive samples per case.
- New option = For cases where there is interest in determining if multiple IAV subtypes are present.

Notes: 1. For All IAV PCR testing options above:
- Additional subtyping, sequencing (direct from clinical samples or isolate), and virus isolation on any number of IAV PCR positive samples are available upon subsequent request at submitter expense.

2. For USDA IAV Screen and Subtype PCR Options above:
- One sample per case will proceed onto virus isolation if it meets USDA IAV PCR CT threshold.
- Only virus isolation positive samples will proceed onto HA and NA gene sequencing.
- No additional cost to VDL clientele for virus isolation, or HA and NA gene sequencing derived from one sample per case that qualifies based upon meeting USDA IAV PCR CT threshold requirement.

Below are standard follow-up test offerings to further characterize IAV PCR positive samples at submitter expense:
IAV Subtyping - $30 per sample
IAV Virus Isolation - $50 per sample
IAV HA Sequencing (direct from sample or virus isolate) - $110 per sample
IAV Whole Genome (from virus isolates or highly positive samples) - $300 per sample
Continued from Page 1: A summary of the primary changes to USDA’s Type A Influenza (IAV) Surveillance of Swine Program are listed below for your reference:

- Discontinuing the USDA reimbursement for the IAV PCR screening tests from participating submissions.
- Reduction of IAV PCR screening test CT cutoff values for eligibility for USDA-covered further testing.
  - CT cutoff value is reduced to < 25 (lowered from < 35) for nasal swabs and lung samples.
  - CT cutoff value is reduced to < 20 (lowered from <30) for oral fluids samples.
- Reducing USDA reimbursement for subtyping from 2 to 1 sample per accession
- Eliminating reimbursement for M gene sequencing
  - USDA reimbursement for HA and NA gene sequencing from one sample per participating case submission that meets the updated IAV PCR thresholds (see above) and in which virus isolation has been successful will continue.
  - **Reminder:** Virus isolation is a requirement for USDA reimbursement of HA and NA gene sequencing.
  - Influenza sequencing direct from clinical samples will continue to be available at submitter expense.
- Influenza testing not being reimbursed by the USDA will be conducted as requested at submitter expense.

There are no changes in the IAV reporting for participating submissions. Case specific IAV test results from participating submissions will continue to be reported both to the client and the USDA, and the resulting sequencing data are being deposited in GenBank.

We hope this update is useful and please don’t hesitate to contact the ISU VDL (515-294-1950) with any questions.