



# QUICK SHEET

## Influenza Program Overview

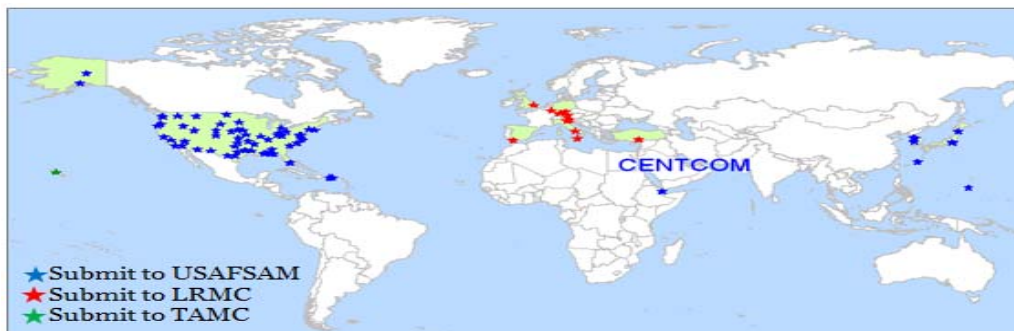
### for Influenza Surveillance Program Sentinel Sites

#### History and Goals of Program

- In 1976, the U.S. Air Force began a systematic, global, lab-based influenza surveillance program called “Project Gargle”. In 1997, a global DoD-wide network to conduct lab-based respiratory surveillance was established and supported by the Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System (GEIS).
  - In 1999, the DoD Influenza Surveillance program was formally implemented and the Air Force was designated as the executive agent.
- The program’s goals include:
  - Identify strains that are currently circulating among military populations
  - Monitor severity trends and antiviral resistance
  - Analyze vaccine effectiveness
  - Conduct molecular sequence analysis to identify changes in influenza virus strains
  - Advise the FDA’s Vaccine and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee in selecting the

#### Sentinel-based Surveillance

- More than 95+ sentinel sites take part in the DoD influenza surveillance network.
- Sites are asked to submit 6-10 specimens/week from patients who meet the influenza-like illness (ILI) case definition (Fever  $\geq 100.5^{\circ}\text{F}$  AND cough and/or sore throat; <72 hours duration), along with a surveillance questionnaire for each patient.
- Most specimens are shipped to and processed by the USAFSAM Epidemiology Lab. Specimens from EUCOM are submitted to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) and specimens from Hawaii are submitted to Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC). Both LRMC and TAMC coordinate specimen sharing with USAFSAM.
- At USAFSAM, specimens are tested for influenza by molecular methods. Influenza and other common respiratory viruses can also be identified via culture.



#### Reporting

- Lab results are reported via CHCS/AHLTA for clinicians.
- Surveillance reports are distributed weekly during the flu season and monthly during the summer months.
- The program website includes weekly and cumulative results for the season, total number of specimens from services and sites, program guidance, and policy documents.

We are happy to provide support and assistance.  
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