Minimum Data Fields for Serology

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This document contains the required minimum data fields for data about serology detection in biological specimens. The sample identifiers used in field #1 need to match sample identifiers used for surveillance records previously submitted using NHM, avian, or human surveillance MDFs. The NIAID CEIRS centers must send data to the Influenza Research Database (www.fludb.org) in the format detailed below. Fields will be evaluated and updated on an as needed basis.

How to interpret the document:
- **BOLD**: Name of field
- **ITALICS**: Definition of field, format for values of this field, and curation to be carried out on data.

**REQUIRED FIELDS**

1. **Sample Identifier (REQUIRED)**
   - **NOTE**: If reporting serology data at same time with surveillance data than this field does not need to be reported twice. It is on this document for the cases when the serology data comes to IRD later than the surveillance data and would allow for the 2 data sets to be linked.
   - **Definition**: Identifier assigned to each sample collected. If multiple samples are taken from the same host, each sample should have its own identifier.
   - **Format**: Free form. Up to 50 characters of any combination of alphanumeric characters and special characters except: single quote, double quote, ampersand, hash (pound sign), forward slash, carriage returns, question mark, equal or plus signs, greater than or less than signs, percent and period. Leading and trailing spaces are also forbidden.
   - **Curation**: None

2. **Test for Influenza Serology (REQUIRED)**
   - **Definition**: Method by which the assessment of a sample as sero-positive/negative is made.
   - **Format**: Text (e.g., ELISA, AGID, HI)
   - **Curation**: None curation

3. **Serology Test Result (REQUIRED)**
   - **Definition**: Classification of blood or serum samples as flu positive or negative or unknown.
   - **Format**: P/N/U
   - **Curation**: Must be one of the allowed values.

4. **Definition for a Seropositive Sample (REQUIRED)**
   - **Definition**: The cut off value used by an investigator in determining that a sample was seropositive.
   - **Format**: Text
   - **Curation**: None
5. Meaning of Cut Off Value (REQUIRED)
   Definition: Description, derivation, etc. helping to explain what the cut off value means. Use “NA” if Meaning_of_Cut_Off_Value is not needed or not provided.
   Format: Text
   Curation: None

**REPEAT 2 - 5 if multiple serological tests were performed for this sample**

6. Seropositive Sample Subtype (REQUIRED - if sample determined to be seropositive)
   Definition: The influenza subtype that the seropositive sample was determined to be.
   Format: HA subtype should be the letter H followed by a number between 1-16 unless novel subtype is identified and the NA subtype should be the letter N followed by a number between 1-9 unless novel subtype is identified. If only one of the subtypes have been tested then use the format H5Nx or HxN1.
   Example: H9N2

**REPEAT #6 if multiple subtypes are identified through serological testing for this sample**

7. Institution testing samples (REQUIRED)
   Definition: The institution code for the group that did serology testing. Codes will be assigned by NIAID/IRD.
   Format: Text
   Curation: Must be one of the codes assigned by NIAID/IRD.

OPTIONAL FIELDS

1. Other Serological Related Data (OPTIONAL)
   Definition: Text describing anything else of interest related to serology detection.
   Format: Text
   Curation: None