



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Now you can help the Maryland Department of Health with...

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE FOR THE 2020 - 2021 INFLUENZA SEASON

...In only a few minutes a week!

What is an Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider?

An influenza ILINet sentinel provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by ILINet sentinel providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity in the United States. Approximately 2,600 sentinel providers are currently enrolled in ILINet.

What data do ILINet sentinel providers collect? How and to whom are data reported?

ILINet sentinel providers report each week the total number of patients seen for any reason at their practice and the number of visits for ILI broken down by age group (0-4 years, 5-24, 25-49, 50-64, and over 65).

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Case Definition:
Fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ [37.8°C], oral or equivalent)
AND
Cough and/or Sore Throat

These data are transmitted once a week online to a central data repository at CDC. Most providers report that it takes less than 30 minutes a week to compile and report their data.

Who can be an ILINet provider?

Providers of any specialty in any type of practice are eligible to be ILINet providers:

- **Emergency Medicine** - **Internal Medicine** - **Student Health**
- **Family Practice** - **OB/GYN** - **Urgent Care**
- **Infectious Disease** - **Pediatrics**

Practice settings that are **not eligible** are elementary, middle, or high school health centers, and any type of institutional setting such as a nursing home or prison.

Why volunteer?

Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality every year. ILINet data are critical in monitoring the course of influenza activity on the local, state, and national level. Also, ILINet data, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care. The most important consideration is that the data provided are critical for protecting the public's health.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the influenza surveillance coordinator for Maryland at 410-767-5106 or via email at mdh.flu@maryland.gov