

Now You Can Help With...

Influenza Surveillance

...In Only a Few Minutes a Week!

What is an Influenza ILINet Provider?

As part of the Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Network (ILINet) program, an influenza ILINet provider (previously referred to as a sentinel influenza surveillance provider) conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity. NYS ILINet providers are part of a national network of more than 3,000 healthcare providers reporting over 25 million patient visits each year.

What Data Do Influenza ILINet Providers Collect?

ILINet providers report each week the total number of patient visits and the total number of patient visits for ILI by age group (0-4 years, 5-24 years, 25-49 years, 50-64 years, ≥65 years). These data are transmitted once a week via the internet or fax 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. In addition, ILINet providers can submit a designated number of patient specimens each season to the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center for virus testing and sub-typing free of charge.

Who Can Be an Influenza ILINet Provider?

- Physicians
- Physician Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners
- Nurses

ILINet providers are not limited by specialty (e.g., family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious diseases, geriatric medicine) or practice type (e.g., private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center).

Why Volunteer?

Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality (approximately 36,000 deaths nationally) every year. **ILINet data was critical in monitoring the course of 2009 H1N1 Influenza virus 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. ILINet providers receive feedback on the data submitted, summaries of regional and national influenza data, and free subscriptions to CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* and *Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal*. The most important consideration is that the data provided are critical for protecting the public's health.

For more information, please contact

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