



Influenza Reporting Requirements 2015-16

TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and other Healthcare Facilities

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PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, LABORATORIES, MICROBIOLOGY SUPERVISORS, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES' MEDICAL DIRECTORS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

The 2015-16 influenza season officially kicks off on October 4, 2015. This alert addresses **Influenza Reporting Requirements for the 2015-16 Season**. The WV Bureau for Public Health, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) would like to thank our local partners for their continued participation in influenza surveillance. The information you provide has helped DIDE in our efforts to identify circulating types and strains of influenza viruses and characterize the population at greatest risk of complications from infection. Information gathered from surveillance helps guide statewide efforts that will help protect the health of the public. At this time we would like to remind stakeholders of the mandatory reporting requirements for the 2015-16 season. **Please note in accordance with the Reportable Disease Rule 64 CSR 7, Category IV.A; § 3.6.b.7 Influenza-like illness (ILI, numerical totals only) are no longer required to be reported to the local health department within one week.** ILI can now be monitored more efficiently and effectively through BioSense, a national syndromic surveillance system that receives real-time reports from participating hospital emergency departments.

Reporting Guidelines

Facilities and Providers report the following to their local health department within the required timeframe:

- Influenza-associated pediatric mortality (age <18 years): Within 1 week
- Outbreaks: Immediately

Laboratories report the following to DIDE by fax at (304) 558-8736 within the required timeframe:

- Positive laboratory results for influenza by type and subtype, as available (RT-PCR, immunofluorescence, or culture only): Aggregate weekly
- Laboratories with validated capacity to report electronic influenza results must report in real time. See: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/Reporting/documents/reportable-disease-charts/e-lab-chart.pdf>

For more information on influenza, please visit the DIDE influenza website at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/default.aspx> or contact DIDE at 304-558-5358 or 800-423-1271 ext. 1 (in WV).

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance. Warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.