Syndromic Surveillance Guidelines for Respiratory Illness Queries

INTRODUCTION: Syndromic surveillance can strengthen respiratory disease surveillance as it tracks pre-diagnostic indicators—such as emergency department (ED) chief complaints (CC) or symptom clusters—to monitor near real-time public health data. Syndromic Surveillance can quantify visits to EDs triggered by these respiratory illnesses to measure the impact on public health and health systems.

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the public health impact of respiratory illnesses by examining trends in ED visits statewide. By monitoring these trends, health officials can utilize syndromic surveillance as an early warning system to monitor the severity of respiratory illness.

ACTIVATION: Syndromic surveillance monitoring is initiated at the start of the respiratory illness season on September 1, 2026 and concludes at the end of respiratory illness season on March 31, 2027.

COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
• CLI (COVID-19 like Illness) CC with CLI DD (Discharge diagnosis) and Coronavirus DD v2. • Includes fever and matching respiratory symptoms such as: cough, shortness of breath, or throat pain. • May also include severe respiratory complications or unspecified acute respiratory manifestations. • Does not include: influenza diagnosis or other respiratory illness diagnoses.	• Medical Grouping: ESSENCE Syndrome • Subgrouping: Influenza Like Illness (ILI) • Roles: ILI = Influenza or (FeverPlus and (Cough or Sore Throat) and not Non-ILI Fevers)	• ^B97.4^,OR,^J12.1^,OR,^J20.5^,OR,^J21.0^* • Includes RSV, RSV causing pneumonia, RSV causing acute bronchitis, RSV causing acute bronchiolitis

PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Stay current on recommended vaccines. Consult your healthcare provider about vaccination options for you and your family.
- Practice good hygiene such as washing your hands and cleaning commonly touched surfaces regularly.
- Take steps for cleaner air in places where people live and work.
- When sick with a respiratory illness:
  - Use precautions to prevent spread. Stay home and away from others when possible.
  - Seek health care promptly for treatment if you have risk factors for severe illness; treatment may help lower your risk of severe illness.

DATA LIMITATIONS:

- *Query created by the West Virginia Department of Health
- Data is delayed and may arrive 24 hours later, and up to 72 hours from the emergency department visit.

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