

**We need your help with...**

## **Influenza surveillance for the 2016-17 season**

**...in less than an hour a week!**

### **What is an influenza ILINet provider?**

An influenza ILINet provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the state health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. as each season unfolds.

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

Each week ILINet providers report the total number of patients seen for any reason and the number of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) by age group (0-4 years, 5-24 years, 25-49 years, 50-64 years,  $\geq 65$  years).

**Influenza-like Illness (ILI)**  
Fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  [ $37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ], oral or equivalent  
-AND-  
cough and/or sore throat

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 them **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile & report their data. In addition, providers submit influenza specimens for testing using kits provided by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL).

### **Who can be an ILINet provider?**

Providers of any specialty in any type of outpatient practice where you are likely to see cases of influenza and ILI are eligible to be ILINet providers:

- Emergency Medicine
- Family Practice
- Infectious Disease
- Internal Medicine
- OB/GYN
- Pediatrics
- Ambulatory Care
- Urgent Care

Practice settings that are **not eligible** are elementary, middle, or high school health centers, inpatient settings, and institutional settings such as nursing homes or prisons.

### **Why volunteer?**

**ILINet data are critical in monitoring the course of influenza virus activity on the local, state, and national level.** Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality every year. 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 health.

Contact Joyce Cohen, MPH for more information about how you can participate:

[joyce.cohen@state.ma.us](mailto:joyce.cohen@state.ma.us) 617-983-6800

