



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Center for Community Health

October 1, 2012

Dear Sentinel Provider,

Welcome back for another year of influenza surveillance! For those providers who are just joining, welcome to the Louisiana Sentinel Provider Network (SPN). The 2012-2013 Influenza Season promises to be a busy one and below are some important updates and instructions for the season. The deadline for inclusion of data in the CDC FluView is noon Tuesday. ***However, if you are reporting to us via email rather than directly to CDC via the website, please submit your data to us by COB Monday.*** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

❖ **Data Collected: Influenza-like Illness (ILI) = fever ($\geq 100^\circ$ F) AND cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza)**

- ILI data by age group: 0-4, 5-24, 25-49, 50-64, >64
- Total number of patients seen
- Laboratory data: # of influenza A positive, # of influenza B positive, # of influenza positive, untyped and the total # of influenza tests performed

❖ **Reporting Mechanisms:** To make it as easy as possible on providers there are three different mechanisms for you to report your data.

- 1) CDC website: instructions for reporting via the CDC website are included in the CDC work folder. This is the preferred reporting method for providers. The CDC ILI Net website is very user friendly and we can download the data so that it is a very simple process for you. If you need your username and password please contact me.
- 2) Fax to CDC: instructions for reporting to CDC via fax are also included in the work folder.
- 3) E-mail to OPH Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ID Epi): email your data weekly to T'Quana Noble at tquana.noble@la.gov. If you prefer this option please contact T'Quana directly and she will provide you with a weekly tally sheet.

❖ **Virologic Surveillance:** The OPH Laboratory continues to test specimens from sentinel providers as part of enhanced virologic surveillance. If you are interested in participating, please contact me.

- Samples must arrive at the laboratory within 72 hours of collection or frozen and shipped on dry ice.
- The laboratory is not open for deliveries on the weekend so please only ship samples Monday-Thursday.

As the situation changes surveillance recommendations will be reviewed and modified as warranted. I look forward to working with you all for another influenza season. Thank you again for your participation.

Sincerely,

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