



Health Alert



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September 25, 2018

Reporting Influenza-Associated ICU Hospitalizations

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

- Influenza-associated intensive care unit hospitalizations are reportable in Illinois year round.
- Hospitals should promptly report cases to the health department using I-NEDSS.
- Complete demographic, clinical, treatment, and laboratory information should be entered for all cases that are reported.

Background:

The 2018-2019 influenza surveillance season begins on September 30th, 2018. The Illinois Department of Public Health recently issued [Influenza Testing and Reporting Guidance](#)¹ which outlines testing recommendations and reporting requirements for influenza. Among the four influenza reporting requirements, influenza-associated intensive care unit (ICU) hospitalizations are reportable as soon as possible, but within 24 hours. These data allow CDPH to characterize the severity of influenza among high risk groups, to monitor the type of influenza associated with ICU hospitalizations, and to detect any unusual complications that may be occurring. These data are among several surveillance indicators utilized by CDPH to monitor influenza activity in Chicago. The prompt and complete reporting of influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations is essential to influenza surveillance and to maintain situational awareness in Chicago. The information that is being requested in I-NEDSS represents the minimum necessary for public health surveillance purposes.

Reporting Influenza-associated ICU Hospitalizations in I-NEDSS

Below are important points to remember when reporting influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations in I-NEDSS. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but to serve as a quick guide on reporting cases in I-NEDSS in order to ensure data completeness and reduce the follow-up time to obtain missing information.

- The first page of the I-NEDSS influenza-associated ICU Hospitalization reporting module is the *Case Details* screen, which asks for Patient Information, Case Information, and Physician Information. This section should be completed as thoroughly as possible. **Do not click 'Submit to LHD'** until the clinical, treatment, immunization, and laboratory sections have been completed. See the hyperlinks located at the bottom of the *Case Details* page under **Add Additional Information as Available**.
- Click the **Clinical** hyperlink to enter information on the patient's symptoms, complications, and underlying conditions.
- Click the **Treatment and Immunization** hyperlink to enter information on the patient's ICU admission, influenza vaccination status, and antiviral treatments.
- Click the **Laboratory Tests** hyperlink to enter information on the patient's influenza and radiologic test results.
- In the *Laboratory Tests* section, the question, *Were human laboratory tests conducted?* Should always be answered 'Yes' as a positive influenza test is a criteria for reporting and activates the lab specimen and result sections.
- Once this section is complete, click on the **Add Lab Specimen** button and enter information on the type of specimen collected for influenza testing, the collection date, and laboratory used. After this information is entered, click the **Add Lab Result** button, to enter information on the date the lab was resulted, the type of influenza test performed and the result of the test (Influenza A or B and the subtype if applicable (H1N1, H3N2)).
- Once all the information in I-NEDSS is complete, click on the **Submit to LHD** button.

Additional resources: For additional questions on reporting influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations please call the influenza surveillance coordinator at (312) 746-5911 or email SyndromicSurveillance@cityofchicago.org

¹ <http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ohp-annual-flu-testing-guidance-09182018.pdf>