

Memorandum

To: Illinois Acute Care Hospitals

From: Craig S. Conover, MD
State Epidemiologist

Date: 3/21/2013

Re: New IDPH Syndromic Surveillance Reporting Requirements

Please share this memo with hospital staff responsible for IT and Meaningful Use Activities

Background

Hospitals in Illinois are currently requested to submit emergency department (ED) syndromic surveillance data on an intermittent basis, typically using manual data entry. Manual submission of syndromic surveillance data taxes hospital ED staff with extra work when they are busiest (e.g. during the current influenza season and the recent NATO summit), and is not optimally useful, since ongoing, routine submission of data is necessary in order to accurately identify deviations from baseline.

Meaningful Use Stage 2 begins in 2014 and includes a provision for Emergency Department syndromic surveillance data to be reported electronically by all eligible hospitals to public health authorities. In addition, the Communicable Disease Act provides IDPH with the authority to collect syndromic surveillance data¹, and Hospital Licensing rules require submission of reports required by the Department.²

New Requirement

Based on the provisions above, IDPH will require that acute care hospitals not already submitting Emergency Department syndromic surveillance data to IDPH that meet Meaningful Use Stage 2 specifications begin to do so,

- by March 1, 2014, in the City of Chicago, and counties with population \geq 500,000³ residents
- by September 1, 2014 in counties with population < 500,000 residents

¹ Communicable Disease Act: [20 ILCS 2305](#)

² Hospital Licensing Code: [Section 250.1520](#)

³ [Cook, DuPage, Will, Kane, and Lake Counties](#)

The on-boarding process for submission of syndromic surveillance data can begin now. Hospitals should stay up to date with IDPH's Meaningful Use guidance on the [IL-HIE website](#), which also includes contact information for key IDPH staff. Additional, updated guidance will be posted on the IL-HIE website in early April, including information for hospitals currently submitting electronic data to the ESSENCE syndromic surveillance system.

- c: Local Health Departments
- Regional IDPH Offices
- Toinette Colon, IDPH Office of Health Care Regulation
- Laura Zaremba, OHIT
- Raul Recarey, IL-HIE
- Illinois Hospital Association
- Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network