

Now You Can Help With

Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) for the 2013-2014 Season

In Only a Few Minutes a Week!

What is an ILINet provider?

An ILINet provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity. Across the county, approximately 2,900 health care provider sites participated in ILINet during the 2012-13 influenza season.

Who can be an ILINet Provider?

Providers of any specialty (e.g., family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in any type of practice (e.g., private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center) are eligible to be ILINet providers.

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

ILINet providers report the total number of patient visits each week and the number of patient visits for ILI by age group (0-4 years, 5-24 years, 25-49 years, 50-64 years, ≥ 65 years). These data are transmitted once a week via the Internet to a central data repository at CDC. Most providers report that it takes less than 30 minutes a week to compile and report their data.

Why volunteer to become an ILINet provider?

Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality (approximately 36,000 deaths) every year. ILINet data are critical for monitoring the impact of influenza and, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care. ILINet providers receive feedback on the data submitted, summaries of regional and national influenza data, and free subscriptions to CDC's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* and *Emerging Infectious Diseases* journal. The most important consideration is that the data provided are critical for protecting the public's health.

Contact Information

To participate in this important program, please contact Yumei Sun at 515-281-7134 or yumei.sun@idph.iowa.gov.

