

§64-7-12 Syndromic Surveillance

Definition of Syndromic Surveillance

Syndromic surveillance is an investigational approach where health department staff, assisted by automated data acquisition and generation of statistical alerts, monitor disease indicators in real-time or near real-time to detect outbreaks of disease earlier than would otherwise be possible with traditional public health methods (CDC).

The main purposes of syndromic surveillance are:

- To identify illness clusters early, before diagnoses are confirmed and reported to public health agencies, and to mobilize a rapid response, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality
- To monitor disease trends in the community.
- To provide reassurance that a large-scale outbreak is not occurring in the community.

The State Health Commissioner of West Virginia has determined that the electronic system for Syndromic Surveillance (BioSense 2.0) is functional in the state. As per the Reportable Disease Rule (§64-7-12), Hospital Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Facilities shall report daily the data for each registered patient visit to the Bureau for Public Health of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centers may submit their data to the West Virginia Health Information Network's (WVHIN) Health Information Exchange (HIE) for onward transmission to BioSense 2.0 or directly submit their data to BioSense 2.0. For additional information for establishing data connectivity, contact

Chief Information Officer
WV Health Information Network
100 Dee Drive
Charleston, WV 25311-1600
E mail: info@wvhin.org
Phone: 304-558-4503

Required electronic transmission standards are WVHIN IHE or HL7 2.5.1 as identified in the WVHIN Interoperability Services Guide.

The guide is available at: <http://www.wvhin.org/services/health-information-exchange/connect/default.aspx>.

Required transmission schedule: Daily

Required data elements: Please see the attached document.