

# THE U IN FLU—Are U Ready?

10 tips to get ready for the 2010-2011 influenza season

## Local Health Departments

- **Establish responsibility for reporting influenza-like illness to the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology. Have a back-up plan.**

Regular reporting every week by close of business on Monday makes the surveillance system work. If you have a back-up in the office, you can still get your data in on time if the primary person is out of the office or ill.

- **Make sure your providers know what conditions they should report to you.**

Providers should report:

### Weekly

- Total cases of influenza-like illness —*defined as fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  and cough or sore throat without another identified cause.*

### Within a Week

- Pediatric (<18 years) death from influenza

### Immediately

- Novel influenza cases
- Outbreaks of suspect or confirmed influenza

Continue reporting of all ICU admissions and deaths among pregnant and up to six weeks post partum women with influenza infection diagnosed by a positive:

- Rapid influenza diagnostic test
- Reverse transcriptase PCR
- DFA/IFA (immunofluorescent antibody)
- Viral culture

- **Make sure your laboratories know under what conditions they should report to you.**

Laboratories should also report novel influenza and outbreaks to you immediately. Novel influenza is of concern because it could herald development of the next pandemic.

- **Meet with the point-of contact in your sentinel provider office. Make sure they know how to report ILI and how to submit viral specimens to the Office of Laboratory Services.**

# THE U IN FLU—Are U Ready?

## 10 tips to get ready for the 2010-2011 influenza season

There is often turnover in sentinel provider offices. A personal visit from the health department serves to emphasize the importance of regular and complete reporting. Call before you visit and make certain they have an influenza/respiratory virus specimen kit including unexpired media for influenza testing. Sentinel provider resources are found on the DIDE website.

<http://www.wvidep.org/AZIndexofInfectiousDiseases/Influenza/tabid/1518/Default.aspx>

□ **Review influenza outbreak investigation procedures on the DIDE website.**

Two outbreak toolkits are on the DIDE website. One toolkit is for healthy populations and the other toolkit is designed for nursing homes and settings with chronically ill persons.

<http://www.wvidep.org/AZIndexofInfectiousDiseases/Influenza/tabid/1518/Default.aspx>

□ **Make sure you have an influenza/respiratory virus specimen kit ready to go in case of an outbreak.**

Check your kit now. Make sure the media is NOT expired. Rapid confirmation of influenza is critical for outbreaks in chronically ill populations.

□ **Make sure LHD staff has their flu vaccinations and you have a supply of surgical masks in the health department.**

If you have to investigate an influenza outbreak, you need to be protected. Flu vaccine is the best way to do this. Droplet precautions (surgical mask) are also important to protect personnel who have face-to-face contact with influenza patients.

□ **Know how to get current statewide influenza surveillance data.**

Statewide influenza surveillance data is available at:

<http://www.wvidep.org/tabid/1960/Default.aspx>

Make a plan to share this data with providers in your county.

□ **If you offer clinical services, implement a cough etiquette program in your clinical area.**

Information on cough etiquette is found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm>

□ **Ask your regional epidemiologist for help with any of these activities.**

# **THE U IN FLU—Are U Ready?**

*10 tips to get ready for the 2010-2011 influenza season*

