

Date

NAME

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIPCODE

Dear XXXXXXXX,

The Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology of the Bureau of Public Health needs your help and is currently recruiting providers to participate as an influenza sentinel provider. By sending respiratory specimens to the state laboratory for testing, sentinel providers play a critical role in the state and national influenza surveillance.

The purpose of this program and your participation allows the state to:

- Monitor the impact of influenza in West Virginia;
- Recognize new and emerging strains of influenza;
- Help to guide prevention and control polices;
- Facilitate in vaccine strain selection, and recommendations for patient care.

Each year sentinel providers are needed to submit nasopharyngeal swabs from patients with influenza-like illness to the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) for testing and strain identification. This invaluable aspect of influenza surveillance in West Virginia takes providers or their staff less than 30 minutes to complete each week.

Providers participating in this program will receive weekly updates about influenza in the state, allow providers to have influenza testing available to their patients through OLS, and the insight to what the current influenza conditions are in the community they serve.

If you are interested in this program, please fill out the accompanying form and mail or fax it to this office; or you can call us and give us the information. Your participation is very important to us and vital for the success of this program.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXX