

California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

Sponsored by:

The California Department of Public Health,
Immunization Branch,
Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory and
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program Enrollment Form

Check one: MD DO NP PA

Name: _____

Practice Name: _____

Practice Specialty:

Check one: Pediatric Family Practice
 Internal medicine Infectious Disease
 OB/GYN Student Health
 Urgent Care Emergency Medical
 Other

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____ State: CA

County: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

*Please supply an email address as it is the primary
communication method with sentinel providers.*

Email address: _____

Do you have access to diagnostic testing for
influenza? Yes No

**Please complete the enrollment
form and return to:**

CDPH
Immunization Branch
Attn: Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804
Fax: (916) 636-6061

California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program

*California clinicians are a
critical component
of the state and national
surveillance network for influenza.*

Enroll now to volunteer for this influenza season!

Questions?

Please contact Immunization Branch
Phone: (510) 620-3737
Email: InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov

For more information visit our website:
[https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/
DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Sentinel-
Provider-Program.aspx#](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Sentinel-Provider-Program.aspx#)



We need your help to track influenza in California!

The California Sentinel Provider Influenza Surveillance Program is a partnership between clinicians, local health departments (LHDs), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct surveillance for *influenza-like illness (ILI)*. The program contributes valuable epidemiological and virologic information to state, national, and global influenza surveillance activities.

Why is surveillance for influenza important?

- Seasonal influenza is a significant cause of illness and death in California each year.
- Pandemic influenza is an unpredictable but inevitable threat.



- Routine surveillance for influenza improves our ability to monitor the circulation of influenza virus strains in the community.
- Surveillance aids with the detection of new subtypes and emerging strains of influenza viruses, an important element of preparedness for pandemic influenza.

- The data collected by Sentinel Providers assist CDPH and CDC with developing influenza prevention and control strategies and with selecting the virus strains to be included as components of the influenza vaccine.

Who is eligible to be a Sentinel Provider?



Sentinel providers may be physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants from any specialty.

What are the responsibilities of a Sentinel Provider?

Data Collection and Reporting

- Keep a record of the number of patient visits for influenza-like illness (categorized by age group) and the total number of patient visits for any reason.
- Report this influenza-like illness data weekly by internet or fax.

Specimen Collection

- Collect nasal swabs or respiratory specimens from a subset of patients that meet the ILI case definition and submit them to the state laboratory for testing.
- All testing is performed at no cost to the provider. CDPH supplies the specimen collection materials and pays for shipping.



What feedback and materials do Sentinel Providers receive?

- **Individual test results** for specimens submitted to the state laboratory.
- **Rapid Antigen Test Kits** (Influenza A and B) are offered to consistently reporting providers to facilitate on-site diagnostic testing.
- **Weekly updates** of state and national influenza activity.

