

TO: EZIZ Users

FROM: CDPH Influenza Surveillance Program

SUBJECT: Help statewide influenza surveillance efforts – become a sentinel provider!

DATE: 7/28/14

Dear EZIZ-users:

Influenza season will be underway soon, and the California Influenza Surveillance Program needs your help!

In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) works with clinicians throughout the state to conduct surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatients. These clinicians volunteer as sentinel providers and are an invaluable part of our influenza surveillance program. Sentinel providers help us assess the timing, location, and impact of influenza viruses, and also help to identify the influenza virus strains that are circulating in the community.

Who can be a California sentinel provider?

- Physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants from any specialty practicing in California.
 - If you are located in California but do not serve in one of these roles in your practice, please forward this email to someone who does.

What is requested of California sentinel providers?

- Report on a weekly basis the number of patients with ILI by age group and the total number of patients seen for any reason to CDC by internet or fax.
 - ILI is defined as (1) fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ or 37.8°C) and (2) cough and/or sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.
 - It takes most providers <30 minutes per week to compile and report their data.
- Sentinel providers are also encouraged to submit a subset of respiratory specimens to either CDPH or a local public health laboratory (depending on your jurisdiction) for free influenza testing.

What do I get for being a California sentinel provider?

- Routine updates on influenza activity occurring in California.
- Individual test results for specimens submitted for testing.
- Subscriptions to the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* and *Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID)* journals, courtesy of CDC.
- Rapid influenza test kits for sentinel providers who report consistently.

How do I enroll?

- Complete and return the attached California sentinel provider enrollment form.

- If you are interested in becoming a sentinel provider, but do not practice in California, contact your state health department and request to be enrolled in their sentinel provider program.

As a health care provider, you are at the front line of influenza epidemics. Please consider participating as a sentinel provider- the information you provide will help us better target influenza education, vaccine and prevention strategies. Please find attached information on how to enroll. If you have questions or would like more information before enrolling, please email InfluenzaSurveillance@cdph.ca.gov or contact Monica Kang at Monica.Kang@cdph.ca.gov or phone 510-620-3761. Additional information about the California Influenza Surveillance Program is available at: <http://cdph.ca.gov/programs/dcdc/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

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