



## ILINet Fact Sheet

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### What is ILINet?

ILINet is a collaboration between District providers, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC DOH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) towards tracking influenza-like illness (ILI) in the District and across the country. ILI for this system is defined as having a fever ( $>100^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $>37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) AND cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause).

### What is an ILINet provider?

An ILINet provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness. Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity. Across the country, approximately 2,900 health care provider sites participate in ILINet.

### Who can be an ILINet provider?

Providers of any specialty (e.g., family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious disease) in any type of practice (e.g., private practice, public health clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center) are eligible to be ILINet providers.

Practice settings that are not eligible include: elementary, middle, or high school health centers, nursing homes, prisons, or any other type of institutional setting.

### What data do ILINet providers collect?

ILINet providers report the total number of patient visits each week and the number of patient visits for ILI by age group (0-4 years, 5-24 years, 25-49 years, 50-64 years,  $>65$  years). These data are transmitted once a week via fax or internet to a central database at the CDC. We request that the previous week's data be submitted by COB each Tuesday. Most providers report that it takes less than 30 minutes a week to compile and report their data.

### Why become an ILINet provider?

Influenza viruses are constantly evolving and cause substantial morbidity and mortality (approximately 36,000 deaths) every year. ILINet data are critical for monitoring the impact of influenza and, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care. ILINet providers receive feedback on the data submitted, and data are summarized and reported along with other influenza surveillance mechanisms in DC DOH's weekly influenza reports.

ILINet providers receive free subscriptions to CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report and Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal. Currently in discussions with DC Public Health Lab for free influenza rapid testing of a subset of a provider's specimens. Most importantly, the data provided are important for protecting the public's health!

### Becoming an ILINet provider!

Upon deciding to become a provider, provide the name and contact info for a point person for each facility that will be entering the data weekly, as well as facility type (student health, pediatrician, family health, etc.). We will pass the info to CDC, who will then mail a packet of information, containing a work-folder, reporting instructions and guidelines, your login and password for the web portal, as well as the form used for faxing the data if desired. Also included will be instructions for subscriptions to CDC's MMWR Report and Emerging Infectious Diseases journal.