

## Facts about the U.S. Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

### What is it?

A nationwide voluntary network of about 3000 healthcare providers in all 50 states conducting surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with CDC and state and local health departments. CDC defines ILI as fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$  AND cough and/or sore throat.

### Why it is important to volunteer as a provider?

Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a state and nationwide picture of influenza virus and ILI activity.

- The ILINet program is the primary source for outpatient influenza surveillance data in Pennsylvania and nationally.
- **Data and specimen submissions from ILINet providers are vital components of influenza surveillance in Pennsylvania and nationally.** The information obtained is used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, antiviral resistance testing, and patient care.
- ILINet providers receive feedback on the data submitted; summaries of regional, statewide and national influenza data; and free subscriptions to CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report and Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal.
- The most important consideration is that the data provided are critical for protecting the public's health.

### What do I need to do as a provider in the network?

1. Report the total *number* of patients seen the previous week;



2. Report the *number* of those patients ages 0-4 yrs, 5-24 yrs, 25-49 yrs, 50-64 yrs, and >64 yrs who had ILI; no individual or identifiable patient data are submitted;
3. Report electronically through the CDC secure website;
4. Reporting usually takes less than five (5) minutes.

Submit up to three (3) samples per season from patients seen with ILI using the provided sample collection and transport kits. Specimens do not need to be collected weekly to remain in the network, but help us monitor the subtypes and antiviral resistance patterns of influenza viruses circulating in the state. Testing kits, specimen transportation, and testing at PA's public Health Lab are free.