



International Society
For Disease Surveillance

DiSTRIBuTE Project

Distributed Surveillance Taskforce for Real-time Influenza Burden Tracking and Evaluation

The International Society for Disease Surveillance has received funding from the National Association of City and County Health Officials through a Cooperative Grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to establish a proof of concept for distributed national influenza like illness surveillance built on existing electronic surveillance systems.

We would like to extend an open invitation to health jurisdictions interested in participating in this project in the 2006-2007 influenza season. The first phase consists of three parts:

- Identifying a core group of jurisdictions interested in sharing data
- Establishing the mechanism for data transfer
- Providing initial data visualization and analysis

To this end, we are asking each participating jurisdiction to provide the following:

- Daily counts of ED "Influenza like illness" (ILI) visits and total ED visits, by age group and by first three digits of zip code (see sample data set below)
- One or two years of baseline data (two years preferred)
- A description of the data source and syndrome categorization used to classify ILI visits

For the purposes of this project, we ask that each jurisdiction continue to use the syndrome that best represents influenza related encounters and provide us with that syndrome definition.

The specifics regarding file generation (i.e. age groups, format, SAS coding), data transfer (i.e. ftp, internet upload) and memoranda of understanding will be discussed further in the near future. It is envisioned that participating data providers will be able to visualize age-specific ILI trends from across the national network of participating jurisdictions. Data provided to the ISDS-led taskforce will be used only for the purposes of the initial proof of concept. Other use of the data will require prior approval by individual data providers.

For more information, or to indicate your interest in participating in the proof of concept, please contact ISDS Project Director Marc Paladini at mpaladini@syndromic.org

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Sample file format of data requested

date	Zip3	agegrp	fever	Total
11/6/2006	100**	1	15	220
11/6/2006	100**	2	26	150
11/6/2006	100**	3	10	76
11/6/2006	100**	4	20	379
11/6/2006	100**	5	38	270
11/6/2006	100**	6	7	65
11/6/2006	101**	1	13	278
11/6/2006	101**	2	45	440
11/6/2006	101**	3	32	210
11/6/2006	101**	4	14	170
11/6/2006	101**	5	10	192
11/6/2006	101**	6	3	87