

2018-2019 Flu Monitoring Guidance

Baseline Flu Monitoring

Baseline flu monitoring to routinely begin at the designated start of flu season (Week 40).

- MHA will conduct a weekly baseline flu query in EMResource® to monitor flu activity in Missouri hospitals.
 - Queries will be sent to all Missouri hospitals; Kansas City, Kan. metro hospitals; and psychiatric facilities.
 - Automated notifications for baseline queries will be directed to all EMResource users associated with facilities included in the query.
 - Queries will be conducted each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to allow hospitals four hours to collect and submit accurate information. Hospitals will be asked to report the following information during baseline flu queries.
 - ED status
 - Number of current adult flu inpatients admitted
 - Number of current pediatric flu inpatients admitted
 - Number of adult-only ventilators available
 - Number of pediatric-only ventilators available
 - Number of dual-capable adult/pediatric ventilators available (not including NICU vents)
 - MHA will publish all summarized query reports to the EMResource library.
- Baseline flu queries will conclude at the end of regular flu season (Week 14).

Enhanced Flu Monitoring

Enhanced flu monitoring to begin upon receiving the CDC report of widespread flu activity in Missouri.

- MHA will conduct an enhanced flu query in EMResource, expanded from the baseline flu query, to collect additional status information, providing situational awareness on flu impact throughout the state.
 - Queries will be conducted each Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to allow hospitals four hours to provide accurate responses.
 - Queries will be sent to all Missouri hospitals; Kansas City, Kan. metro hospitals; and psychiatric facilities.
 - Email communication will be sent to all facility emergency preparedness and infection prevention contacts prior to the initial activation of enhanced flu query.

- Automated enhanced flu query notifications will be directed to all EMResource users associated with facilities included in the query. Enhanced flu query descriptions will direct facility staff to coordinate with facility emergency preparedness contacts before completing the enhanced flu query information.
- Hospitals will be asked to report the following information during enhanced flu queries.
 - ED status
 - Current bed availability: Adult ICU, Med/Surg, ED, Pediatric, NICU, Pediatric ICU
 - Number of current adult flu inpatients admitted
 - Number of current pediatric flu inpatients admitted
 - Number of adult-only ventilators available
 - Number of pediatric-only ventilators available
 - Number of dual-capable adult/pediatric ventilators available (not including NICU vents)
 - Mutual aid resources: If hospital mutual aid was activated for nursing staff, does your hospital have clinical resources available to lend? (Yes, No)
 - Staffing shortage: Do you anticipate or are you currently experiencing any staffing shortages that your facility is unable to manage internally? (Yes, No)
 - Staffing shortage detail: If your facility is anticipating or experiencing staffing shortages, please indicate if the shortages are predominantly clinical, operational or both.
 - Surge strategies: Has your facility implemented surge strategies? (Yes, No)
 - Surge strategies cancel elective surgeries: If your facility has implemented surge strategies, please indicate if the facility is cancelling elective surgeries (yes), considering (maybe) or not considering (no). If your facility does not provide surgical resources, select N/A.
- Enhanced flu queries will conclude when the statewide flu activity level decreases to regional or local activity. At this point, monitoring activities would revert back to the baseline query.

Optional Query Escalation

At the discretion of regional and state health care leaders, increased frequency of the enhanced flu query or additional targeted queries may be initiated.

- Escalated regional flu activity monitoring:
 - Organizational and coalition leaders determine if escalated queries are necessary to monitor and support flu activities in their region.
 - Possible options for escalated regional queries could include the following.
 - Increased frequency of enhanced flu queries for the impacted region.
 - Additional regional queries to gather further detailed information.
 - Utilization of forms to collect facility-specific data for the impacted region.
- Escalated statewide flu activity monitoring:
 - System, regional and/or statewide leaders recommend escalated queries to monitor and support flu activities statewide.

- This recommendation should be formally requested through the Medical Incident Coordination Team.
- Possible options for escalated statewide queries could include the following.
 - Increased frequency of enhanced flu queries statewide.
 - Additional statewide queries to gather further detailed information.
 - Utilization of forms to collect facility-specific data statewide.

Weekly Reports

MHA will post weekly summary reports of the collected data in the EMResource library.

Staff Contact

Questions pertaining to the influenza monitoring strategy should be directed to Carissa Van Hunnik at cvanhunnik@mhanet.com, or 573/893-3700, ext. 1329.