



Herb B. Kuhn
President and CEO
P.O. Box 60
Jefferson City, MO 65102

MEMO

TO: Emergency Preparedness Contacts
Infection Control Directors

FROM: Carissa Van Hunnik, CHEP
Manager of Emergency Preparedness/Coalition Administrative Liaison

Jackie Gatz, MPA, CHEP
Vice President of Safety and Preparedness

SUBJECT: EMResource[®] Data Collection to Support Flu Monitoring in Missouri Hospitals

In response to the high number of hospitalizations due to seasonal influenza during the 2017-2018 season requiring increased staffing, additional supplies and reconfigured space, the Missouri Hospital Association revised its monitoring strategy for this year. Throughout the past several months, MHA staff has been working with member hospitals, health care coalition leadership and staff from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to develop a statewide strategy for collecting and monitoring hospital information related to flu activity in Missouri. The collaborative work establishes a routine and recognized process that promotes more accurate and timely information sharing among our health care providers. The data provided by our hospitals is critical in identifying early warning signs of increased flu activity that may have a direct impact on hospital resources, bed availability and staffing levels.

MHA continues to utilize EMResource as our statewide system for health care data collection and reporting. Weekly queries will be conducted throughout the 2018-2019 flu season, beginning **Thursday, September 27, 2018**, and ending Thursday, March 28, 2019. The attached guidance document outlines the data elements of these routine queries in EMResource and describes the triggers identified to enhance monitoring. Please note that the collection of these data elements is not intended to replace any syndromic surveillance reporting requirements by hospitals to local public health officials.

To inform accurate and timely data reporting, we encourage you to share the guidance document and educate appropriate staff on the data elements that will be queried each week. We also ask that each facility verify that the identified staff have access to EMResource and are aware of their responsibilities to complete flu-related queries.

If you have flu monitoring questions or need additional technical assistance with EMResource, please contact Carissa Van Hunnik at cvanhunnik@mhanet.com, or 573/893-3700, ext. 1329.

cv:jg\ks

attachment