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MEMO

TO: Chief Nursing Officers
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FROM: Carissa Van Hunnik, CHEP
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SUBJECT: EMResource® Data Collection to Support Flu Monitoring in Missouri Hospitals

Missouri health care partners continue to enhance preparedness and mitigation strategies regarding increased demands on the health care system during prevalent flu seasons. Last year, the Missouri Hospital Association partnered with hospital staff, and state and local public health leadership to implement [strategies](#) for collecting and analyzing hospital information that could serve as an early indicator of potential resource constraints from increased flu activity. Through the 2018-2019 flu season, weekly flu queries were initiated in EMResource to gather information from hospitals on flu-related status indicators. Query data was then compiled and summarized to provide critical, real-time data that can be utilized to plan for and mitigate possible impacts on hospital resources, bed availability and staffing levels. This planned approach provided timely and accurate projections of impacts to hospitals, while reducing ad-hoc queries to front-line staff during spikes in flu activity.

In preparation of the 2019-2020 flu season, MHA will initiate a baseline flu query in EMResource on Thursday, September 26, 2019. Going forward, queries will be conducted from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. every Thursday, and should be planned for accordingly. The attached [Flu Monitoring 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.

Participation and response to each weekly query is critical to our ability to provide an accurate and informed analysis of flu activity in each region of the state. With this in mind, we suggest the following steps be taken in preparation for successful query responses:

1. Identify appropriate hospital staff to be responsible for completing the weekly query information. Based on organizational reporting structures, this could be emergency department, infection control or emergency management leadership.
2. Ensure identified staff have access to log in and update the weekly query on EMResource, or arrange to provide the data to someone that has access to the system and can enter it on their behalf. Requests for EMResource access should be sent to Carissa Van Hunnik at cvanhunnik@mhanet.com.
3. Share the attached Flu Monitoring Guidance Document with identified staff at your facility. The guidance document provides further details on each level of flu query and the data requested in each. This will allow staff to proactively gather data in the requested timeframe each week.

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