



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

September 3, 2008

TO: Local Health Department Administrators
Public Health Nurses

FROM: Loretta E. Haddy, Ph.D
State Epidemiologist and Director
Division of Surveillance & Disease Control

RE: INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDERS

Each year from October to mid-May, the Division of Surveillance and Disease Control of the Bureau for Public Health, in collaboration with the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tracks cases of influenza throughout the state with the help of volunteer sentinel providers.

With your support, and the support of your sentinel providers, we will continue to track influenza cases year round. Sentinel providers help us understand the level of disease activity in the population, as well as the type of virus that is circulating in our community.

In preparation for the coming influenza season, please identify a sentinel provider in your jurisdiction. If you already have an actively reporting provider, please make sure you retain him or her for the coming season. If possible, please make a personal recruiting or thank you visit to explain and emphasize the importance of their participation.

Enclosed is a recruitment packet containing information and forms that will help you in the recruitment process. The following documents are included:

- Cover letter from the local health department
- Checklist for local health department recruiting sentinel providers
- Influenza Sentinel Provider Enrollment Form
- Information on influenza sentinel provider surveillance
- Virology collection instructions
- Data/influenza protocol and information sheets from WVDHHR

If you have any questions, please call the surveillance coordinator, Mary A. Myers, RN, at (304) 558-5358 or 1-800-423-1271. Let's make a joint effort to make the coming influenza surveillance a success!

cc: Joe Barker
Chris Curtis
Cathy Slemple
Joyce Spiroff
Jeff Neccuzzi
Kay Shamblin
Barbara Taylor
Andrea Labik
IDEP, Regional Epidemiologists, District Sanitarians

Bureau for Public Health
Division of Surveillance and Disease Control
INFECTIOUS DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM
Room 125, 350 Capitol Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3715
(304) 558-5358 or 1-800-423-1271