

LOCAL HEALTH DEPT COVER LETTER

NAME
ORGANIZATION
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE

Dear,

The Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology of the Bureau for Public Health, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control, is attempting to broaden the network of influenza surveillance providers. Physicians, physicians assistants, and nurse practitioners from internal medicine, family practice, pediatrics and emergency medicine are being sought to participate as sentinel providers.

The purpose of this program is to facilitate a faster recognition of influenza activity, the recognition of new and emerging strains of influenza, to epidemiologically investigate the temporal and geographical progression of influenza, to encourage immunization against influenza and to contribute to the global (WHO) effort to identify appropriate strains of influenza vaccine.

Participation in the Sentinel Program will allow you to be informed of the latest developments and epidemiology of influenza. The program will provide timely feedback on the data submitted, summaries of regional and national influenza data, and a free year-long subscription to CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report and the Journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases. In addition Providers receive a certificate of appreciation from CDC at the end of the season.

The time and effort required for your participation is minimal. Providers can transmit their data to CDC on a weekly basis via the Internet, a touch-tone phone, or fax. The only data requested is:

1. The number of influenza-like illnesses seen for the week
2. The total number of patients seen for the week.

A worksheet, instruction sheet, and free laboratory testing for isolation and identification of samples, with free specimen collection kits (shipped by the Office of Laboratory Services), with prepaid mailers), will be provided by the Centers for Disease Control.

If you are interested in this program, please fill out the accompanying form and mail it to this office. Your participation is very important to us and vital for the success of this program.

Sincerely,

XXXXXXX

