Have You Heard?

**FluSurv-NET Data Make Headlines at ID Week 2019**
A CDC led study used FluSurv-NET data to examine over 43,000 older adults hospitalized with flu over five influenza seasons. The researchers found that receiving a flu vaccine reduced the risk of severe outcomes, like mechanical ventilation, ICU admission, pneumonia, and death, by 36%. **ID Week 2019**

FluSurv-NET data were also used to explore the unusual pattern of influenza activity during 2018-19. An H1-dominant wave of influenza peaked early with an H3-dominant wave following in March. Predominant age groups affected provide evidence of original antigenic sin. **Learn More**

Influenza Hospitalization incidence for residents of New Haven and Middlesex Counties is shown here. We all remember that the 2017-18 influenza season (in green) was a big one with a dramatic peak in January. The graph above indicates that influenza hospitalizations during 2018-19 had a much lower peak that occurred later in the winter. Plus, activity remained high with a second peak near the end of March 2019. Stay tuned to find out what this influenza season has in store!

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Who We Are

Connecticut FluSurv-NET

FluSurv-NET is a network of epidemiologists across the nation gathering data on influenza severity each year. Data gathered are used to estimate age-specific hospitalization rates on a weekly basis and describe characteristics of persons hospitalized with influenza illness. To explore how these data are used check out FluView Interactive, a weekly influenza surveillance report, which allows you to make comparisons across flu seasons, regions and a variety of other demographics.

In Connecticut, FluSurv-NET functions under a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is a collaborative effort involving the Connecticut Department of Public Health and Yale School of Public Health. Connecticut FluSurv-NET conducts enhanced surveillance for influenza hospitalizations in New Haven and Middlesex Counties. More information is available here: https://publichealth.yale.edu/eip/projects/flu.aspx

Need influenza data for an upcoming meeting or report? Contact us!

Thank you for all your efforts and support throughout the year! We could not conduct surveillance for hospitalized influenza cases without you. Thank you.

Contact Us

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Welcoming Our Newest Surveillance Officer:

As of March of 2019, Adam Misiorski joined us as our FluSurv-NET Surveillance Officer. Adam has always had a strong interest in public health, especially within the realm of infectious disease epidemiology. Adam is an alum of Southern Connecticut and expects to receive his Master’s in Public Health this spring from UConn.

Notifiable Diseases

RSV is Now Reportable via ELR in Connecticut

At its October 28, 2019 meeting, the Reportable Diseases Advisory Committee approved a proposal to add respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) to the list of List of Reportable Laboratory Findings for 2020. This new requirement, pending approval by the health commissioner, will only apply to laboratories that can report RSV-positive results to CTEDSS via electronic laboratory reporting. Connecticut EIP’s FluSurv-NET team will use these data to conduct population-based surveillance for RSV-associated hospitalizations. RSV surveillance data will be used to estimate RSV disease burden, to inform vaccine and monoclonal antibody administration strategies and, in the future, to evaluate RSV vaccine and drug effectiveness.

Influenza and Vaping

Flu Season May Complicate Diagnosis of Vaping Illness

Symptoms of lung damage due to vaping may mimic those of influenza, including dyspnea and cough. During flu season, for patients with suspected e-cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury (EVALI), CDC recommends testing patients for influenza and/or other respiratory pathogens. Patients can have both EVALI and viral respiratory disease. Please keep testing patients hospitalized with symptoms of influenza-like illness. MMWR