Notification: Increase in Emergency Department (ED) and Hospital Visits Related to COVID-19 Symptoms

Purpose
- To provide weekly updates to Public Health partners regarding a disease trend of the percentage of all hospital visits (all ED and some inpatient) via the Syndromic Surveillance data that meets the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 related symptoms and case definition.

Definitions used for COVID-19 Syndromic Surveillance (SyS)
- COVID-19 related percentage of all hospital visits (all ED and some inpatient) is calculated from visit counts meeting the CDC’s case definition, by searching ‘fever and either cough, or shortness of breath’ in the chief complaint and triage notes.
- Diagnosed Flu percentage is based on counts of visits with flu discharge diagnosis ICD10 codes (J09, J10, or J11).
- The information below includes all records captured from Colorado Local Syndromic Surveillance counties (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Larimer, and Jefferson counties).

COVID-19 Related Symptoms and Flu-Related ED Visit Rates in Colorado Local Syndromic Surveillance Counties
- Total number of hospital visits has been decreasing since 04/01/2020.
- From 04/07/2020 to 04/12/2020, the case count with COVID-19 symptoms has decreased slightly in all local syndromic surveillance counties (please note: data points presented on 04/13/2020 may be incomplete).
- TCHD has been notifying public health partners (e.g. state health department) with information regarding COVID test orders from nursing homes and long term care facilities. This detailed lab information is available in the syndromic surveillance system (ESSENCE) for local SyS data users.

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