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

- In Syndromic Surveillance (SyS) data, overall Influenza-Like-Illness symptoms decreased from 04/13/2020 to 04/19/2020 (Figure).
- From 04/13/2020 to 04/19/2020, the case count with COVID-19 symptoms stayed stable in SyS data (please note: data points presented on 04/19/2020 may be incomplete).
- One lab is submitting testing results through SyS and a total of six COVID-19 test orders in nursing home facilities were reported through SyS this week. TCHD notified public health partners, including both state health department and local health departments, about this information.

Figure. Daily Trends of Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) Symptoms, COVID-19 Related Symptoms and Flu Hospital Visits in Syndromic Surveillance for Colorado Local Syndromic Surveillance Counties*