Syndromic Surveillance Notification Report

Weekly Updates: May 12, 2020

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

Updates Provided by: Tri-County Health Department in coordination with Colorado Local Syndromic Surveillance counties (Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, La Plata, Mesa, Montezuma, and Pueblo counties)

- **Purpose**
  - To provide weekly updates to Public Health partners regarding a disease trend of the percentage of all hospital visits (all ED and 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 hospital visits were captured if patients meet the updated CDC’s case definition, by searching ‘fever and cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing or the presence of coronavirus diagnosis code ’ in the SyS data.

- **COVID-19 Related Symptoms and Diagnosis in Colorado Local Syndromic Surveillance Counties**
  - In addition to Pueblo, La Plata and Montezuma Counties, which joined the local syndromic surveillance collaborative last week, Broomfield and Mesa Counties are now in the process of onboarding hospitals into the system, including St. Mary’s Medical Center and UCHealth Broomfield Hospital. The data from these two hospitals will be included in the next report. Please see HERE for more information about the syndromic surveillance partnership.
  - In Syndromic Surveillance (SyS) data, overall hospital visits increased from 05/04/2020-05/11/2020. However, the case count with COVID-19 related symptoms decreased in SyS data.
  - While monitoring COVID-19 related symptoms in the data, we are also monitoring the diagnosis code of COVID-19 (Figure). From 05/04/2020-05/11/2020, fewer patients were assigned COVID-19 diagnosis code compared to the previous week. Among patients diagnosed with the specific diagnosis code (U07.1), inpatient visits were more than other visit types (Note: Data points presented on 05/11/2020 may be incomplete).
  - SyS data users can now monitor COVID-19 lab orders and results for persons experiencing homelessness in the system. For the week of 05/04/2020, no COVID-19 lab orders or results were detected for persons experiencing homelessness.
  - Please find more COVID-19 related information on the following county specific web pages: [CDPHE COVID-19 Case Data](http://www.denverhealth.org/covid), [TCHD COVID-19 Case Reporting](http://www.tchd.org/), [Boulder County COVID-19 Illness and Recovery](http://www.bouldercounty.org/covid-19), [Denver County COVID-19 Case Reporting](http://www.denverhealth.org/covid), [El Paso Coronavirus Disease 2019](http://www.epidemiology.co.gov/), [Jefferson County COVID-19 Case Summary](http://www.jeffco.us/covid), and [Larimer County Community COVID-19 Monitoring](http://www.larimer.org/).

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