Syndromic Surveillance Notification Report

Weekly Updates: May 26, 2020

Notifications: 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.
◊ During the COVID-19 pandemic people may feel isolated, stressed, and/or overwhelmed. The mental health indicators such as suicidal ideation and suicide attempts were included in this report to inform partners about potential changes for hospital visits related to suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in Syndromic Surveillance data.

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.
◊ Suicidal ideation related hospital visits were identified if patients met the case definition by searching text terms about suicidal ideas and thoughts or the presence of suicidal ideation diagnosis code (ICD-10 CM: R45.851).
◊ Suicide attempt related hospital visits were identified if patients intentionally harmed themselves by searching text terms about injuries due to suicide attempt, intentional self-harm, self-poison, and intentional overdose. Patients were also identified if they were assigned diagnosis codes of suicide attempts (ICD-10 CM: T14.91, X71-70, or T36-50).

COVID-19 Related Symptoms and Diagnosis in Colorado Local Syndromic Surveillance Counties
◊ In Syndromic Surveillance (SyS) data, overall hospital visits increased from 05/19/2020-05/25/2020. However, the case count with COVID-19 related symptoms decreased in the same period of time (Figure).
◊ From 05/19/2020-05/25/2020, decreased numbers of 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.
◊ For lab orders submitted in SyS the week of 05/19/2020, one COVID-19 lab order was detected for persons experiencing homelessness, sixteen COVID-19 lab orders were detected for people living in nursing homes, and twelve COVID-19 lab orders were detected from correctional facilities.
◊ Compared to the previous week, hospital visits related to suicidal ideation and suicide attempts remained stable from 05/19/2020-05/25/2020 (Figure).
◊ Please find more COVID-19 related information on the following county specific web pages:

Figure. Daily Trends of Hospital Visits, COVID-19 Related Symptoms, Suicidal Ideation, and Suicide Attempts in Syndromic Surveillance in Colorado Local Syndromic Surveillance Counties*

Contact Information: Yushiuan Chen  Tri-County Health Department, Colorado  Contact: ychen@tchd.org | 720-200-1481  Website: http://www.tchd.org/

* The following counties’ information was added on 05/24/2020: Broomfield, La Plata, Mesa, Montezuma, Pueblo Counties.
* Children’s Hospital is not currently submitting data.