Syndromic Surveillance Notification Report

Weekly Updates: June 02, 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.
  - 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 decreased from 05/26/2020-06/01/2020 compared to the previous week. The case count with COVID-19 related symptoms also decreased in the same period of time (Figure).
  - From 05/26/2020-06/01/2020, 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 less than other visit types (e.g. Emergency Departments and urgent cares).
  - For COVID-19 lab orders submitted in SyS the week of 05/26/2020, zero COVID-19 lab order was detected for persons experiencing homelessness, thirty-one COVID-19 lab orders were detected for people living in nursing homes, and seventeen COVID-19 lab orders were detected from correctional facilities.
  - Compared to the previous week, hospital visits related to suicidal ideation and suicide attempts slightly decreased from 05/26/2020-06/01/2020 (Figure) compared to the previous week.
  - 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*

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