Happy 2016-17 Influenza Season!

With your help, Connecticut FluSurv-NET conducts enhanced surveillance for hospitalized influenza cases in New Haven and Middlesex Counties. Funded by CDC and in partnership with Connecticut DPH, FluSurv-NET is a network of epidemiologists across the nation gathering data on influenza severity each year. FluSurv-NET is a project of the Emerging Infections Program at the Yale School of Public Health. Learn more here: https://publichealth.yale.edu/eip/projects/flu.aspx

You make it all possible

The FluSurv-NET team cannot conduct surveillance for hospitalized influenza cases without you! Thank you! Hospital infection prevention, health information, and laboratory departments are our essential partners. Influenza-related hospitalization is reportable to DPH. Use CTEDSS to report electronically: https://edss.dph.ct.gov.

Questions? Email: Kimberly.yousey-hindes@yale.edu
From the Lab

All respiratory specimens from hospitalized patients with influenza or ILI should be submitted for PCR confirmation/subtyping at the state public health lab. This testing supports FluSurv-NET surveillance by providing influenza A subtype and B lineage information for hospitalized influenza cases.

Before submitting specimens, please complete the Clinical Test Requisition form OL-9B, found in the DPH Laboratory Influenza PCR Testing Kits (http://tinyurl.com/OL9Bfill).

What’s New in Flu?

On August 3, 2016, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first generic version of Tamiflu (oseltamivir phosphate), a commonly used antiviral medication for the treatment of flu in patients two weeks of age and older; and prevention of the flu in patients one year of age and older. Information can be found here: http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafet yInformationforPatientsandPro viders/ucm514854.htm

What’s Happening Now?

While it is officially flu season in Connecticut, minimal influenza activity has been reported so far. Let us know what’s happening in your facility by reporting your hospitalized influenza cases! https://edss.dph.ct.gov


As the graph below shows, the 2014-15 influenza season (blue bars) was severe, with a record breaking number of influenza hospitalizations. During 2015-16 (yellow bars) influenza activity peaked late. Who knows what’s in store for this season?? Please help us stay vigilant.

Influenza Hospitalizations, CT Emerging Infections Program, 2014-15 and 2015-16

*CT EIP’s FluSurv-NET catchment area includes New Haven and Middlesex Counties.