

Seasonal & Pandemic Influenza 2007

Poster Section: Surveillance and Diagnostic, with an Update on Rapid Diagnostics

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Poster Title: School-Based Influenza-like Illness Surveillance

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Approximately 300 schools throughout Arizona use software called the Child Health Indicators Program (CHIP), maintained by the Arizona School Nurses Consortium (ASNC) to track school nurse visits and serve as an electronic school health record. This record contains illness categories such as asthma and diabetes. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) provides funding to the ASNC to provide training, helpdesk, software support, and software updates. The ADHS recently added illness categories and corresponding definitions, including Influenza-like Illness, to the software. Although Arizona already has sentinel sites that report influenza-like illness, adding this category to the school nurse encounters adds several hundred schools to the list of sites regularly reporting how many of their students see the school “nurse” with an influenza-like illness. The current system reported only on an annual basis, so the Department is in the process of web-enabling the software to allow nurses to send weekly de-identified encounter data along with denominator data securely via the Internet to an ASNC. ADHS will then download weekly data from the ASNC server. This system will allow weekly ILI surveillance of over 300 schools in Arizona, without burdening school nurses with a separate reporting system.