



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
JOINT STAFF SURGEON
COAST GUARD CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

SUBJECT: Enhanced Influenza Surveillance

Enhanced influenza surveillance supports detection of ongoing changes in the severity of the H1N1 virus. Timely data regarding the severity, as represented by the number of resulting hospitalizations, is currently unavailable from existing automated surveillance systems. Beginning November 1, 2009, influenza-associated hospitalizations (i.e., admissions) at military hospitals and active duty members admitted to civilian hospitals must be reported within 48 hours of admission.

Services will use their existing electronic reporting tools to submit hospitalized cases. Reports must annotate admission date, whether influenza is confirmed or suspected, and any clinical complications (e.g., pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, death). Laboratory confirmation of influenza is not required before reporting; make updates when confirmatory data is received. Do not report as a hospitalized case any individual placed in isolation for the primary purpose of social distancing. Continue to report non-hospitalized, laboratory-confirmed influenza cases per "Tri-Service Reportable Events Guidelines and Case Definitions," June 2009.

The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) will aggregate Service-level reports in collaboration with the Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center, the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, and the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

This memo remains in effect for one year unless additional guidance is sent out. My point of contact is Col Michael Butel, who can be reached at 703-578-8524, or Michael.Butel@tma.osd.mil. The Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center points of contact are the Service liaisons, 301-319-3240 or afhsc.commcenter@amedd.army.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald L. Noah".

Donald L. Noah, Col, USAF, BSC
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Force Health Protection and Readiness