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## Surveillance of Influenza and Other Respiratory Diseases in Washington State

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*Abstract:* The 2009 outbreak of swine-origin influenza virus (SOIV) highlighted the value of developing a multi-channel approach to surveillance for other viral respiratory infections with epidemic potential. The goals of this Washington Department of Health (DOH) surveillance system are to monitor seasonal influenza activity and emerging threats from novel influenza viruses, the incidence of severe respiratory illness in high risk populations, and severe cases of novel influenza virus. In this presentation we will describe the types of existing and proposed surveillance systems used by the WA DOH to detect influenza and other respiratory illnesses in the population. These include: 1) notifiable condition reporting of SOIV and rare disease of public health importance through PHIMS; 2) laboratory-based surveillance for human cases collected from laboratories through the PHRED reporting system, 3) lab submission of specimens positive for Influenza-A by rapid tests from “sentinel” laboratories; 4) healthcare provider-reported of cases of respiratory illness among risk groups, persons with severe respiratory illness, or young persons with unexplained death; 5) ILI-Net “sentinel” provider surveillance in geographically-strategic sites; 6) surveillance of pneumonia and influenza (P&I) death data collected from Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane as part of the national 122 cities project; and 7) syndromic surveillance of hospital emergency department patient syndrome data. Information from of each of these systems is combined to establish the situational awareness necessary for an effective public health response.