



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

September 6, 2023

Notification Letter to Minnesota Hospitals Infection Preventionists Regarding Reporting of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Hospitalizations

Dear Infection Preventionist:

On October 1, 2023, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is expanding sentinel surveillance for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) hospitalizations from the seven-county metro area to hospitals statewide. MDH is conducting this surveillance pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4605.7000 to 4605.7900. Specifically, Minnesota Rules, 4605.7046 (sentinel surveillance), permits the Commissioner of Health to select diseases and sites for reporting if certain criteria are met. We are conducting sentinel surveillance for RSV hospitalizations for purposes authorized under the rule including that the surveillance is necessary to characterize the epidemiology of the pathogen and monitor vaccine efficacy.

RSV is a significant cause of respiratory disease. RSV is responsible for an estimated 126,000 hospitalizations annually in the U.S. among children and 178,000 hospitalizations annually in adults. It is recognized as one of the most common causes of lower respiratory tract infections, particularly among children. RSV is also recognized as an important pathogen among adults, especially the very elderly and those with underlying medical conditions. It can cause acute respiratory illness, including bronchiolitis and pneumonia, and in some cases become severe and fatal.

Despite high morbidity and mortality, the current case-based surveillance system for RSV only covers the seven-county metro area. Statewide sentinel surveillance for RSV hospitalizations will provide adequate data to address important knowledge gaps including disease burden statewide, outcomes, underlying risk factors for illness, clinical course and outcomes, and health disparities in Minnesota. Additionally, with vaccines in development and deployment, data collected by sentinel surveillance will be important in monitoring the effectiveness of these new and future tools. MDH is conducting surveillance on hospitalized cases to monitor severe disease in the state.

Reporting requirements:

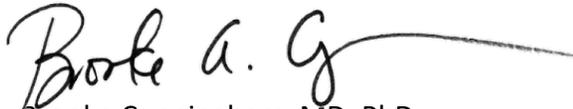
- What: MDH is requiring reporting of cases that meet the following criteria:
 - Minnesota resident.

- Positive RSV test by any method (rapid antigen/PCR, PCR, viral culture).
- Inpatient or observation status within 14 days of positive test (no outpatient/clinic visits).
- When: Cases should be submitted weekly at minimum to MDH.
- How: Infection preventionists are required to report hospitalized RSV cases using a weekly line list, Electronic Lab Report (ELR), or MDH Disease Report Card.

Your participation in this surveillance program is greatly appreciated. Thank you for all you do to protect the health and safety of Minnesotans. You can find documentation on why this surveillance is necessary and what infection preventionists need to know about reporting these cases at [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/rsv/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/rsv/index.html).

For questions about this letter or reporting of hospitalized RSV cases, please contact Erica Mumm in the Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control Division at erica.mumm@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brooke A. G." with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brooke Cunningham, MD, PhD
Commissioner
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