



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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**TO:** Local Health Department Directors  
Tribal Health Officers  
Regional Office Directors, Division of Public Health  
Wisconsin Hospital Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Infection Preventionists

**FROM:** Jeffrey P. Davis, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist  
for Communicable Diseases and Emergency Response

**RE:** Mandatory reporting of Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

During the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, public health reporting of influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths provided critical information regarding the burden of severe influenza and the progression of the pandemic in Wisconsin. Maintaining this surveillance system during the 2010-2011 influenza season is necessary to monitor for increases in severe influenza requiring a public health response.

Pursuant to my authority under DHS 145.05, I hereby declare that Influenza-associated hospitalization is a communicable disease related condition that poses a threat to the citizens of Wisconsin and thereby include Influenza-associated hospitalization as a communicable disease for which the general powers under Chapter 252 of the Wisconsin Statutes and DHS 145 apply.

Effective December 1, 2010, Influenza-associated hospitalizations will be reportable within 72 hours of identification (Category 2) to local public health agencies.

Following the 2010-2011 influenza season, Wisconsin Division of Public Health staff will evaluate the costs and benefits of maintaining influenza-associated hospitalization surveillance in the future.

Jeffrey P. Davis, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist