

# Sentinel Flu Provider Information

**Sentinel flu providers help improve flu surveillance.**



Sentinel flu providers help the Health Department monitor flu activity and understand how flu is affecting Vermonters by submitting data each week to the national flu surveillance network.

## What is ILINet?

ILINet is the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance Network. Providers across the country volunteer to send year-round ILI data to CDC. This is used in combination with other influenza surveillance data by Vermont and CDC to get a picture of influenza activity within the state and across the country.

## Who can be a sentinel provider?

Physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners of any specialty and in any type of practice are eligible. Practice settings that are not eligible are elementary, middle or high school health centers and any type of institutional setting, like long-term care facilities or correctional facilities.

## What is required of sentinel providers?

Sentinel providers spend a few minutes each week entering the total number of patient visits and the number of patient visits for ILI by age group (0-4, 5-24, 25-49, 50-64, and 65+) through the ILINet Internet Reporting System.

## What is the case definition for ILI?

ILI is defined as fever (recorded temperature of  $>100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and cough and/or sore throat.

## How does a provider become a sentinel provider?

To enroll as a sentinel provider, please e-mail the information below to Hilary Fannin at [hilary.fannin@vermont.gov](mailto:hilary.fannin@vermont.gov):

- Name
- Practice name and type
- Address, city, zip
- Telephone number
- Fax number
- Primary and secondary e-mail address

If the provider is not the primary contact for flu surveillance and someone else in the office will be submitting weekly data, please list the name and email address of that person.