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In response to the high number of seasonal influenza hospitalizations during the 2017-2018 season requiring increased staff, additional supplies and reconfigured space, the Missouri Hospital Association revised its monitoring strategy for the 2018-2019 season.

MHA staff worked with member hospitals, health care coalition leadership, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to develop a statewide strategy for collecting and monitoring hospital information related to flu activity in Missouri.

This strategy complements public health syndromic surveillance to provide a holistic picture of health care readiness to respond to flu surge.



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The collaborative work established a routine, recognized process that promoted more accurate and timely information sharing among health care providers and provided time critical early warning signs of increased flu activity that could impact resources, bed availability and staffing levels.

Utilize EMResource<sup>®</sup>, to conduct weekly queries – 100% of hospitals statewide have access and use the system.

Facilitate data entry burden reduction for providers, mitigating and multiple competing inquiries.

Identify pre-established triggers to escalate response – specifically "widespread" flu activity as indicated by the CDC.

Adapted from the Health and Medical Division of the National Academies, Conventional, Contingency and Crisis surge framework.

Missouri public health and medical leadership will evaluate the success of the 2018-2019 flu monitoring strategy in late spring 2019, in preparation for the 2019-2020 influenza season.

Early findings include expanding monitoring to include outpatient settings; i.e. the emergency department and clinics, as less severe flu strains may not require hospital admission.



