



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

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Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter regarding the interim position statement entitled "National Reporting for Novel Influenza A Virus Infections," which was adopted at the Executive Committee meeting of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) on January 9, 2007. I appreciate the CSTE Executive Committee developing and adopting this statement and providing a copy to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). I understand the statement will be presented to CSTE members at their annual meeting.

CDC agrees with CSTE on the importance of adding infections with novel influenza A viruses to the list of nationally notifiable infectious diseases reportable to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. As the document emphasizes, human infections with novel influenza A viruses that can be transmitted from person to person could signal the beginning of an influenza pandemic. The statement is particularly timely because of continuing human infections by the avian influenza A (H5N1) virus and the need to closely monitor changes in the strain's structure.

CDC is grateful for the partnership with colleagues at CSTE and other public health professional associations. As always, we appreciate opportunities to work with you on critical improvements to the public health system.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director