



**MIDDLESEX COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**Division of Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness**

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# Influenza Surveillance in the School Setting

## Influenza-like Illness Surveillance

- Influenza-like illness is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as fever of 100° F or above, and cough and/or sore throat.
- As a component of Active Influenza Surveillance, the Middlesex County Public Health Department (MCPHD) receives influenza-like illness (ILI) absenteeism reports from participating school nurses each week.
- These reports are provided to the MCPHD during the school year.
- The MCPHD provides this information, along with other reports, to the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) who utilizes the data to produce a Weekly State Influenza Activity Report.
- The NJDHSS then provides all of the information to the CDC to produce a Weekly National Influenza Activity Report.

## **How can a school nurse participate in active surveillance?**

- It is important for all school nurses to participate in this surveillance program.
- Active surveillance assists county and state epidemiologists in identifying influenza activity within the community.
- School nurses who would like to participate in the program can call 732-745-8923 for additional information.

## **Where can I view State and National Weekly Influenza Activity Reports?**

- You can view State and National Weekly Influenza Activity Reports by visiting the following websites:
  - New Jersey: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/flu/fluinfo.shtml>
  - United States: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>