INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS CASE DEFINITION

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) = fever ($\geq 100^\circ F$)*
AND
cough and/or sore throat
(in the absence of a known cause other than influenza)

*Temperature can be measured in the office or at home

Please report all patients that meet the ILI case definition above unless diagnostic tests confirm a cause other than influenza. For example, a patient with fever, cough, and vomiting or a patient with fever and sore throat should be reported as having ILI unless a laboratory result confirms another diagnosis (e.g., a positive strep test).

Please report only those patients that meet the ILI case definition. For example, a patient with fever, chills, body aches, and nasal congestion but no cough or sore throat is not considered a case of ILI.

Although this clinical definition by itself is very general, when combined with information on circulating viruses, the information on ILI activity provides an excellent picture of influenza activity in the United States.