

FluWatch



FluWatch is Canada's national surveillance system that monitors the spread of influenza and influenza-like illnesses (ILI).

FluWatch consists of 7 surveillance system components that provide a national picture of influenza activity in Canada:

- Geographic spread of influenza and ILI
- Lab-confirmed detections
- **Syndromic surveillance**
- Outbreak surveillance
- Severe outcomes surveillance
- Strain characterization and antiviral resistance testing
- Vaccine monitoring



The FluWatch syndromic surveillance component consists of the Sentinel Physician ILI Reporting System (SPIR) and FluWatchers.

Why do we do ILI surveillance?

- It is universal to most influenza surveillance systems across the world
- It is a global surveillance standard of the World Health Organization
- It is an essential component of global pandemic influenza preparedness platforms

Sentinel Physician ILI Reporting System (SPIR)

Who can participate?



- Physicians and nurses who are involved in primary care

What data do they provide?



- Sentinel physicians send FluWatch:
- The total number of patients seen each week
 - The number of ILI cases seen each week

How are the data used?

Data are used to inform provincial/territorial, national and international influenza activity:

- The data are shared with provincial and territorial Departments of Public Health
- Aggregate data are used in the annual and weekly FluWatch reports
- The data are forwarded to the World Health Organization

How does ILI data benefit Canadians?



- It provides an accurate picture of where and when the flu is happening
- It shows how influenza affects Canadians



- It serves as an "early detection, early warning system" for unusual or unexpected flu activity

