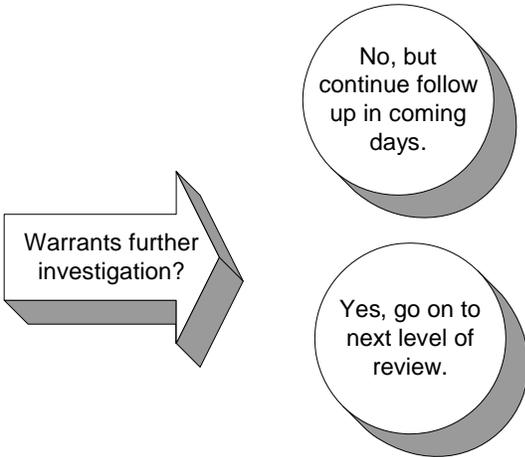


Single Hospital-Single Syndrome Flag Investigation

Level I Review: ESSENCE Hospital/Alert Flags

Routine Flag Review

1. >1 red alert in a row for same syndrome.
2. Upward trend in subsequent days.
3. Magnitude of increase (e.g., double expected frequency, small p-value, etc.).
4. Pattern within subsyndromes (e.g., NVD, Cough+Sore Throat, etc.).
5. Pattern within age, sex, geographic area.
6. Other observation or clue from supporting information.



No, but continue follow up in coming days.

Yes, go on to next level of review.



Ask colleagues for help and advice!

Level III Review: Follow-up Protocol

See **How to Follow Up at the Local Level** for tips on communication with local public health agencies and hospitals.

These are guidelines developed with DHSS employees in mind. Local jurisdictions are encouraged to consider their own communities when designing their own protocols.

Level II Review: Other Supporting Information

ESSENCE Geographic Review

1. Have other hospitals in area experienced similar increase?
2. Have area residents experienced similar increase (use region/syndrome alerts)?
3. Is a particular zip code or cluster of zip codes affected (mapping portal or region/syndrome alerts)?

Over-the-Counter Drug Sales

1. Have retailers in this geographic area experienced an increase in relevant sales during the last 5 days?

MOHSIS

1. Have residents of this geographic area been diagnosed with probable or confirmed illness related to this syndrome ?
2. Are these cases outbreak-related or related to a food service establishment, day care, nursing home, etc.?
3. How do the numbers of cases reported for this area compare to the usual frequency reported?

Follow -up and Documentation

1. If the LPHA contacts the hospital, ask them to please inform you of any findings.
2. If you contacted the hospital, please inform the LPHA of anything you have learned ASAP.
3. If something significant has occurred, please contact the Senior Epi for the region ASAP.
4. Document your findings.

