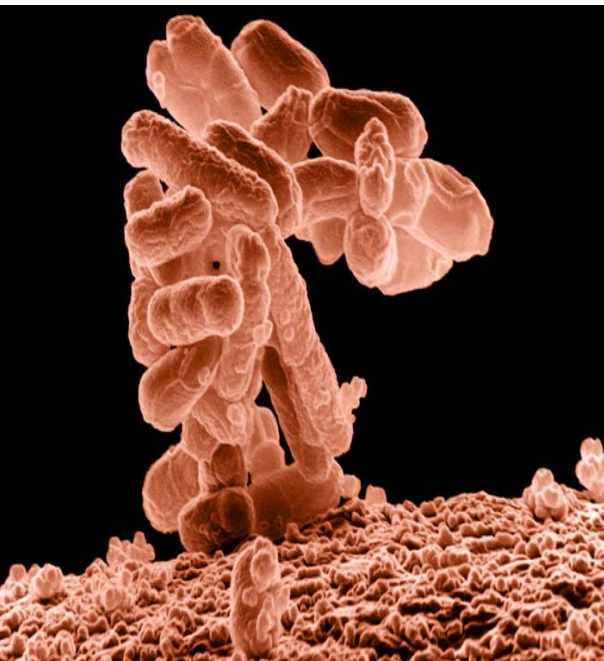## Vision

The Syndromic Surveillance system rapidly detects unusual outbreaks of illness resulting from either naturally occurring or intentional events that pose potential public health threats and emergencies. This system provides epidemiologists with early detection alerts, thus providing identification and opportunities for rapid intervention.

For More Information Contact

Michigan Department of Community Health
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Phone: 517-335-8150

Michigan Department of Community Health
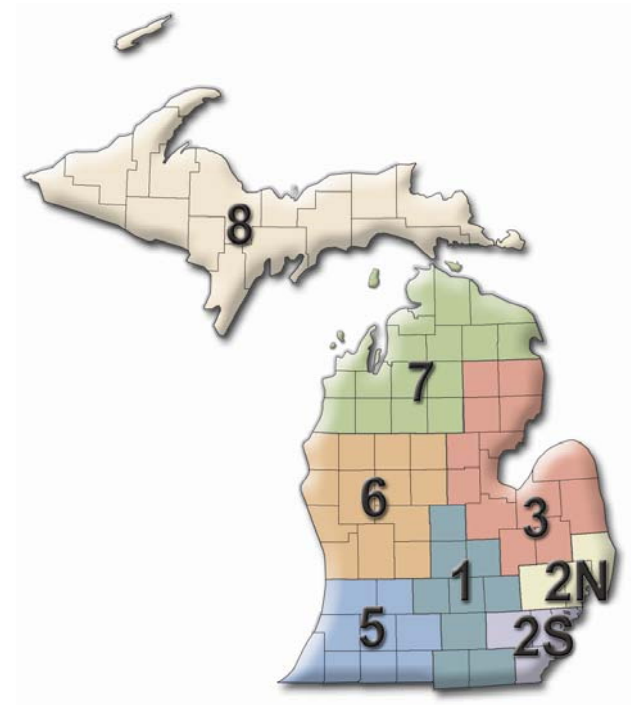Bureau of Epidemiology
Phone: 517-335-8165

Michigan Department
of Community Health

MDCH

Michigan Department of Community Health
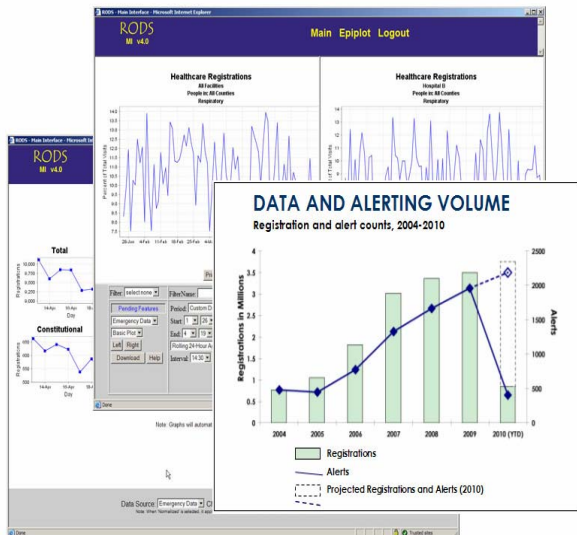201 Townsend Street
Lansing, MI 48913

Michigan Syndromic Surveillance System (MSSS)

Information for Health Care Providers

What is Syndromic Surveillance?

- System that tracks the chief complaints of emergency-care patients in an effort to identify public health threats before confirmed diagnoses are available.

- Michigan's system has been in operation since December 2003 and currently receives over 8000 registrations per day from healthcare facilities.

- Detection algorithms run within the system every hour and send email alerts to state and regional epidemiologists when deviations are identified.

- MDCH epidemiologists can analyze findings, investigate, and contact appropriate personnel when warranted.

Why Participate?

- **Provides critical health care data.** System provides critical health care data, used for early identification of outbreaks, epidemics or terrorist attacks.

- **It's easy.** No changes to your Emergency Department registration process, chief complaints are electronically pulled from already recorded patient information. Data collected can be accessed by key staff in the facility 24/7.

- **Improves outcomes.** Help Michigan's local health departments quickly detect and respond to emergency infectious disease or public health emergency.

- **Safe and Secure.** No personal patient information is captured.

- **Supports Joint Commission Accreditation.**
  - **Standard IC.02.01.01**
    Provides evidence of adherence.
  - **Standard EC.02.01.01**
    Demonstrates that you are addressing emergency management.
  - **IM Planning IM.01.01.03**
    Exhibits planning for information management processes to meet internal and external information needs.

- **Meaningful Use.** Participation in the MSSS may qualify as meaningful use of certified electronic health records under federal guidelines.

Steps to Participate?

1. Contact your local health department.

2. Provide Point of Contact information to include facility name, address, e-mail and phone number.

3. Submit Signed Data Use Agreement

4. Once enrolled the facility will send the data to the Syndromic System via the Internet in one of the following industry-standard ways:
   - **Preferred**: HL-7 format via Virtual Private Network
   - **Alternative**: Formatted flat file sent via Secure File Transfer Protocol (FTP) using the Data Exchange Gateway or pulled from your FTP server.

5. The facility submits:
   - Patient's date of birth, gender, home zip code
   - Visit date and time
   - Chief complaint