

Surveillance and Reporting

During all stages of a pandemic flu outbreak, and before such an event in your community, it will be essential to monitor and document the number of students and staff who are absent and, in particular, whose symptoms meet the definition of influenza-like illness. Keeping track of these numbers will help officials determine when and whether to close schools and track the progress of the disease in the broader community.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines an influenza-like illness as having the following symptoms:

- Fever of 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and one of the following:
 - ▶ Cough
 - ▶ Sore throat
 - ▶ Headache
 - ▶ Muscle ache

Included in this section:

- (1) **Daily Influenza Census.** This document details the specific information that your local public health department should receive from your school/district on a daily basis.
- (2) **Weekly Influenza Census:** This document details the specific information that your local public health department should receive from your school/district on a weekly basis.