



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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May 17, 2010

Washington State Hospital Association
300 Elliott Avenue West, Suite 300
Seattle, Washington 98119

Washington State Medical Association
2033 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100
Seattle, Washington 98121

Dear Colleagues:

During this past influenza season, the Department of Health (DOH) adopted an emergency rule which required healthcare providers and hospitals to report hospitalized and deceased patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza to their local health jurisdiction. This emergency order expired on May 15, 2010. You are no longer required by law to report these cases to your local health jurisdiction.

We would like to thank you for the time and effort taken this past season. We realize this important activity required a lot of hard work on your part, particularly during the peak of influenza activity in October 2009.

Your reporting was an invaluable component of our response to the pandemic. The information you provided enabled public health organizations in Washington to identify risk factors for severe illness and monitor the geographic spread and intensity of the pandemic.

The data you provided were regularly analyzed and published in our weekly DOH Influenza Update (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Epidemiology/CD/fluupdate.pdf>). More detailed summaries of the data are available on the DOH web site at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphil/Epidemiology/CD/swineflu/sfluresources.htm>

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH
State Health Officer

