

March 1, 2005

Primary Author Response to Position Statement 04_ID_04

Title: Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

Since the position statement was passed, it is my understanding that majorities of States have made this a Notifiable disease condition, and that reporting to CDC is taking place, without any problems. I would say that the outcome is indeed very positive, as it has certainly been able to examine a public health issue that was very much in the media and public's eye last year, and with the continued shortages in vaccine that were experienced this year, it proved to be valuable in terms of assessing potential impact on the pediatric population. Such a position statement will also 'lead the way' to additional surveillance systems, such as the laboratory confirmed influenza related hospitalizations that I understand that CSTE is considering passing as yet another position statement during this year's annual meeting. It is time that this serious vaccine preventable disease has received the attention it has, not only because of the impact of influenza during the interpandemic years, but given the concern regarding H5N1 in Southeast Asia, such enhanced surveillance systems will only place us all in a more optimal position for pandemic influenza surveillance efforts.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gensheimer