Alaska Division of Public Health
Prevention Promotion Protection

Alaska Syndromic Surveillance On- Boarding Process

All Syndromic Surveillance reporting to the Alaska Department of Public Health for Meaningful Use purposes will be reported using healtheConnect Alaska. The state of Alaska uses the CDC surveillance system, known as the BioSense Platform managed by the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP), to satisfy Syndromic Surveillance reporting. healtheConnect Alaska, in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Public Health Section of Epidemiology (AKDPH-SOE), has implemented procedures with the BioSense Platform to streamline Syndromic Surveillance reporting for Alaska facilities. Syndromic Surveillance reporting is based on the ADT interface that healtheConnect Alaska will be receiving from each facility. healtheConnect Alaska will implement one interface for ADT messages and will forward messages specific to Syndromic Surveillance reporting to BioSense. Information about the NSSP, BioSense Platform, and system requirements can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/biosense/onboarding.html

Request Onboarding

Registration / Readiness

Facility on-boarding for Syndromic Surveillance reporting must:

- Participate / register with healtheConnect Alaska: https://www.healtheconnectak.org/
- Register their Meaningful Use Intent by filling out the Intent to Register Form

Reach out to Anna Frick (anna.frick@alaska.gov) for questions about syndromic surveillance.

Pre-Implementation / HealtheConnect Alaska

Facility staff will be responsible for reviewing specific Syndromic Surveillance reporting documentation (e.g., Meaningful Use requirements) and syndromic surveillance messaging requirements (https://www.cdc.gov/nssp/biosense/new-facility/syndromic_data_element_priortization.html)
healtheConnect Alaska staff will work with the hospital to prepare for the sending of live data to BioSense. Pre-Implementation steps include:

- Creation of message transaction specifications
- Duplicate Patient Management process
- Security Assessment
- Environmental Considerations
  - User / Site Administration
  - Policies (authorization, breach management, monitoring, etc.)
  - Marketing Plan
  - Education and Training Plan
  - Roll Out Plan
- LOINC / SNOMED code mapping
- healtheConnect Alaska will also verify Syndromic Surveillance messages meet HL7 standards in terms of structure and required fields.

In the Queue

If the Facility is ready to submit on-going Syndromic Surveillance data, but BioSense or healtheConnect Alaska have reached on-boarding capacity, the facility may be placed in a queue for on-going submission and validation. Facilities placed in the queue can still attest for Modified Stage 2 if that is their goal.

Initial Submission / BioSense Validation

Once the facility is ready to generate messages that meet the required standards, live Syndromic Surveillance (production) messages will be sent to BioSense. healtheConnect Alaska and AKDPH-SOE will validate the data within the messages to ensure accuracy, appropriate coding, removal of PHI, etc.

Production & On-going Validation

HealtheConnect Alaska and AKDPH-SOE will ensure your facility Syndromic Surveillance reporting not only meets Meaningful Use requirements but will assist the facility in utilizing the data reported to BioSense for outbreak detection, investigations, and community actions.

After your Syndromic Surveillance reporting has been validated by healtheConnect Alaska, AKDPH- SOE, and BioSense and a secure method of transfer has been successfully tested, on-going production level data will be transferred from your system on at least a daily basis.