

Seeking Family Physicians

Are you a family practitioner who is...

- ✓ Interested in monitoring the healthcare impact of influenza?
- ✓ Seeking access to enhanced diagnostics?
- ✓ Interested in how well the flu shot is working each year?
- ✓ Willing to give an average of 10 minutes of your time per week?

If so...

Join the **BC Influenza Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network**

For more information, contact us:

SentinelNetwork@bccdc.ca

Phone: 604-707-2512 or

1-888-881-8886

www.bccdc.ca/SentinelNetwork



About the network

In 1977, Dr. Peter Hoogewerf, a visionary family physician in British Columbia, established Canada's first sentinel influenza surveillance network.

Since then, dedicated physicians and nurses across BC have contributed each year to help monitor the arrival, spread and healthcare impact of influenza.

In recent years, BC physicians have also become world leaders by introducing a unique approach to monitor vaccine protection each year through their sentinel surveillance network.

*Headquarters of the Canadian Influenza
Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network
(SPSN)*



BC Centre for Disease Control

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Join the BC Influenza Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network!

For nearly three decades, family physicians and nurses in British Columbia have participated in a Sentinel Practitioner Surveillance Network (SPSN) to monitor influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in the province and evaluate annual influenza vaccine effectiveness against circulating virus strains. Led by Dr. Danuta Skowronski, Principal Investigator and Physician Epidemiologist at the BC Centre for Disease Control, we would like to invite you to partner with us in this important public health initiative.

What is involved in participating?

Each week, participating sentinel sites report the number of patients with ILI seen at their practice. A weekly logbook and an online data entry platform are available to make tracking and reporting easier. Sentinel physicians also collect a nasal or nasopharyngeal (NP) swab for influenza and other respiratory virus testing from patients with ILI, and complete a short (2-5 minute) questionnaire. Compensation is provided to participating sites annually to offset clinical costs.

What are the benefits of participating?

- Routine provincial surveillance updates on influenza and other respiratory virus activity in the community to guide interventions within your practice
- Timely influenza diagnostic test results for individual patients
- Contribution to provincial risk assessment for influenza and other respiratory viruses, and to vaccine effectiveness analysis to assess the benefits of immunization
- Access to subject matter expertise and webinar presentations
- Participate in an internationally-recognised network that is emulated in over 20 countries and informs the WHO's annual influenza vaccine composition

If you or one of your general practice colleagues are interested in hearing more about and/or joining the BC Influenza SPSN, please contact us directly:

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BC Centre for Disease Control**
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