



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony Francois, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.  
Secretary

**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

**February 2006 Syndromic Surveillance  
Quality Assurance Report**

The Pinellas County Health Department has reviewed the data entered by all hospitals for the Syndromic Surveillance Program for the time period February 1 through February 28 for quality assurance purposes. We would like to thank all the participating hospitals for efforts they are making to continue improving the accuracy and reliability of this important community health monitoring system.

The total number of patients entered in February was 19,667, and the average daily rate in February was 702 entries per day. This is a 5% decrease over the total number of entries for last month and a 3.2% decrease over the number of entries for 1 year ago, in February 2005. The performance of each hospital was compared to how it performed the previous 2 months, and an asterisk (\*) after the entry indicates an improvement.

**Average Time from Patient Arrival to Data Entry**

*Determined by averaging the period of time from when the data is entered versus the patient arrival time*

**Goal: Average 4 hours or less**

Hospital	Average Entry Time (hours)		
	Dec 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006
All Children's	5	5	6
St. Anthony's	7	7	8
Helen Ellis	5	6	9
Edward White	14	13	14
Sun Coast Hospital	20	21	21
Largo Medical	29	26	25 *
Bayfront Medical	40	223	28 *
Northside Hospital	26	23	29
St. Pete General	17	22	34
Palms of Pasadena	15	18	43
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>20 hours</b>	<b>46 hours</b>	<b>21 hours</b>

### **No Box Checked Rate**

*The number of No Box Checked entries divided by the total patients entered*

**Goal: Less than 2% of records**

Hospital	No Box Checked Rate		
	Dec 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006
Edward White	0%	0%	0%
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
All Children's	0%	0.04%	0% *
Northside Hospital	0%	0%	0.05%
Largo Medical	0.2%	0%	0.08%
St. Anthony's	1.9%	0.6%	1.8%
St. Pete General	1.1%	0.09%	2.8%
Palms of Pasadena	5.6%	6.1%	5.1% *
Helen Ellis	8.5%	10.6%	11.2%
Bayfront Medical	20.2%	23.6%	26.9%
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

### **Data Entry Rate**

*The number of patients entered into STARS divided by each hospital's total ER census for the month*

**Goal: At least 90% of ER visits entered into database**

Hospital	Data Entry Rate		
	Dec 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006
Sun Coast Hospital	100%	100%	100%
All Children's Hospital	85%	92%	94% *
Bayfront Medical	CNP**	73%	91% *
Helen Ellis Memorial	90%	91%	88%
St. Pete General Hospital	99%	CNP**	86%
Northside Hospital	75%	82%	82%
Largo Medical	87%	84%	81%
Edward White Hospital	85%	81%	79%
Palms of Pasadena	86%	85%	77%
St. Anthony's Hospital	88%	87%	CNP**
Morton Plant Hospital	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Reporting Hospitals</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>87%</b>

\*\*Census Not Provided

## **Duplicate Record Entries**

*The number of data entries that are considered to be duplicates divided by the total patients entered*

**Goal: Less than 1% of records duplicated**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>Duplicate Rate</b>		
	<b>Dec 2005</b>	<b>Jan 2006</b>	<b>Feb 2006</b>
Sun Coast Hospital	0%	0%	0%
St. Anthony's	0.3%	0.2%	0.18% *
Palms of Pasadena	0.9%	0.7%	0.41% *
Largo Medical	0.5%	0.8%	0.56% *
Bayfront Medical	1.8%	0.2%	0.96%
Edward White	1.5%	1.7%	1.6% *
Helen Ellis	1.4%	1.5%	2.0%
All Children's	2.6%	1.8%	2.2%
Northside Hospital	1.0%	1.2%	2.4%
St. Pete General	2.3%	1.9%	2.6%
Morton Plant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Dunedin	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mease Countryside	N/A	N/A	N/A
VA Medical Center	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>All Hospitals</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

## **Discussion**

The average amount of time it takes to enter the patient information into the STARS website after the patient has arrived at the facility was reduced to 21 hours for all participating hospitals. Sun Coast Hospital has the data automatically sent to the STARS website once per day, and is therefore unable to control the entry time.

Entering the correct date and time of patient arrival is important for linking patients during an epidemiologic investigation. Each hospital may check its own data through the "Reports" tab on the STARS website. Some hospitals use the triage time as the time of patient arrival and others use the time of disposition, which could make the time lapse appear to be smaller.

The overall No Box Checked rate increased to 6.4%, with 6 hospitals below 2% for the month, which is the goal for the No Box Checked category. Having the majority of the forms filled out when the patient first arrives, usually in the triage area, will help to reduce the number left blank.

There was a reduction in the duplicate entry rate for 4 hospitals this month, with 5 hospitals reaching the goal of less than 1%. Since Sun Coast Hospital has the data sent automatically, there are no duplicates. One way to reduce the number of duplicate entries is to use the "CORR" function when

entering corrected records. Please remind all data entry personnel to type "CORR" before the MRN of the corrected entries to prevent them from being counted as duplicates.

There were 102 flags reported by the statistical analysis program during the month of February. It was necessary to contact a hospital 11 times (13% of cases reviewed) as a result of flags and 2 contacts were made without a flag present. There were 4 unexplained deaths reported this past month, none of which turned out to be an unexplained death. Also, there were 8 botulism-like illness syndromes reported, most from Sun Coast Hospital. None of the cases were ever suspected to be botulism.

Non-significant flags are a sign of incomplete data collection or inconsistent data entry and there were 4 hospitals that had zero non-significant flags. The ongoing data review will help to identify areas that can be improved upon and the health department will work together with each hospital to implement these improvements.

### Aberrant Flags by Hospital, February 2006

Hospital	Total Reported Flags	Non-significant Flags*	Flags Reviewed by CHD	Hospital Contacts
All Children's	13	3	10	1**
Bayfront Medical	7	3	4	1
Edward White	9	0	9	0
Helen Ellis	10	0	10	2
Largo Medical	2	0	2	1
Northside	11	3	8	2
Palms of Pasadena	10	3	7	2
St. Anthony's	8	3	5	3**
St. Pete General	4	2	2	1
Sun Coast	16	0	16	0
Multiple Hospital/ Cumulative Flag	12	3	9	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>13</b>

\*Refers to "None of the Following" and "No Box Checked" flags

\*\*Contact was made at this hospital without a flag present: ACH = 1; St. Anthony's = 1

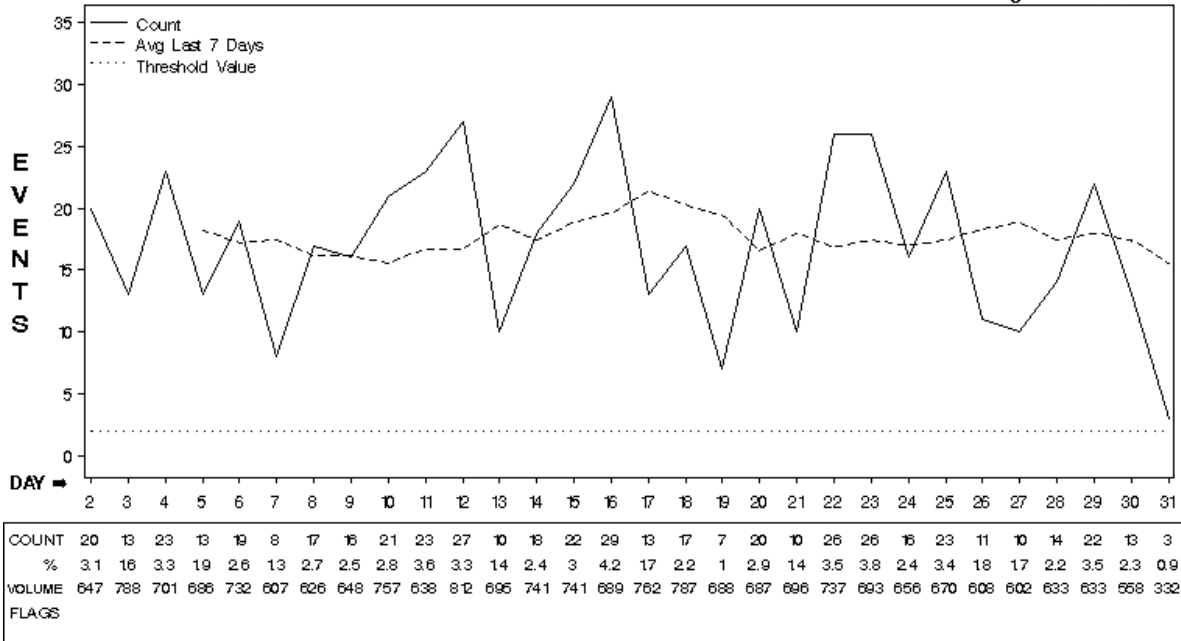
The Upper/ Lower Respiratory Tract Infection syndrome category has maintained an average between 15 and 20 cases per day during the month of February; which is illustrated in the graph below. The number of confirmed influenza cases reported by hospital infection control offices has also increased over the past month, supporting the theory that the increased number of respiratory syndromes are due to influenza-like illness.

# PINELLAS COUNTY ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE

## ALL HOSPITALS

### Respiratory Infection

Ending Date 03/06/06



C1=CUSUM1    C2=CUSUM2    C3=CUSUM3

A proposal has been submitted through the Urban Area Security Initiative grant requesting funds to complete the databridge project. If you have any questions about any aspect of this report, please contact Suzanne DeKay at (727) 824-6900 x11291 or email at [Suzanne\\_DeKay@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Suzanne_DeKay@doh.state.fl.us).