Syndromic Surveillance (SS) Messaging On-Boarding Checklist

Please note that the information in this document only applies to SS messaging in TN. The information below does not pertain to Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR), Immunization Registry updates, or Cancer Case Reporting.

Introduction

The Tennessee Communicable and Environmental Disease Services and Emergency Preparedness (CEDEP) Division within the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) has programmatic oversight of Syndromic Surveillance activities across the state. Currently, all 13 Tennessee Public Health regions receive data from select emergency departments and perform Syndromic Surveillance activities.

Syndromic surveillance is defined as public health surveillance emphasizing the use of timely pre-diagnostic data and statistical tools to detect and characterize unusual activity for further public health investigation. Syndromic surveillance uses individual and population health indicators which are available before confirmed diagnoses or laboratory confirmation to identify outbreaks or health events and monitor the health status of a community.

The main objectives of syndromic surveillance are to: 1) detect an unknown, unexpected or emerging human health threat; 2) demonstrate the lack of public health impact of a known threat; 3) quantify and monitor the impact of an identified potential public health threat; and 4) detect the start of an expected event.

For more information on the SS messaging on-boarding process in Tennessee, helpful resources, and additional documentation, please visit: https://tn.gov/health/topic/meaningful-use-summary

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide the reader with the information necessary for successful syndromic surveillance messaging activities to TDH. The on-boarding checklist is for health systems, hospitals and their vendors or business associates.

Useful Links

TDH Meaningful Use: https://tn.gov/health/topic/meaningful-use-summary

PHIN MESSAGING GUIDE FOR SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND URGENT CARE DATA ADT Messages A01, A03, A04, and A08 HL7 v2.5.1: Release 1.1 (August 2012):
http://www.cdc.gov/phin/library/guides/PHIN_MSG_Guide_for_SS_ED_and_UC_Data_v1_1.pdf

PHIN Vocabulary Access and Distribution System (VADS):
http://phinvads.cdc.gov/vads/ViewView.action?name=Syndromic%20Surveillance

NIST HL7 V2 Validation Tool for Syndromic Surveillance: http://hl7v2-ss-testing.nist.gov/mu-syndromic/

Pre-Registration with Public Health Agency

Before registering with TDH, these items are suggested to accelerate the on-boarding process.

Trading Partner (TP) Activity	Complete	Date
Develop an HL7 message conformant to PHIN MESSAGING GUIDE FOR SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE: EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND URGENT CARE DATA ADT Messages A01, A03, A04, and A08 HL7 v2.5.1: Release 1.1 (August 2012)	☐ Yes	
Test SS messages using the NIST HL7 v2 SS Validation Tool	☐ Yes	
Resolve message issues found using the NIST HL7 v2 SS Validation Tool	☐ Yes	

*Note: In addition to the Official Letters listed below, TDH will supply an Official Letter each time the Trading Partner transitions to a new phase in the on-boarding process.

Phase 1: Registration & Pre-Testing with Public Health Agency (PHA)

Trading Partner (TP) Activity	Complete	Date	TDH Response	Official Letter
PTP Complete online registration through the Trading Partner Registration system	☐ Yes		Send PTP registration acknowledgement	Registration Completed
Email 1 test de-identified ADT A01 SS message following HL7, Version 2.5.1 SS PHIN Messaging Guide with the NIST output	☐ Yes		Send PTP message corrections, validation and draft Trading Partner Agreement (TPA)	Pre-Testing Completed

Phase 2: Testing

Trading Partner (TP) Activity	Complete	Date	TDH Response	Official Letter
TP sends test A01, A03, A04, A08 message via email to TDH with the NIST output	☐ Yes		TDH provide feedback to TP	
TP correct all errors and re-send messages	☐ Yes		TDH acknowledge messages are ready for onboarding and invite TP to on-board	
Discussion of transport option with TDH	☐ Yes		Send transport mechanism	N/A

Phase 3: On-Boarding

Trading Partner (TP) Activity	Complete	Date	TDH Response	Official Letter
Establish secure transport and test with TDH	☐ Yes		Acknowledge that transport connectivity test	Testing Completed
Start sending SS batch transmissions to TDH	☐ Yes		Send TP message corrections to be corrected	
Document what errors have been corrected and send updated batch to TDH (iterative process - continue correcting until at an agreeable state)	☐ Yes		Verify all errors corrected and send test file validation letter	Test File Validation Completed

Phase 4: Production

Trading Partner (TP) Activity	Complete	Date	TDH Response	Official Letter
Send batch messages to SS production systems	☐ Yes		Send TP any issues that need to be corrected	
TP correct any other pending issues	☐ Yes		TDH send an official letter to TP for successful completion of production review	Production Review Completed
TP signs TPA	☐ Yes		TDH signs TPA and provides TP a copy.	