Adoption of electronic case reporting for MIS-C surveillance in Idaho

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Stories FROM THE Field

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CATEGORY: **Electronic Case Reporting**

Reviewing electronic case reports (eCR) prevented Idaho from missing any cases of multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) in children visiting facilities that had implemented eCR technology.

The "What"

Monitoring children who develop multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C) is important for understanding the syndrome and the risk factors associated with it. This syndrome is often diagnosed weeks after acute SARS-CoV-2 infection, and children may not test positive for the virus using a viral test when they are admitted to the hospital. For that reason, this condition typically can't be detected through electronic laboratory reporting.

In Idaho, 85% of MIS-C cases have come to the attention of the Division of Public Health because of electronic case reporting (eCR). Idaho has only one specialty children's hospital located in the southwest part of the state, so children from other areas of the state are often transferred to children's hospitals outside of Idaho. One of these facilities Idaho is in Salt Lake City, Utah. Because of Utah's wide adoption of eCR and the current nationwide eCR infrastructure, Idaho received eCRs for Idaho children diagnosed with MIS-C rapidly and seamlessly.

The "So What"

Utilization of eCR allowed Idaho public health officials to respond and investigate quickly. During 2022, an evaluation of medical records contained in their statewide health information exchange was conducted and compared to eCRs received for MIS-C diagnoses. Results indicated there were no cases missed among Idaho facilities that had implemented eCR.

The "Now What"

Idaho quickly made improvements to workflows, data processing tools and methods, and data visualization capacity that have benefitted their COVID-19 response but are also useful for surveillance of all diseases they respond to in public health. While short-term modernization projects are proceeding, there are challenges to implementing strategic, longer-term enterprise-level improvements. Implementation of a cloud-based infrastructure to streamline processes and support secure shared services requires ongoing, sustained funding to support subscription services and maintenance.

With Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) funding, Idaho is enthusiastically enhancing and supplementing their small, but mighty workforce to tackle the data surveillance and infrastructure improvement projects that were on their "when we have the money" list.