



Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit
STUDY INFORMATION SHEET
Severe Complications of Influenza Surveillance
(1st June 2021 to 30th September 2021)

The Department of Health requests that APSU conduct seasonal surveillance for severe complications of laboratory confirmed influenza in children aged < 15 years who are admitted to hospital between May – September 2021 inclusive. This surveillance will improve our understanding of severe influenza disease in children and inform management and vaccination policy.

Please note: due to the COVID-19 pandemic several additional questions related to co-infection with COVID-19 have been added in 2020.

Severe Complications of Influenza has been added to the routine monthly APSU report card. ***We ask that you report children that meet the case definition criteria as soon as possible by completing an online version of the case report form or by filling out the printable case report form and returning it to the APSU by e-mail or fax.***

Aim: To document, in children admitted to hospital with severe complications of influenza: the type of complication, clinical features, medical and vaccination history, treatment, outcomes and co-infection.

Case Definition:

Any child aged < 15 years with laboratory confirmed influenza **AND** admitted to hospital **AND** at least one of the following complications:

- Pneumonia (confirmed radiologically and/or microbiology)
- Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)
- Laboratory proven viral co-infection including COVID-19
- Laboratory proven bacterial co-infection; Bacteraemia; Septicaemia
- Encephalitis / encephalopathy
- Seizures (including simple febrile seizure, prolonged or focal seizure or status epilepticus)
- Transverse myelitis
- Polyneuritis / mononeuritis
- Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Reye Syndrome
- Myocarditis; Pericarditis; Cardiomyopathy
- Rhabdomyolysis
- Purpura fulminans
- Disseminated intravascular coagulopathy
- Shock (requiring >40 ml/kg fluid resuscitation)
- Acute renal failure
- Death, including death at presentation to hospital
- Requirement for supplementary oxygen, non-invasive ventilation, invasive ventilation
- or Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)

**Please do not report children hospitalised for influenza
who do not have severe complications**

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Professor Elizabeth Elliott, Director, Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit, Kids Research SCHN, The Children's Hospital Westmead, Sydney

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information related to this study or assistance completing the Case Report Form, please contact the APSU by either:

- email: SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au or
- phone: (02) 9845 3005