

**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK | HEALTH ADVISORY | November 23, 2022**

## **Current Infectious Disease Concerns**

Currently, there are three active infectious diseases that are on the rise and affecting the population of the United States – Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection (RSV), Influenza and COVID-19. Laboratories are showing there has been an increase in positivity rates for RSV, Influenza is increasing, and the possibility of another COVID-19 surge this winter still exists. This activity could lead to an additional surge in hospital admissions, impacting the bed availability and available resources at your facilities.

We are asking that you look at your hospital surge plans, especially for your pediatric patients, and that you report current hospital information through Health Care Standards (HCS), using the ND Hospital Inpatient and ICU Available Beds Survey. We ask that you report through HCS because Tele-Trax does not contain the necessary information that North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) is monitoring. The demand for certain medications may develop, creating shortages. Providers should remain aware of possible shortages that may result in the need for alternative medications, procurement from other vendors and additional dosing strategies.

On Monday, Nov. 28, HHS will be hosting a Hospital Preparedness Program meeting at 2:00 PM CST. Current information will be provided and time for questions will be available. Attached is information to connect to the meeting.

HHS can be reached at 701-328-0707 and is available to answer questions and provide assistance as needed.