Syndromic surveillance project

Disadvantages:

• Emory Project Adviser:

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE:

• Weekly tallies of the syndromes taken from patient logbook in LBJ hospital to ASDOH, which initiates public health investigation

ROUTINE REPORTING:

• Based on list of diseases/conditions required by law to be reported by hospital to ASDOH, which initiates public health investigation and control.

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE:

• Reiles on sets of clinical symptoms (syndromes) rather than laboratory diagnosis to detect disease outbreaks.

• Weekly tallies of the syndromes taken from patient logbook in LBJ Hospital Emergency Room.

• 4 core syndromes: Acute fever & rash, diarrhea, influenza-like illness, prolonged fever

• Disadvantages: not highly specific.

Risk Communication & Local News Coverage

Lessons learned: improving routine reporting

OUTBREAK UNVEILED LAPSES IN REPORTING:

• Since the index case was reported to ASDOH almost 3 weeks after presentation in the ER, it was evident that lapses in reporting were hindering ability to respond and contain outbreaks.

• As a result, both ASDOH and LBJ hospital employees requested that we work on a standardized reporting process that would help avoid lapses in communication for future situations.

Refining list of reportable diseases:

• Using the CDC's list of reportable diseases from states and territories, we work on a standardized reporting process that would help avoid lapses in communication for future situations.

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Next Steps:

• Clear time requirements and reporting steps were agreed upon and formalized by LBJ Hospital and ASDOH officials.

• A form (left) was designed for either fax or email reporting.

• Follow up trainings will occur to ensure sustained reporting practices.