WHO surveillance case definitions for ILI and SARI

Case definitions for influenza surveillance

As of January 2014

The WHO global influenza surveillance standards define the surveillance case definitions for influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI).

Key messages when using the case definitions:

- Influenza infection causes a clinical syndrome not easily distinguished from other respiratory infections.
- The case definitions for ILI and SARI are not necessarily intended to capture all cases but to describe trends over time.
- Using one common case definition globally will allow national health authorities to interpret their data in an international context.

**ILI case definition**
An acute respiratory infection with:

- measured fever of ≥ 38 C°
- and cough;
- with onset within the last 10 days.

**SARI case definition**
An acute respiratory infection with:

- history of fever or measured fever of ≥ 38 C°;
- and cough;
- with onset within the last 10 days;
- and requires hospitalization.