

## Jamie Peters

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**From:** WA DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology <waDOH@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 24, 2025 2:07 PM  
**To:** Jamie Peters  
**Subject:** Influenza Updates: Pediatric Influenza-Associated Encephalopathy and Encephalitis, Notifiable Conditions

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Hello Public Health Partners,

For your awareness, CDC has released a call for cases related to a potential increase of pediatric influenza-associated encephalopathy and encephalitis (IAE), including acute necrotizing encephalopathy (ANE). While there is no national surveillance for IAE or ANE, we are asking that should you be informed of a case meeting the surveillance criteria below, please call CDEpi at 206-418-5500 and ask to speak to a flu epi. We will coordinate needed reporting to CDC.

Surveillance criteria outlined by CDC:

1. Age <18 years
2. Admitted to an acute care hospital or pronounced dead in an emergency department between October 1, 2024, and May 30, 2025
3. Laboratory-confirmed influenza virus infection within 14 days preceding hospital presentation, during hospitalization, or in respiratory specimens collected post-mortem
4. Documented neurologic abnormalities (meets one or more of the following):
  1. Diagnosis of encephalopathy or encephalitis
  2. Neurologic signs or symptoms including but not limited to seizures, altered mental status, delirium, decreased level of consciousness, lethargy, hallucinations, or personality changes lasting >24 hours
  3. Neuroimaging abnormalities such as brain edema, brain inflammation, or brain lesions

4. Electroencephalogram abnormalities
5. Abnormal brain autopsy findings, if available, for children who died

In addition to this newly developing situation, the following conditions remain notifiable from LHJs to DOH: [lab-confirmed influenza-associated deaths in all ages](#), [suspect novel or unsubtypable influenza cases](#), and [influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities](#).

For surveillance information on influenza activity in WA please see: [WA DOH Influenza Surveillance Data](#) and the [WA DOH Respiratory Illness Data Dashboard](#).

Thank you for your continued work on flu during a very busy flu season. Please reach out to [flu@doh.wa.gov](mailto:flu@doh.wa.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Anna

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