

Title: Call for cases: Pediatric influenza-associated encephalopathy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has distributed a call for cases of pediatric influenza-associated encephalopathy and encephalitis during the 2024-25 influenza season.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is collaborating with CDC to investigate [reports](#) of influenza-associated encephalopathy and encephalitis (IAE), including acute necrotizing encephalopathy (ANE), in children < 18 years of age. In early 2025, CDC was notified of several anecdotal reports of pediatric cases of influenza-associated ANE, including 2 deaths. There is currently no national surveillance for IAE or ANE, and it is not known whether reported cases are within or above expected ranges.

**OHA asks all clinicians statewide to report any cases of pediatric IAE or ANE in Oregon who meet the following four criteria:**

1. Age < 18 years at time of symptom onset.
2. Admitted to an acute care hospital or pronounced dead in an emergency department between October 1, 2024--May 31, 2025.
3. Laboratory-confirmed influenza infection within 14 days preceding hospital presentation, during hospitalization, or in specimens collected post-mortem
4. Document neurologic abnormalities (must meet any one or more of the following):
  - Diagnosis of encephalopathy or encephalitis
  - Neurologic signs or symptoms lasting > 24 hours, including but not limited to seizures, altered mental status, delirium, decreased level of consciousness, lethargy, hallucinations, or personality change
  - Electroencephalogram (EEG) abnormalities
  - Abnormal brain autopsy findings

**Clinicians may report suspected cases to OHA through a secure [survey](#) or by emailing Dr. Melissa Sutton at [melissa.sutton@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:melissa.sutton@oha.oregon.gov).**