

FluTracking.net



Join
now!

What Is FluTracking?

*FluTracking is an online health surveillance system to detect epidemics of influenza. We are looking for people who live in **Australia** and have easy access to email on a weekly basis.*

It takes only 10 - 15 seconds per week to respond to an email about the symptoms you and/or your household members have had in the previous week. This data can provide an early warning system that will help us find ways to detect both seasonal influenza and, hopefully, pandemic influenza and other diseases so we can better protect the community from epidemics and pandemics.

You will receive weekly information on influenza-like illness activity in the region based on our expert analysis of the data. Participation is voluntary and your information will be kept totally confidential.

FluTracking is a Department of Health and Ageing funded project and is part of the National Surveillance Platform for Influenza. A summary of FluTracking data is included in the National Weekly Flu Report.



HUNTER NEW ENGLAND
NSW HEALTH



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THE FLUTRACKING PROGRAM

FluTracking was launched in the Australian winter of 2006 with 400 "FluTrackers" completing a 10 - 15 second online survey about flu-like symptoms each week.

This number of FluTrackers has increased to over 8,000 in subsequent years and, given the 2009 exposure to the Swine 'flu Pandemic, we are now seeking to expand participation to as many Australians as we can.

The project is funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and is expected to be ongoing. It is now part of the standard national surveillance platform for influenza and a summary of FluTracking weekly reports is included in the National Weekly Flu Report.

By comparing the rate of symptoms between vaccinated and unvaccinated participants, when and where influenza struck was able to be detected because the unvaccinated people had much higher rates of illness than those who were vaccinated.

The main aims of Flutracking are to develop a system that can rapidly determine:

- the onset of influenza in Australia and subregions
- the effectiveness of the influenza vaccine
- the severity of circulating influenza strains
- if influenza strains have changed

THE WEEKLY SURVEY

After the volunteers are recruited and provide informed consent they receive a weekly email containing a link to an online survey form.

The form asks about the presence of typical flu-like symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Cough
- Number of days absent from normal duties

Simple, but very effective.

So become a FluTracker now, and help protect Australia!

Further details can be obtained at <http://www.flutracking.net> or from:

FluTracking.net

flutracking@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au or phone (02) 4924 6477

The Business Continuity Institute

info@thebci.org.au

The FluTracking.net project is a joint initiative of Newcastle University, Hunter New England Population Health and the Hunter Medical Research Institute and is supported by the Business Continuity Institute as a valuable contribution to influenza response and management in Australia.