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**Influenzanet Agreed Case Definitions 2012/13**

We note that the function of these case definitions is to give sensible feedback to participants. It is helpful to have a simple system that makes use of the information we collect in a reasonable way and which does not allow sets of symptoms to fall through the gaps between our case definitions. The following flow diagram and case definitions will be used to determine the response given to participants.

**Flow diagram**

**1)** If report no symptoms, respond **NO SYMPTOMS**

Else, go to 2)

**2)** If report symptoms matching ILI case definition, respond **ILI**

Else, go to 3)

**3)** If report symptoms matching Allergy/hay fever and Gastro case definitions, respond **ALLERGY/HAY FEVER and GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOMS**

Else, if report symptoms matching Allergy/hay fever case definition, respond **ALLERGY/HAY FEVER**

Else, go to 4)

**4)** If report symptoms matching Cold (mild respiratory) and Gastro case definitions, respond **COMMON COLD and GASTROINTESTINAL SYMPTOMS**

Else, if report symptoms matching Cold (mild respiratory) case definition, respond **COMMON COLD**

Else, respond **NON-SPECIFIC SYMPTOMS.**

**Case definitions**

This requires 4 case definitions: for ILI, for Allergy/Hay fever, for Common cold (mild respiratory) and for Gastro, and for Non-specific symptoms.

**ILI**

Sudden onset of symptoms OR Sudden onset of fever

AND at least one of the following four systemic symptoms:

* Fever OR Chills OR Measured temperature ≥ 38ºC
* Feeling tired or exhausted (Malaise)
* Headache
* Muscle pain

AND at least one of the following three respiratory symptoms:

* Cough
* Sore throat
* Shortness of breath (dyspnoea)

**Allergy/hay fever**

Neither of: {Fever; Chills; Measured temperature ≥37 ºC }

AND At least one of {Runny or Blocked nose; Sneezing; Watery, bloodshot eyes} AND Patient suspects symptoms are due to Allergy/hay fever

*AND Does not meet the definition of ILI*

**Common cold (mild respiratory)**

At least two of {Runny or blocked nose; Sneezing; Cough; Sore throat}

*AND Does not meet the definition of ILI or Allergy/hay fever”*

**Gastrointestinal symptoms**

At least two of {Diarrhoea; Nausea; Vomiting; Stomach ache}

*AND Does not meet the definition of ILI*

**Non-specific symptoms**

If at least one symptom checked, but the combination of symptoms is such that they are not defined in any of the above categories, then define as “Non-specific symptoms”.

**Points to note**

- In this system, ILI trumps everything else; Allergy/Hay fever trumps Cold; Cold and Gastro are ranked equally.

- We only diagnose Allergy/Hay fever if that is what the participant tells us that they think is the cause of their symptoms, in their reply to Weekly **Q11: “**What do you think is causing your symptoms?”