

Colleagues,

Please find below the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) Modernization Initiative (NMI) Technical Assistance (TA) Coordination Team Update for August 28, 2015. These e-mail updates are a collaboration among the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and are sent biweekly in an effort to keep reporting jurisdictions and other partners and stakeholders updated on the progress of NMI.

For more information on NMI, please see the NMI FAQs at <http://www.cdc.gov/nmi/faq.html>. If you have questions not answered in the FAQs, please send them to edx@cdc.gov.

NNDSS Modernization Initiative Biweekly Update

August 28, 2015

NMI Overall Updates

- We wanted to let you know about two recent occurrences that will affect the progress of NMI:
 - CDC was working to extend the contract of the current Message Validation, Processing, and Provisioning System (MVPS) developer, which would have allowed the developer to deliver all products expected this fall and address any issues identified during subsequent testing.
 - The current vendor recently chose to decline the contract extension. As a result, we will transition to a new development contract sooner than anticipated.
 - We are evaluating how to make the transition as smooth as possible and to allow time for the knowledge transfer required to enable a new contractor to begin development work as quickly as possible.
 - The transition will likely affect our development timeline and delivery of software, and our goal of receiving production data for Generic V2, STDs, and hepatitis by December 2015 will not be fully met.
 - The other occurrence involves providing technical assistance to jurisdictions for message implementation.
 - A recent federal requirement mandates that cooperative agreement recipients must competitively bid all contracts more than \$100,000. As a result, NMI technical assistance will be delayed so that APHL can meet this new requirement to competitively bid the contract for messaging expertise needed for NMI.
 - APHL expects to release the request for proposals by the end of August and have a new contract in place at the beginning of November. APHL will use their employees with informatics expertise and a limited purchase of services to meet priority needs until then.
 - Overall, technical assistance to states will be limited until APHL can get a full complement of messaging experts back on board.
 - We will provide updates as we receive more information about when the new contracts will be in place. Once the transition to the new MVPS developer takes place, we will be able to provide an updated timeline for completion of the MVPS products.
- The National Electronic Disease Surveillance System Base System (NBS) Team built and tested a conversion from the HL7 messages to the NBS Master Message format. This conversion will

allow jurisdictions to implement the NBS 4.6 upgrade but continue to send data in the previous format until MVPS is ready to accept the new data. It will help with notifications associated with the Hepatitis and Generic v2 only conditions but will not address STD notifications.

Message Mapping Guide Development Updates

- **Message Mapping Guide (MMG) Status Updates:**
 - **Arboviral MMG (Requirements Analysis)**
 - Requirements analysis is approximately 80% complete.
 - The CDC Surveillance Operations Team (SOT) and Message and Vocabulary (M&V) Team is seeking approval from the program about the proposed data element list for inclusion in the draft Arboviral MMG.
 - **Varicella MMG (Requirements Analysis)**
 - Requirements analysis is 100% complete. The program has approved the proposed data element list for inclusion in the draft MMG and the proposed timeline for the development of the draft MMG.
 - **Mumps and Pertussis MMGs ([Stage I—Draft Phase](#))**
 - The program approved the pilot test-ready Mumps and Pertussis MMGs, Test Scenarios, Test Messages, and annotated case surveillance worksheets on 7/16/15.
 - All artifacts are going through CDC clearance so they can be posted to the Draft MMG Web Site as pilot test-ready drafts.
 - **Congenital Syphilis and STD MMGs ([Stage II—Pilot Test-ready Draft Phase](#))**
 - The MMG Development Team posted pilot test-ready versions of the STD and Congenital Syphilis MMGs and their artifacts to the Draft MMG Web Site.
 - **Generic v2 and Hepatitis MMGs ([Stage II—Pilot Test-ready Draft Phase](#))**
 - The MMG Development Team is updating the pilot test-ready versions of the Generic v2 and Hepatitis MMGs and their artifacts to incorporate new LOINC codes.
 - The revised MMGs and artifacts are expected to be posted to the Draft MMG Web Site by the end of August.
 - No guides are in [Stage III—Final MMG Phase](#) at this time.

Message Validation, Processing, and Provisioning System Updates

- The MVPS developer delivered the revised message processing functionality for Generic v2, STD, and Hepatitis to CDC on 7/2/15.
 - The installation script for the code had issues and the developer resent it on 7/6/15. The MVPS Team installed the code and retested it to confirm resolution of defects reported to the MVPS developer on 6/19/15.
 - During technical acceptance testing, the MVPS Team identified defects with the dashboard security functionality where programs could not access errors, warnings, or the raw HL7 message. The MVPS developer delivered a patch on 7/31/15 to resolve these defects, and the MVPS Team applied the patch.
 - The dashboard and message processing code is installed in the user acceptance testing (UAT) environment, and test messages are being loaded in support of independent validation testing by CDC programs and jurisdictions.

- UAT of the MVPS Dashboard and message processing functionality by the NMI pilot jurisdictions and CDC programs is being planned.
 - The MVPS Team held training for the CDC programs participating in MVPS UAT on 7/29/15 and 7/30/15 and for the pilot jurisdictions participating in UAT on 8/3/15. Participants learned how to use the MVPS Dashboard, what is expected of them during UAT, and how to conduct testing and report findings.
 - For jurisdictions to be able to access the UAT environment through CDC Secure Access Management Services (SAMS), the SAMS forwarder must be available externally. There were issues with the installation of the forwarder that needed resolution. All SAMS forwarder issues were resolved on 8/25/15.
 - The MVPS Team is preparing the UAT environment for independent validation testing. The team is removing all previous test data and loading new test messages to support the test scripts prepared by the MVPS Test Team. The goal is to start independent validation testing with the CDC programs on 9/1/15 and also with the pilot jurisdictions starting the week of 8/31/15 once all SAMS invitations have been sent.
- The MVPS Team continues to work on finalizing the data provisioning requirements and data dictionary mapping for Generic v2, Hepatitis, and STD in conjunction with SOT and the M&V Team.
 - The MVPS Team delivered the Generic v2 requirements to the MVPS developer on 6/4/15.
 - The MVPS Team met with the CDC programs to discuss the Generic v2, Hepatitis (7/23/15), and STD (8/4/15) data provisioning design and approach.
 - The MVPS Team delivered the data provisioning requirements to the MVPS developer for Hepatitis on 7/31/15 and delivered the data provisioning requirements for STD on 8/07/15.
- The MVPS Team also is working on the data provisioning requirements and developing the message processing guides (MPGs) for Congenital Syphilis, Mumps, and Pertussis.
- The MVPS Team is supporting the development of the Arboviral and Varicella MMGs by participating in the MMG Lifecycle activities.

Technical Assistance Updates

- **Update on Jurisdiction Implementation:** The NBS Team provides technical assistance (TA) for NBS pilot jurisdictions, and the APHL TA Team provides technical assistance for non-NBS pilot jurisdictions.
 - **Alabama:**
 - Alabama implemented the patch release for Beta 2 of the NBS 4.6 release that CDC provided on 7/27/15.
 - Currently, the state is testing STD messages by using the Message Evaluation and Testing Service (METS) tool and migrating STD data.
 - **Arkansas:**
 - Arkansas implemented the patch release for Beta 2 of the NBS 4.6 release that CDC provided on 7/27/15.
 - All of the state's Hepatitis test scenario notifications passed the METS tool without errors after updating the test messages to account for METS known issues.

- The state has completed message testing in METS and is ready to conduct end-to-end testing with CDC when MVPS is ready.
- **California:**
 - The APHL TA Team is currently customizing the Rhapsody route for California that will create HL7 messages based on their data extract for STD and Hepatitis.
- **Florida:**
 - Florida has created initial HL7 test messages for Hepatitis and is currently developing STD test messages.
 - The APHL TA Team will review and provide feedback on test messages as they are created.
- **Idaho:**
 - Idaho implemented the patch release for Beta 2 of the NBS 4.6 release that CDC provided on 7/27/15.
 - The state is currently testing STD messages using the METS tool.
- **Kentucky:**
 - Kentucky implemented the patch release for Beta 2 of the NBS 4.6 release that CDC provided on 7/27/15.
 - All of the state's Hepatitis test scenario notifications passed the METS tool without errors after updating the test messages to account for METS known issues.
 - The state has completed message testing in METS and is ready to conduct end-to-end testing with CDC when MVPS is ready.
- **Louisiana:**
 - Louisiana implemented the patch release for Beta 2 of the NBS 4.6 release that CDC provided on 7/27/15.
 - All of the state's Hepatitis test scenario notifications passed the METS tool without errors after updating the test messages to account for METS known issues.
 - The state has completed message testing in METS and is ready to conduct end-to-end testing with CDC when MVPS is ready.
- **Michigan:**
 - Michigan attended an MVPS Dashboard and UAT training session on 8/3/15.
 - Michigan completed the full suite of test messages for Hepatitis and STD and is ready for independent validation.
- **Minnesota:**
 - The APHL TA Team is reviewing and providing feedback on the data extract for STD and Hepatitis that will be used to customize the Rhapsody route for Minnesota.
- **New York:**
 - This week, APHL will reach out to New York to see their progress on development of Generic v2.
- **Oregon:**
 - Oregon attended an MVPS Dashboard and UAT training session on 8/3/15.
 - Oregon created HL7 test messages for Hepatitis and is building the full suite of messages for STD.

- The APHL TA Team will review and provide feedback on test messages as they are created.
 - **Tennessee:**
 - Tennessee implemented the patch release for Beta 2 of the NBS 4.6 release that CDC provided on 7/27/15.
 - The state is testing the base Hepatitis page and porting the legacy data to the new template.
 - **Texas:**
 - Texas implemented the patch release for Beta 2 of the NBS 4.6 release that CDC provided on 7/27/15.
 - The state is currently testing Hepatitis messages using the METS tool.
- CSTE will work with all of the pilot jurisdictions to evaluate the NMI TA efforts.
- Reminder about MMG status:
 - MMGs in Stages I and II are considered draft and may be revised until the time they are finalized.
 - Those jurisdictions selected for pilot testing of the test-ready versions (Stage II) of the MMGs should wait until contacted by the NMI TA Team before using the test-ready MMGs, before implementing surveillance information system changes, and before submitting test messages to CDC.
 - All other jurisdictions should not plan to submit data to CDC or implement MMG-based updates to their surveillance information systems until the final MMGs (Stage III) have been posted.
- For more information about technical assistance:
 - Please see the NMI FAQs at <http://www.cdc.gov/nmi/faq.html>.
 - For pilot jurisdictions: If you have questions specific to NMI TA, please contact Laura Carlton, APHL, at laura.carlton@aphl.org.
 - For non-pilot jurisdictions: If you have questions or would like to request TA through the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) Cooperative Agreement, please email edx@cdc.gov.

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