

**Oregon Health Authority
Syndromic Surveillance**

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approve the submission of a federal grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for up to \$400,000 per year for four years to enhance syndromic surveillance.

Syndromic surveillance is the collection and analysis of near “real time” health data, primarily from emergency departments, used to detect unusual activity for further public health investigation or response. This is useful for events such as influenza season, disease outbreaks, wildfires, and large gatherings. Oregon’s system, called Oregon ESSENCE, was adopted in 2010 and includes daily automated data transfer from 99% of statewide emergency department visits.

The grant would be used to develop regional training and conduct exercises that would include local health departments in Oregon, all Oregon hospitals and health systems that provide emergency department care, and the Washington Department of Health. Funds would also be used to improve data quality, and would enable Oregon to participate in the national syndromic surveillance system.

No state matching funds are required for the grant. If successful, the agency expects to need two limited duration positions for training, data analysis, and data quality.

The Human Services Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.