

# **Framework for Evaluating Public Health Surveillance Systems For Early Detection of Outbreaks**

**Drafted by Dr. Daniel Sosin  
Director, Division of Public Health  
Surveillance and Informatics, CDC**

This draft framework for evaluating surveillance systems for early detection of outbreaks is a work-in-progress of many interested public health practitioners across the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and our partners in federal, state, and local health agencies, academia, the business sector, and the military. This draft was updated on August 26, 2003 in preparation for the National Syndromic Surveillance Conference in New York City, October 23-24, 2003. The current draft has been guided by the additional input of an expert working group convened by CDC. A number of changes have been incorporated in the current draft, including to the scope of this document to address the evaluation of early detection of outbreaks through surveillance, rather than only syndromic surveillance systems.

Given the high level of interest in the objectives of this framework, and our ongoing desire to improve and transform the framework into useful guidelines for evaluating early detection surveillance, we are making this working DRAFT of the Framework available through this Internet site. We encourage discussion and debate of the Framework and practical applications of the concepts herein. A formal publication is planned for spring of 2004.

Please share comments, suggestions, and relevant examples that could be used to strengthen the document with Daniel M. Sosin (contact information enclosed).

**2003 National Syndromic Surveillance Conference  
October 23-24, 2003**

**Sponsored by the  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
New York Academy of Medicine**

**Supported by  
The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation**

