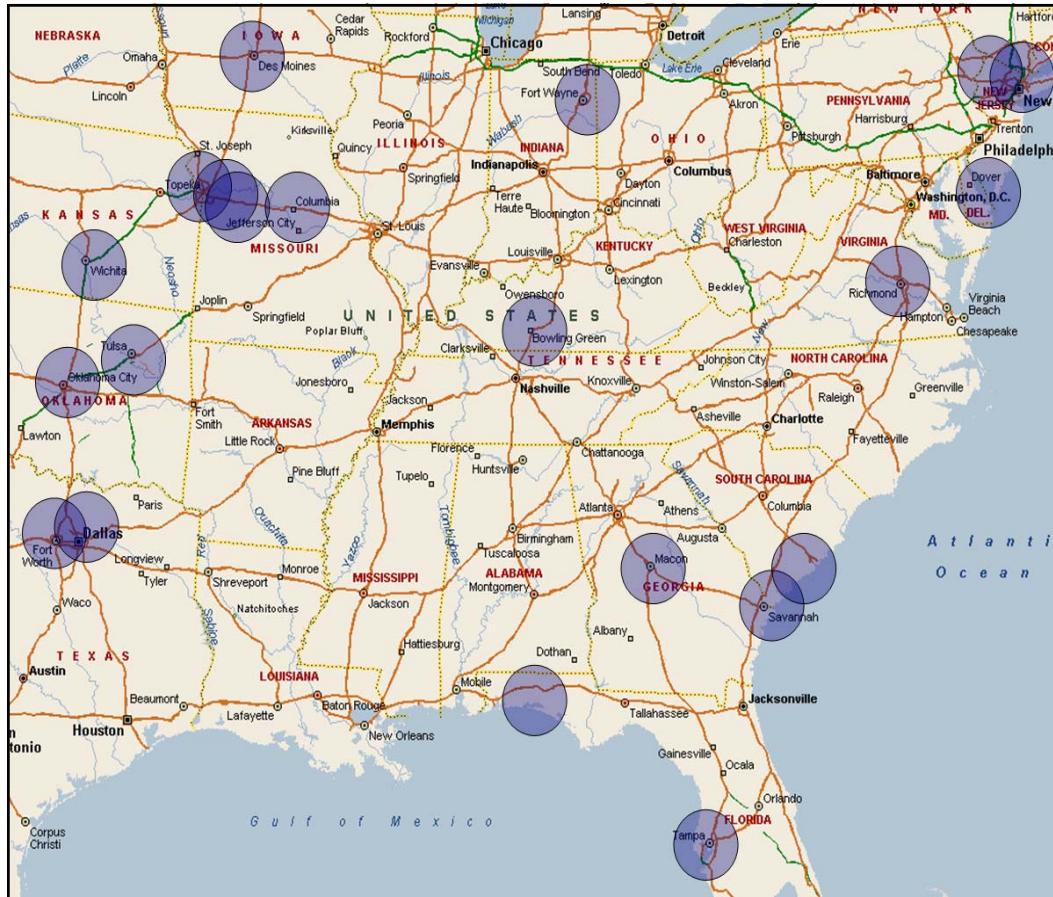




Regional Influenza Network (RIN) Trigger



Using FirstWatch, public health officials from 19 communities (representing 13 states) are tracking potential flu outbreaks by monitoring live calls to 9-1-1 Public Safety Dispatch Centers.

Epidemiologists are monitoring for spikes in “flu-like symptoms,” including respiratory problems, abdominal pain, headache and other indicators associated with possible flu cases. The RIN Trigger can monitor these symptoms whether they appear in a local jurisdiction, in regional geographic clusters, or even across the entire population.

The built-in ability to aggregate data from different cities makes the RIN Trigger an even more powerful and timely tool for public health and public safety agencies.

Because FirstWatch monitors trends using real-time data, public health personnel know they can start to investigate much earlier than if they were to wait for lab results or reports from doctors’ offices. Participating RIN communities share data (and related pattern criteria) which could indicate potential outbreaks, providing crucial hours, or days of advance warning.

Map (above) shows current communities that are participating in the RIN network, including: Bergen County, NJ; Boone County (Columbia), MO; Bowling Green, KY; Charleston County, SC; Des Moines, IA; Ft Wayne, IN; Ft Worth, TX; Independence, MO; Johnson County, KS; Kansas City, MO; Macon, GA; Oklahoma City, OK; Plano, TX; Richmond, VA; Savannah, GA; Sedgwick County, KS; Sussex County, DE; Long Island, NY and Tulsa, OK.