



NEDSS

National Electronic Disease Surveillance System

Background

National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) is an Internet-based infrastructure for public health surveillance data exchange that uses specific PHIN (Public Health Information Network) and NEDSS Data Standards. NEDSS also relies heavily on industry standards (including: standard vocabulary code sets such as LOINC, SNOMED, and HL7), policy-level agreements on data access, and the protection of confidentiality. NEDSS represents an ongoing close collaboration between the CDC and its public health partners.

NEDSS is not a single, monolithic application, but a system of interoperable subsystems, components and systems modules that include software applications developed and implemented by the CDC; those developed and implemented by State and local health departments and those created by commercial services and vendors.

Strategic Realignment

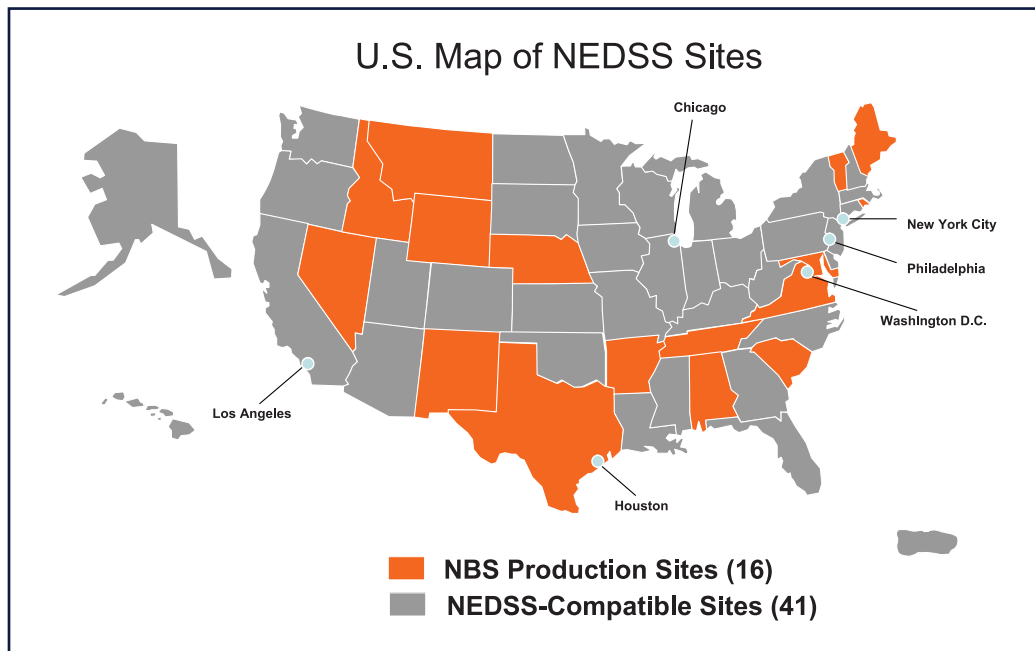
During Fiscal Year 07, CDC's NEDSS Project strategically realigned its funding and long range planning to better address changing information technology capabilities and to meet emerging needs in local, State, and national public health surveillance. These realigned resources will support standards-based PHIN and American Health Information Community (AHIC)-approved, electronic message exchange between public health stakeholders.

The strategic realignment of NEDSS funding moves the project from work to design, develop, deploy, and support a new CDC-built NEDSS Program Area Module (PAM) Platform application to a new business model. Today, in addition to the commercial products now available, many states have used in-house resources to develop NEDSS-compatible applications. This changing business environment provides CDC with new opportunities to enhance the NEDSS vision of national integrated surveillance, while remaining focused on supporting state and local health department surveillance data systems needs.



Current Status

When NEDSS began in 2001, no state had integrated public health surveillance systems as articulated in the NEDSS vision; today over 35 states have implemented surveillance systems based on this vision. Today NEDSS, along with the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Cooperative Agreement, provides major financial support directly to state and local public health surveillance systems to develop or purchase integrated NEDSS-compatible applications.



Initially, CDC responded to requests from states seeking assistance to obtain NEDSS software solutions. Often these requests were based on local and State information technology (IT) resource constraints. The CDC NEDSS Base System (NBS) was designed and developed by CDC to meet those needs. Today, 16 states use the NBS and it is a mission-critical application for them. The NBS is an important component of the comprehensive NEDSS vision of a national integrated surveillance system, and CDC will continue to support those states relying on the NBS.

Future Plans

The NEDSS project will continue support of the NBS by adding new functionality and enhancements that address stakeholder needs. Additionally, increased resources will be devoted to standards-based electronic messaging between stakeholders at multiple levels (providers, labs, local and state public health, and CDC). Finally, the NEDSS project will increase the resources, technical support, and training required to accelerate successful adoption of the NEDSS Message Subscription Service (MSS).