

# Health Event Surveillance System

## Background

A large public health department in Chicago has a mission to make a safer and healthier city by working with community partners to promote health, prevent disease, reduce environmental hazards and ensure access to health care for their citizens.



## Client Needs

In response to the NEDSS initiative driven by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this large public health department was mandated as a selected city to effectively and rapidly be able to detect a terrorist event with an effective disease surveillance system. The NEDSS vision put forth by the CDC includes use of the internet for data collection and transmission, collection of data as close to the source as possible, incorporation of electronic laboratory reporting and use of uniform coding schemas and data transmission protocols.

## Sofbang Solution

Sofbang worked closely with this public health department to design, architect and build this system to improve the timeliness and accuracy of disease reporting and surveillance information. The Sofbang team worked with the various stakeholders across 5 surveillance programs, understanding and implementing the program's objectives. Sofbang's implementation impacted the people, operations and technology of both the public health department and its external stakeholders, including the provider/hospital community.

## Effective Results

The public health department and its various stakeholders were able to achieve the following results:

- Enhance accuracy**, completeness, and timeliness of public health surveillance information
- Integrate surveillance data** across five program areas and the Office of Vital Records
- Provide real-time access** to data
- Reduce redundant data entry
- Support preparedness** and response for public health threats, including bioterrorism and infectious disease outbreaks
- Improve collaboration** across health agencies and jurisdictions, including hospitals and laboratories and the State
- Adhere to CDC standards**, PHIN and HIPAA specifications