We hope your new year is going well. We’d like to remind everyone to review any outstanding 2014 events that remain pending in your workflows. We ask that all Boards of Health complete their 2014 cases to the best of their ability by the end of March.

By now you should be noticing specific “concerns” showing up in:
- babesiosis events,
- enteric events like salmonellosis, and
- vaccine preventable disease events such as pertussis.

Concerns (initially enabled in December 2013) highlight questions of importance to be completed during a case investigation. Once the question noted in the concern is answered, the concern will no longer show up in red on the dashboard.
Each of the highlighted questions chosen for the concerns was also considered a “Key Indicator Variable” on the Surveillance Evaluation Reports which were disseminated to local health departments in November 2013 and October 2014. Occupation is a key indicator variable for salmonellosis and other reportable enteric conditions. In order for a salmonellosis event to be considered completely investigated, occupation must be noted in the demographic question package.

We recently compared the completeness of these variables in 2013 vs. 2014 to see what impact, if any, concerns had on completeness. What we found was very encouraging!
For salmonellosis, 48% (N=482) of 1013 confirmed cases were missing occupational information for 2013. In 2014, 25% (N=278) of 1121 confirmed cases were missing occupational information.

For babesiosis, 19% (N=71) of 366 confirmed cases were missing blood transfusion information for 2013. In 2014, 10% (N=45) of 467 confirmed cases were missing blood transfusion information.

We did not see a significant impact from concerns on the vaccine question when comparing 2013 to 2014. This may be because MDPH Epidemiologists have gone back into older events to complete this question.

Overall, incorporating concerns into MAVEN significantly reduced the percentage of missing information for the highlighted questions. In the future, we may consider adding new concerns for other diseases to highlight questions of particular importance.

If you have questions about MAVEN, please email isishelp@state.ma.us or contact the MAVEN help desk at 617-983-6801.