

Comment ID: CDC-2026-0166-0003

I support this proposed data collection effort to expand school-based surveillance of chronic conditions such as ME/CFS among children. This type of data collection is necessary to better understand conditions that are often underdiagnosed and overlooked.

For example, students who experience persistent fatigue, frequent absences, and difficulty keeping up academically may go years without a clear diagnosis because their symptoms are not consistently tracked or recognized as part of a broader pattern. By enabling school nurses to identify and report these trends, this program can help bridge the gap between early symptoms and proper medical evaluation.

I believe this approach has practical value because it not only improves public health data but also supports earlier intervention, which can lead to better outcomes for students and reduce long-term impacts on their education and well-being.

Response: Thank you for your thoughtful and well-articulated support for this proposed data collection effort. Expanding school-based surveillance of chronic conditions such as ME/CFS is indeed an important step toward improving our understanding of conditions that often go unrecognized in children. We appreciate your recognition of the practical value of this work and your support for moving it forward.

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CDC school-based surveillance programs need to accelerate to standards-based APIs (such as FHIR APIs) to enable reporting from school health systems and pediatric EHRs. Such automated reporting (including reporting of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome) will reduce burden and improve national surveillance accuracy.

Response: Thank you for highlighting the importance of advancing toward standards-based Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for CDC's school-based surveillance program in ME/CFS. Enabling direct reporting from

school health systems and pediatric Electronic Health Records (EHRs) is indeed a critical step toward modernizing data exchange.

Given the current challenges in interoperability between school systems and healthcare systems in the United States, we are focusing on leveraging the data and capabilities that are presently available within school settings. However, we share your vision and hope to move toward interoperable, standards-aligned APIs in the future to support a more consistent, efficient, and scalable infrastructure across jurisdictions.

Your comment underscores an essential direction for system enhancement, and we appreciate your thoughtful contribution to this discussion.