

# UT-NEDSS UPDATE

JANUARY 29, 2009

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **UT-NEDSS DEPLOYED AS A NETSS REPLACEMENT!**
- **TECHNICAL SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**
- **RELEASE 4 COMPLETED**

## UT-NEDSS IN PRODUCTION USE

UT-NEDSS went into full production use statewide on January 20, 2009. The development of this new disease surveillance and management system began just more than one year ago. The successful deployment of UT-NEDSS can be attributed to the tremendous amount of collaboration which has occurred between the software developer (Collaborative Software initiative (CSI)), local health departments (LHDs), the Utah Department of Health (UDOH), and the Utah Department of Technology Services (DTS).

The primary goal of the UT-NEDSS project, to date, has been to develop a system that would replace the "NETSS" system that had been in use for more than 15 years. NETSS was primarily a disease surveillance system that also captured supplemental epidemiological data for selected diseases. NETSS could also export selected disease-specific data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on a weekly basis. In addition to the features needed to replace NETSS, UT-NEDSS has many features that were never available before.

One of UT-NEDSS' new features is that it is a secure, web-based system, which enables all LHDs and UDOH to share the same database. This should help prevent duplicate and triplicate data entry and shorten the time to detect anomalies in

disease activity.

Another new feature is the ability to electronically route disease reports both intra- and inter-jurisdictionally (including an "audit trail" to track key activities associated with a disease investigation). This feature should help to minimize faxing and batching.

UT-NEDSS also has the ability for one to enter administrative- and clinical-related notes that are date-/time-stamped.

There are many additional features which cannot be described in detail in this update. Please contact David Jackson ([davidjackson@utah.gov](mailto:davidjackson@utah.gov)) or Rachel Herlihy ([rherlihy@utah.gov](mailto:rherlihy@utah.gov)) if you have questions about other features or need to gain access to the system.



UT-NEDSS—Connecting local and state public health departments and partners

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following accomplishments have been made towards the UT-NEDSS project since the last update:

- UT-NEDSS was successfully deployed statewide!
- The form builder tool has been substantially refined. Nearly 50 disease forms have been completed and published, to date, for use in the system.
- UT-NEDSS has successfully exported Utah's disease summary data to CDC and Utah's Indicator-Based Information System (IBIS).
- More than one-half of the UT-NEDSS development project has been completed.
- The UT-NEDSS software developer, Collaborative Software Initiative (CSI) announced their product name for the system as "CSI TriSano™" (see *Glossary* on page 2), the name by which the project will be known both nationally and internationally. The project's exposure at these levels may help to establish a stronger collaborative effort to develop the free and open source software (see *Glossary*) and build long-term product sustainability.

## NEXT STEPS

Release (see *Glossary* to the right) 4 development, the fourth of approximately 20 releases identified in the UT-NEDSS project roadmap, was completed this month. The UT-NEDSS Core Team (comprised of public health subject matter experts), CSI's Development Team, and several LHD case managers and investigators held planning meetings January 27-28 to plan the next stage of development.

The primary aim for the next release (scheduled for completion by March 31, 2009) is to develop key advanced case management tools to address the following items: scheduling/calendaring, links to the disease plans, tools to track voluntary/involuntary

isolation and/or quarantine, and decision support tools. The features will include advanced case management tools for prevention and control of perinatal hepatitis B infections, tuberculosis, chronic hepatitis C, and syphilis cases.

The next iteration (see *Glossary*), which is scheduled for completion on February 18, 2009, will be focused on features associated with repeat encounters with cases (including additional functionality for logging clinical notes, tracking treatments, creating special encounter forms, etc.), task management, and other user needs.

## HELP DESK (“REMEDY”) FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

UT-NEDSS users can get technical support for the system in a variety of ways. One can report UT-NEDSS problems or requests through the DTS Help Desk by telephone (801-538-3440 or 1-800-678-3440) or internet (<http://dts.utah.gov/>), including live chat.

Please visit the UDOH UT-NEDSS webpage (<http://health.utah.gov/nedss/>) for step-by-step instructions for accessing the DTS Remedy Help Desk System to report a problem.

## STAY UPDATED AND KNOW WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

There are several ways to stay updated with and connected to UT-NEDSS project activities, including the following:

- Continue to read the UT-NEDSS project update, which will continue to be provided on a regular basis to stakeholders throughout the duration of the project.
- Visit the project's open source site at <http://www.trisano.org>.
- Visit the UDOH UT-NEDSS site at <http://health.utah.gov/nedss>, which includes a UT-NEDSS user manual.

- Visit the project's collaborative website here: <https://www.csinitiative.net> (please contact Mike Herrick ([mike@csinitiative.com](mailto:mike@csinitiative.com)), CSI's Program Manager for TriSano, if you cannot access the site).
- Contact Rachel Herlihy ([rherlihy@utah.gov](mailto:rherlihy@utah.gov)), UDOH's UT-NEDSS Implementation Team Leader.
- Contact David Jackson ([davidjackson@utah.gov](mailto:davidjackson@utah.gov)), UDOH's UT-NEDSS Product Manager.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following software development terms will be used regularly in UT-NEDSS updates and discussions:

- **Free and Open Source Software** — Software that is copyrighted and licensed so that there is no charge to use it and all users have access to the source code that defines the software.
- **Iterations** — A subset of “Release” features that are used to create smaller units of work that are then taken on by the Development Team. They are typically much smaller than the size of the overall project. Iterations allow the Development Team to achieve progress in very short periods of time.
- **NETSS** — National Electronic Telecommunication System for Surveillance.
- **Releases** — Releases contain a set of functionality that is useful to users.
- **TriSano™ (tri-SAH-no)** — The product name for UT-NEDSS. “Tri” represents the collaboration between local, state and federal entities. It also depicts the primary disciplines of public health, including epidemiology, biostatistics and health services. “Tri” also refers to the epidemiological triad of people, place, and time. “Sano” is a Spanish adjective meaning “promoting good health”. The goal for the TriSano application is to help protect the health of people throughout our communities, our nation, and the world.
- **UT-NEDSS** — Utah-National Electronic Disease Surveillance System.