

## Influenza and Influenza-like Illness Surveillance

MMWR Week 6  
February 8-14, 2009

### Media Talking Points

---

**Activity Level: Widespread Activity**

- Definition: Increased ILI in at least half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.

**Surveillance Data:**

- Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Sentinel Providers reported 1.29% of patients had ILI signs and symptoms. Influenza-like Illness is defined as a fever ( $\geq 100^{\circ}$  F), **and** cough and/or sore throat. Temperature can be measured in the physician's office or at home.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) sales experienced a statistically significant deviation from the expected in six regions.
- Emergency department visits experienced a statistically significant deviation from the expected in seven regions.
- ODH lab reported 50 positive confirmed isolates (total through 2/17/09). Circulating Strains: (39) Influenza A/ (H1N1), (11) Influenza B/Malaysia-like.
- Influenza B viruses currently circulating in the U.S. can be divided into two lineages represented by the B/Yamagata/16/88 and B/Victoria/02/87 viruses. The influenza B viruses identified by the ODH lab belong to the B/Victoria lineage and are not related to the current vaccine strain.
- Influenza-associated hospitalizations reported indicate 17 positive results by culture confirmation (total through 2/17/09): (14) Influenza A, (3) Influenza B.
- Incidence of 2009 confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations = 109 (total through 2/17/09).
- No pediatric influenza-associated mortality reports have been made (through 2/17/09).

**2008-09 Season Cumulative Influenza Results reported by ODH Lab by County\***

County	# A/(H1N1)	# A/(H3N2)	# B/Florida-like	# B/Malaysia-like	Total
Cuyahoga	3			1	4
Franklin	14			1	15
Hamilton	2			1	3
Holmes				1	1
Knox	3				3
Lorain	1				1
Montgomery	3			3	6
Stark	13			4	17
<b>Season Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>50</b>

\*Lab data based on county of provider that submitted specimen.

Analysis Considerations:

- No significant or confirmed geographic clustering of any data was detected.
- No outbreaks are indicated.
- Influenza-associated hospitalization became a reportable condition on 1/1/09. Therefore, only cases that were entered after 1/1/09 will be considered for analysis purposes.
- Care should be given when relying on results of point of care rapid diagnostic test kits during times when influenza is not circulating widely. The sensitivity and specificity of these tests vary and the positive predictive value may be low outside of the time of peak influenza activity. Therefore, the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory (ODHL) conducts culture confirmation for influenza testing, and these results are used in conjunction with other data sources to determine Ohio's influenza activity level each week. Viral culture tests that are reported for cases of influenza-associated hospitalizations will also be taken into consideration when determining influenza activity levels.

National activity levels and more information can be found at the following CDC pages:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

If you have any further questions or comments about surveillance for seasonal influenza for the State of Ohio, please contact Shannon Page at [Shannon.Page@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Shannon.Page@odh.ohio.gov) or by telephone at (614) 466-0456.