



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 11

Week ending March 17, 2012, with updates through 03/25/2012.

All data are preliminary and may change as additional information is received.

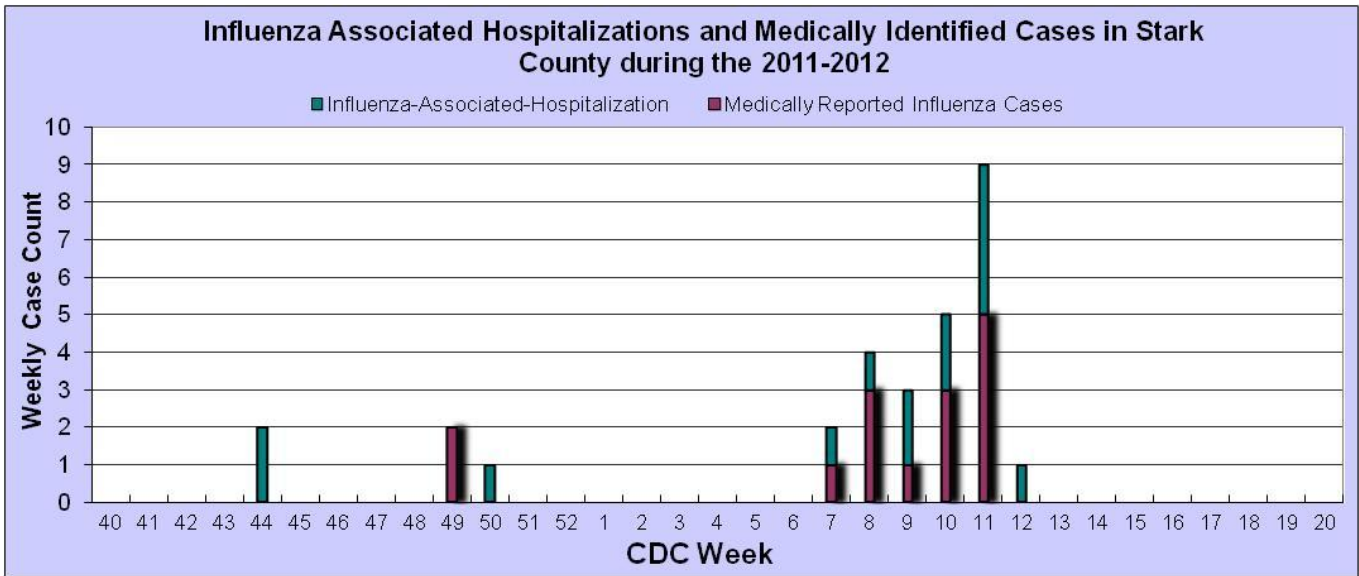
NOTE: Compilation of multiyear averages does not include the 2009/2010 H1N1 season.

During CDC Week 11, (Mar 11-Mar 17, 2012) the greatest number of influenza cases were reported in Stark County. Concurrently, the Nation saw the epidemic threshold for influenza reached, as reported by Sentinel Influenza Providers. Additionally the nation saw increases in indicators related to the severity of illness associated with influenza.

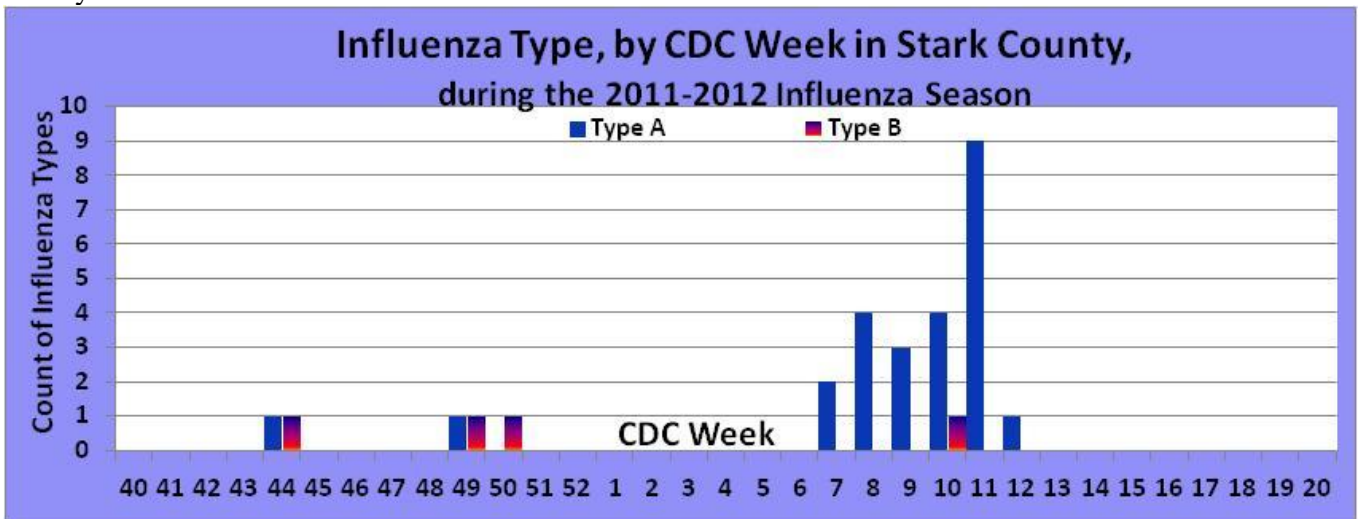
- Four Hospitalizations and five medically/laboratory reported cases of influenza were reported in Stark County residents during week CDC Week 11. Fourteen hospitalizations and fifteen medically/laboratory cases have been reported this season. (Graph 1)
- Demographics for the 14 influenza-associated hospitalized cases during the 2011-2012 season in Stark County: the age range is 0.08–87 years with a **median of 70 years**. Thirteen cases were reported with race information of these 11 (85%) were Caucasian and 2 (15%) were African American/Black.
- Among the 29 cases of influenza identified in Stark County, three have been type B, one was Type A (H3), two are Type A (H1) and 23 were Type A with unknown characterization. (See Graph 2) The CDC has antigenically characterized 747 influenza viruses since Oct 1, 2011: 158 (21%) 2009 H1N1, 472 (63%) influenza A (H3N2) viruses, and 117 (16%) influenza B virus (49 Victoria Lineage which is a part of this season's vaccine and 68 of the Yamagata Lineage which is the recommended influenza B component of the 2012-2013 vaccine.).
- Week 11 National indicators of outpatient activity of influenza-like-illness (ILI), as reported by Sentinel Providers, **increased** to 2.4%. The National outpatient activity level equaled the epidemic baseline of 2.4% for the first time this season. Stark County Providers report **no** influenza activity this week. (Graph 3)
- Emergency Department visits specifically for symptoms consistent with Constitutional and Respiratory (C & R) Syndrome **decreased** to 30% in Week 11. In contrast, Emergency Department visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) + Fever syndrome **increased** to a level last seen during the last week of 2011. Both of these syndromes **dropped** during Week 12. (Graph 4)
- Over-The-Counter (OTC) sales of both cough and cold products and thermometers experienced **declining** sales volumes during week 11. Declines also continued into week 12. (Graph 5)
- 31 Schools reported a **decrease** in school absenteeism during CDC Week 11. Currently, the total median absenteeism is 3.5%, down from 4.0% in Week 10. (Graph 6)
- During week 11, the State of Ohio geographic spread activity level of influenza remained at Regional activity. The activity level definition for Ohio can be found at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/seasflu/ohfluactivity.aspx>. Nationally, Widespread activity was reported by 20 states, Regional activity by a total of 20 states, Local activity by 2 states and Sporadic activity by 8 states. (See Map)
- During CDC Week 11, National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I, **increased** to 7.6%. This is below the P & I epidemic threshold, currently at 7.9%.
- Nationally, three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 11. They were associated with 2009 H1N1 (2) and influenza B (1) viruses. The deaths reported during week 11 occurred during the weeks ending February 4, 2012 (week 5), March 3, 2012 (week 9), and March 17, 2012 (week 11). This brings the total number of influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported during the 2011-2012 season to eight. There have been no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported from Ohio.

For questions, or to receive this report weekly by email, send requests to either chenning@cantonhealth.org or drinkardl@starkhealth.org.

Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments Note, Influenza is only reportable if associated with a hospitalization; therefore, this only represents a small number of actual influenza cases in Stark County.

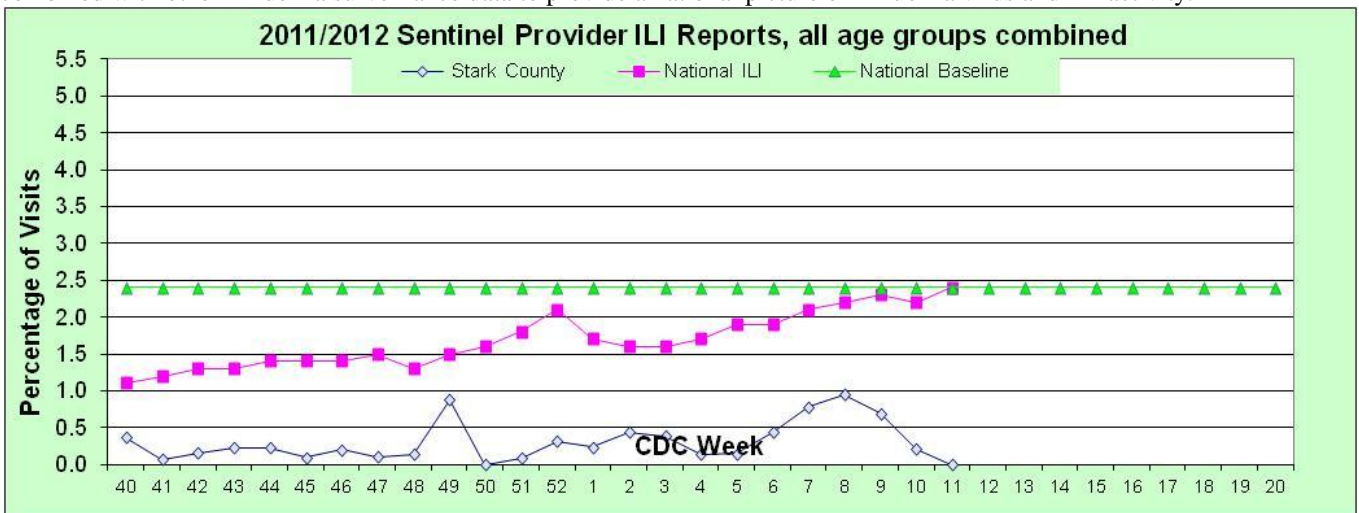


Graph 2: Stark County Influenza Type, by CDC Week in Stark County. The graph depicts the number of cases reported with hospitalization and by the medical community combined, per CDC week. All cases are Stark County residents.



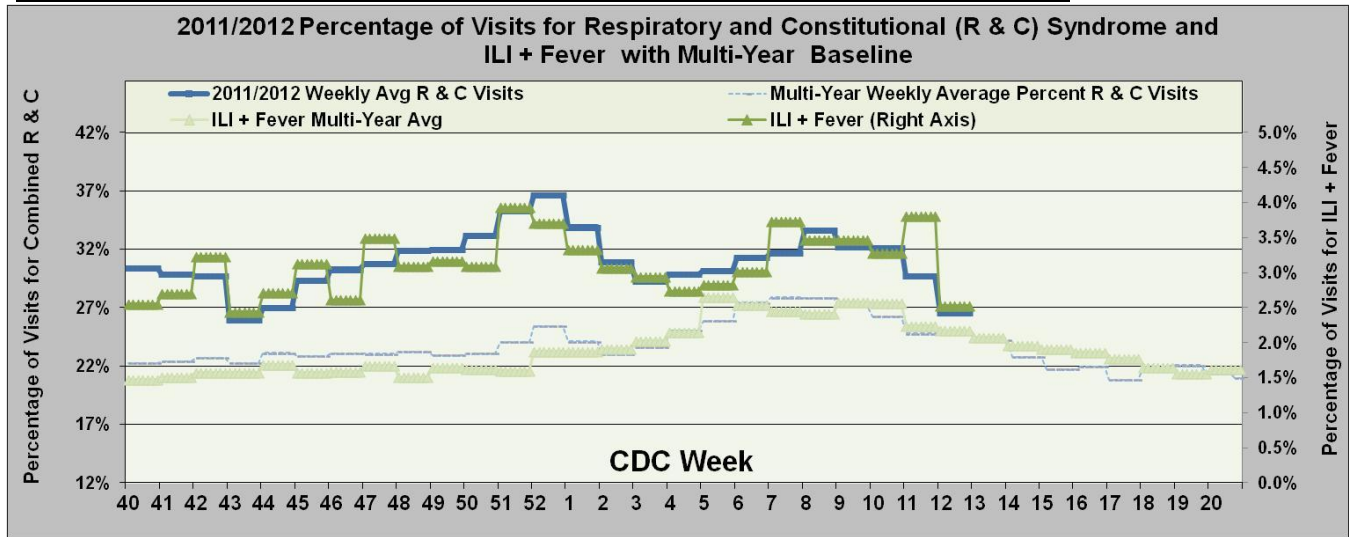
Graph 3: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

Sentinel Providers-An influenza sentinel provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the state health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by Stark Counties 4 providers are combined with other influenza surveillance data to provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity.



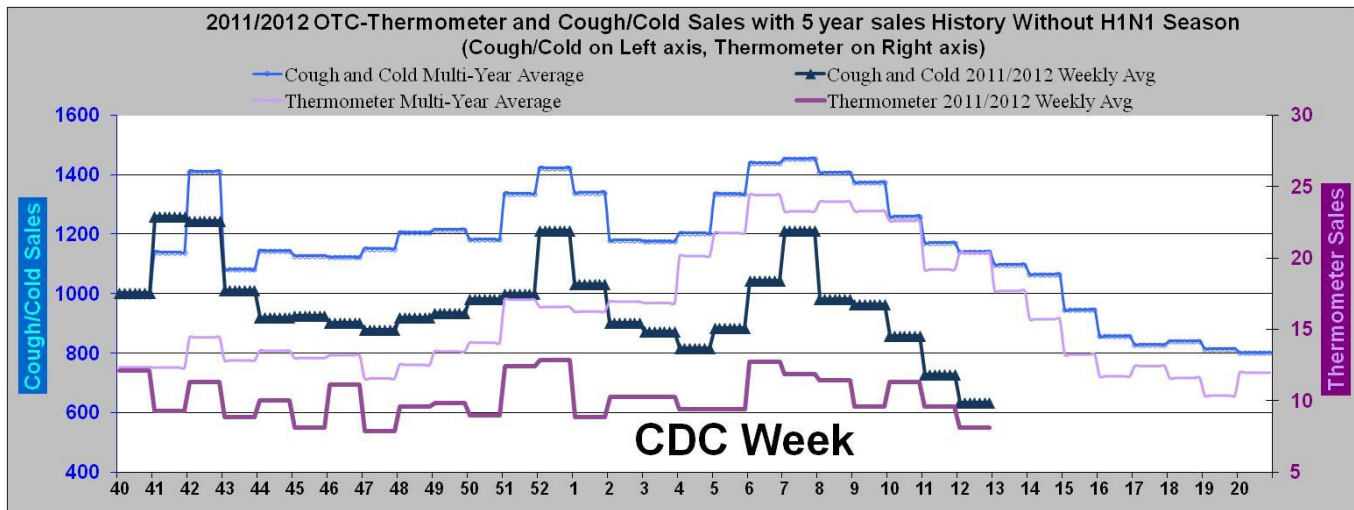
Graph 4: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes and for ILI + Fever Syndrome

(Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital and stat care patient registration surveillance system)
 (Note a loss of data was observed from 3 small facilities during CDC weeks 42-46)

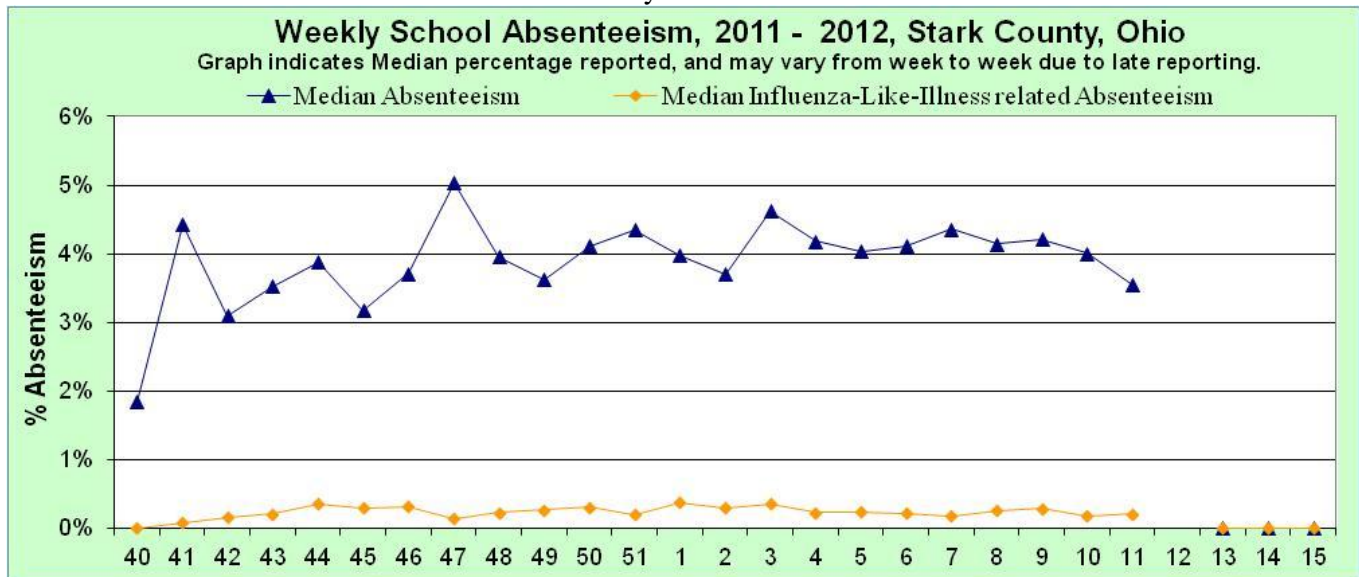


Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County

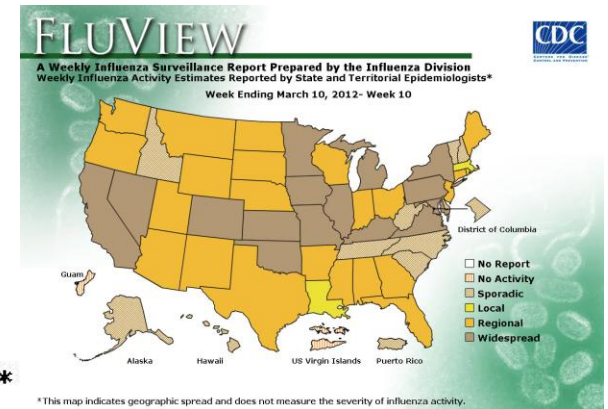
Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



Graph 6: School Absenteeism. School systems from throughout Stark County report total absenteeism and absenteeism due to influenza-like-illness on a weekly basis.



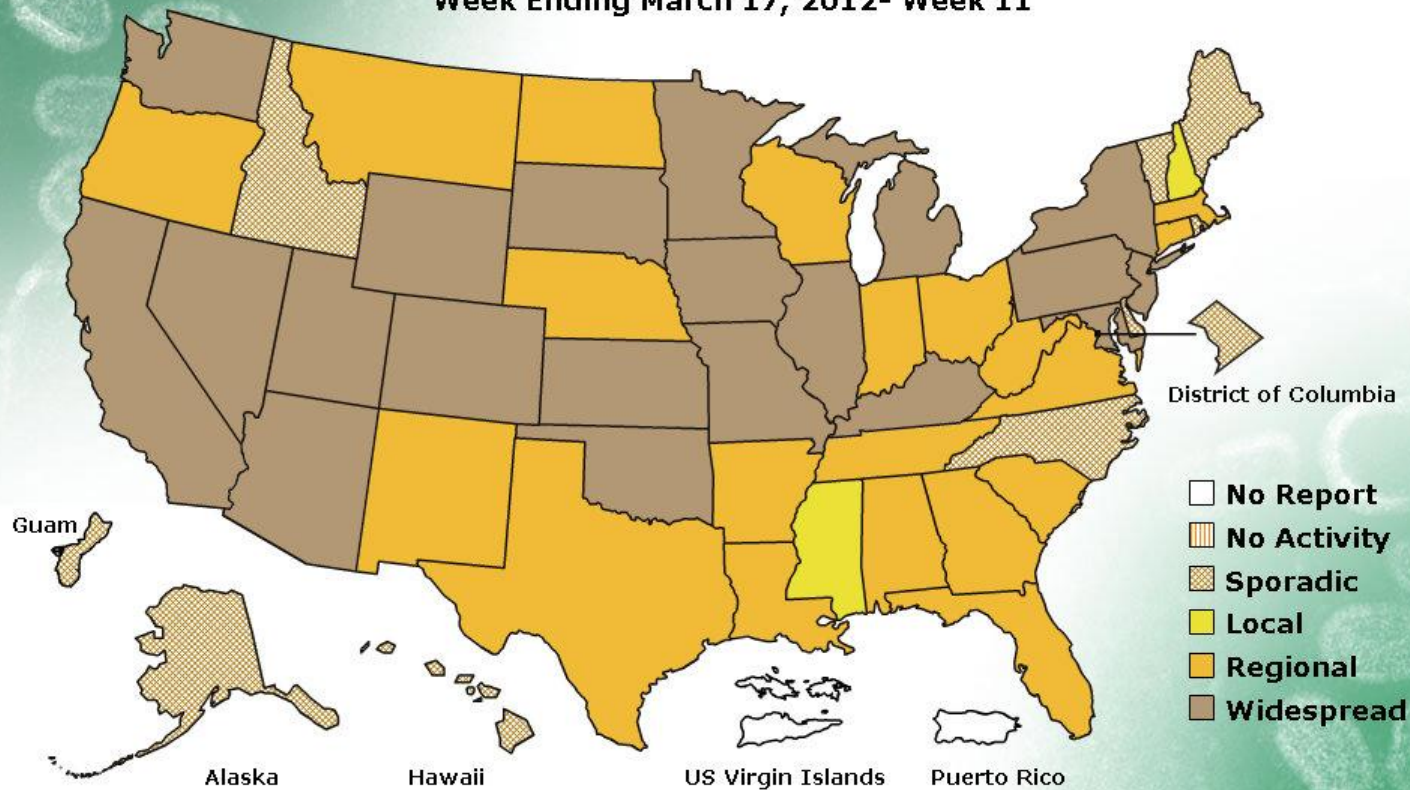
Map: Weekly Geographic Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists
(Inset is previous week)



FLUVIEW

A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*

Week Ending March 17, 2012- Week 11



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

Sources of Influenza Surveillance Data

Six types of data sources are examined on a weekly basis to help paint a picture of influenza activity in our community:

- **Emergency Department Visits (EpiCenter):** EpiCenter collects emergency department chief complaint data from 4 hospital facilities and 5 Stat Cares across Stark County in real time and classifies them into symptom and syndrome categories. Chief complaints from the combined constitutional and respiratory syndrome category and the fever + ILI symptoms classifier are analyzed for influenza surveillance. Secure sign in source: <https://epicenter.hmsinc.com/epicenter/login.html>.
- **National Retail Data Monitor (NRDM)-OTC Drug Purchases:** The NRDM collects over-the-counter (OTC) drug sales information from approximately 1,420 Ohio chain drug stores and grocery stores. For influenza surveillance, thermometer and adult cold relief sales are monitored on a weekly basis from sales in Stark County. Secure sign in source: <https://www.rods.pitt.edu/rods3/>.
- **Sentinel Providers (ILINet):** Sentinel providers, through the US Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), collect outpatient ILI data. Providers report the total number of patients seen and the number of patients with ILI by age group on a weekly basis. Sentinel providers also submit specimens for influenza testing to the ODH laboratory throughout the influenza season. There are 68 sentinel providers enrolled in Ohio and 3 in Stark County for the 2011-2012 season. Source: Ohio Department of Health Influenza Surveillance Coordinator.
- **ODH and Local Laboratory Surveillance:** The Ohio Department of Health Laboratory reports the number of specimens that test positive for influenza each week. Generally, specimens are submitted by sentinel provider participants. A subset of the positive specimens is sent to CDC for further testing during the season. Laboratory reports from larger physician practices and hospital laboratories in the county are voluntarily submitted each week to the four health departments. They may include age, zip code, and race and help to describe the demographic pattern of illness and type of influenza circulating in the community. Source for ODH information: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/seasflu/ohfluactivity.aspx> and individual medical and laboratory reports.
- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (ODRS):** Influenza-associated hospitalizations are reported to the four local health departments and hospitals by direct entry into the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). Hospitalizations can be used as an indicator of the severity of illness during a particular influenza season. This condition became reportable in 2009. Secure sign in source: <https://odhgateway.odh.ohio.gov/singlesignon/>.
- **School Absenteeism, total and ILI:** Numerous school systems of various sizes in Stark County report the number of students absent for medical reasons and for specific medical conditions including ILI. Increases in school absenteeism for ILI are often an early indicator to larger community trends. Source: Individual school reporting.