



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 36

Week 36 ending September 12, 2009, with updates through 09/21/2009.

All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received

During week 36 (September 6-September 12, 2009), influenza activity continued to increase locally, statewide, and nationally.

- An **increase** in the number of medically reported influenza cases and one influenza - associated hospitalization was observed in Stark County. As observed in the graph 1, hospitalizations continued to increase into the current week. See Graph 1 for details
- With only one Sentinel Provider report for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI), a **decrease** was observed in Stark County. However, National levels of ILI visits are 83% **above** the national baseline. (See Graph 2)
- Emergency Department visits in Stark County revealed a continued increase in visits for combined Constitutional and Respiratory Syndromes. These visits were greater than 23% **above** the five-year average.
- Over-The Counter sales of Thermometers were **significantly elevated** above the 5-year average (up to 50% increase above baseline). Cough/Cold Product sales were just below the 5-year average.
- The state of Ohio Influenza Activity Level continued at Regional Activity. The United States had a nearly two-fold increase in states reporting Widespread activity to 21 states. States reporting Widespread activity include all of the Southeastern US and now has spread as far west as Nevada and as far north as Minnesota.

Regional Activity is defined as Increased ILI in ≥ 2 but less than half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions, OR institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in ≥ 2 but less than half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions.

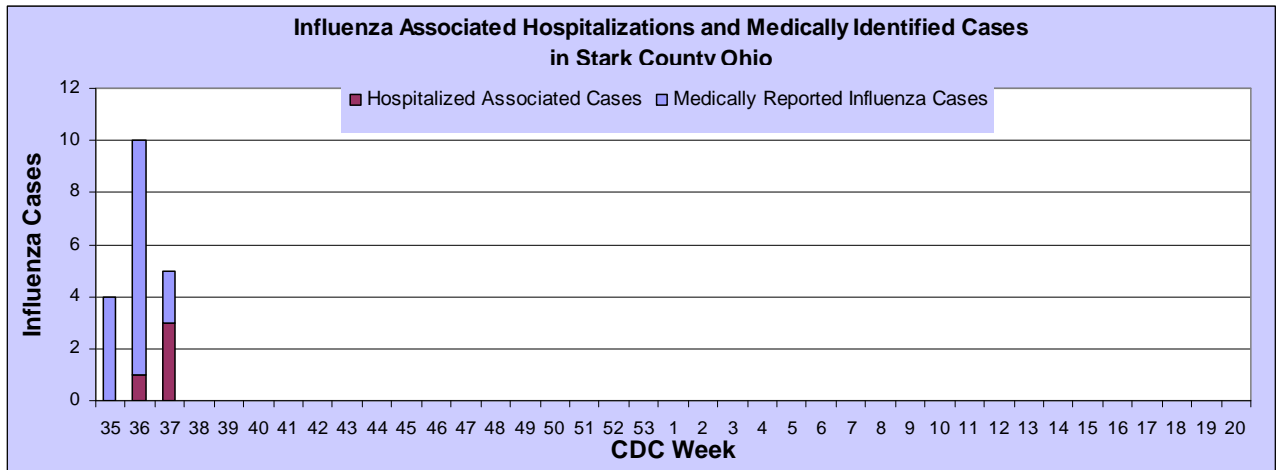
- Clusters of Influenza-Like-Illness or laboratory confirmed Influenza continue to be identified in Ohio. The latest cluster was identified in the west central region.
- Nationally, the CDC identified greater than **99%** of cocirculating strains of influenza A (seasonal influenza A (H1), A (H3), and 2009 influenza A (H1N1)) as *2009 influenza A (H1N1)*.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 6.0%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **below** the epidemic threshold of 6.3% for week 36.

The CDC 2009-10 influenza season officially begins October 4, 2009. In accordance with CDC recommendations, much of the data and supporting graphs will be reset for the beginning of the 2009-10 with back dating to August 30th. Normally this occurs during analysis for MMWR week 40.

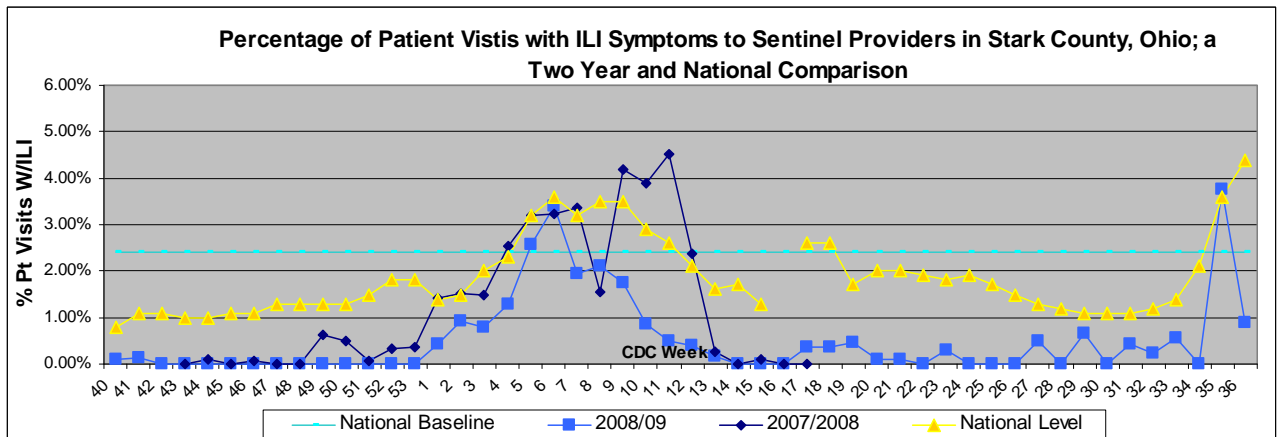
If you would like to receive this report weekly, email chenning@cantonhealth.org or schankz@starkhealth.org for details.

Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

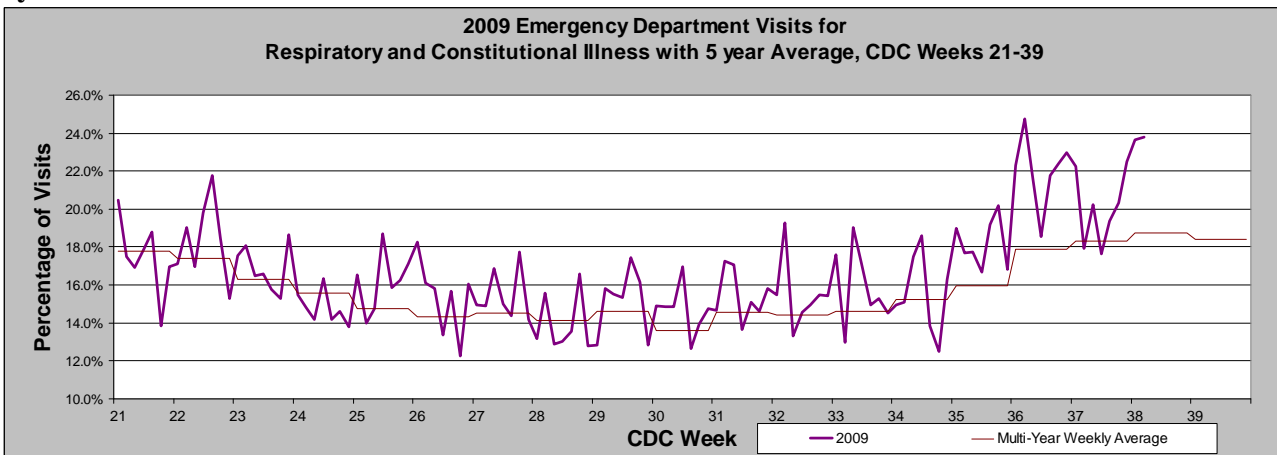
Note: Influenza is only reportable if associated with a hospitalization, therefore this is only represents a small number of actual influenza cases in Stark County.



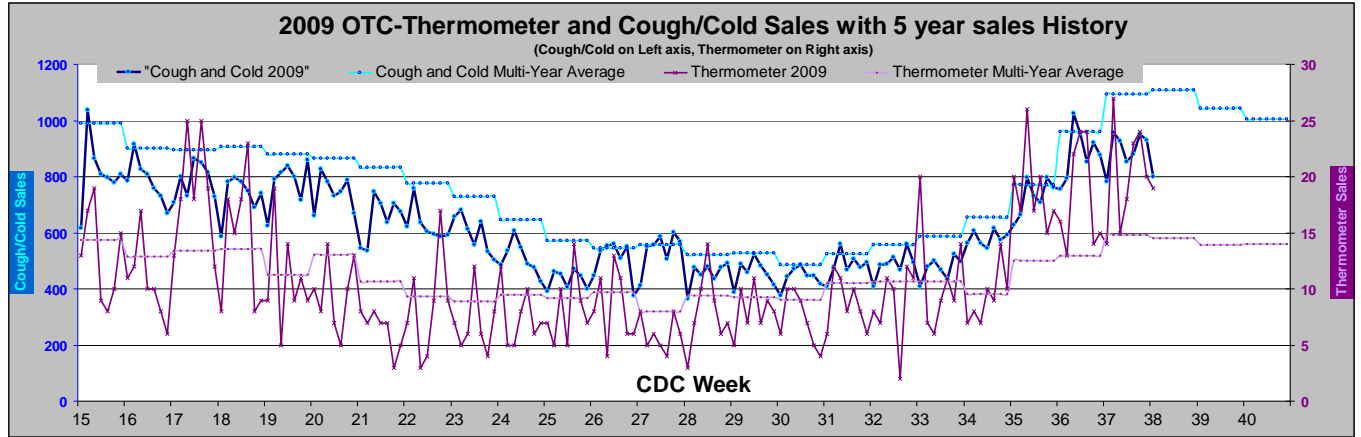
Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County



Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes



Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers and Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County



Map Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists
 (Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

