



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 49

Week 49 ending December 12, 2009, with updates through 12/21/2009.

All data are preliminary and may change as additional reports are received.

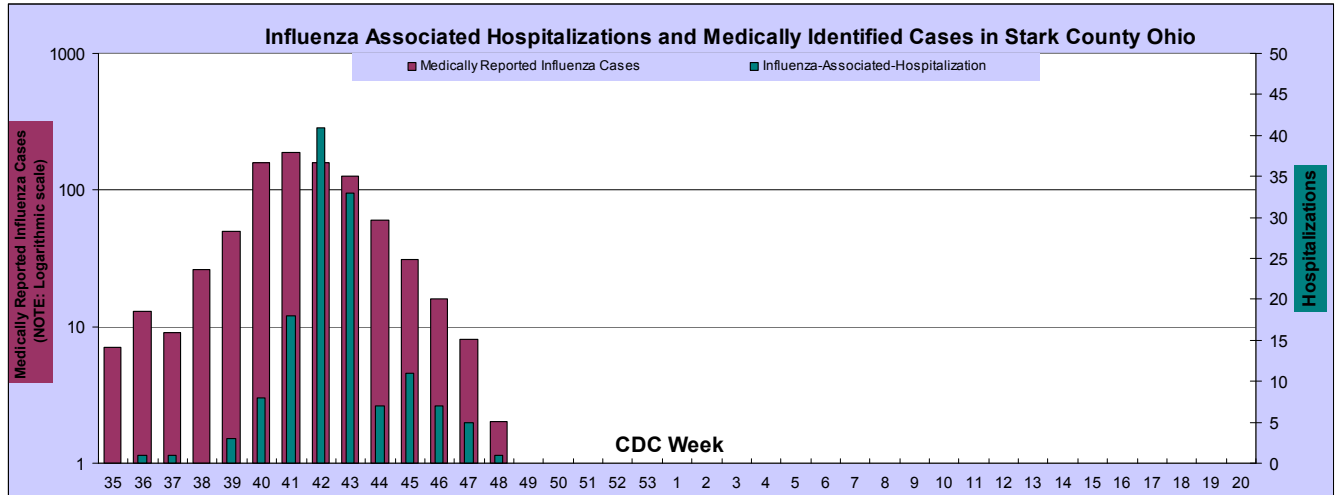
During week 49, (December 6 - December 12, 2009) local and national indicators of influenza activity continued to reveal decreasing intensity. The number of influenza associated hospitalizations, patient visits to area hospitals, sales of thermometers and other indicators showed declining activity. National indicators of severe illness remain elevated for this time of year.

- Influenza associated hospitalizations continued to **decline** with NO reported cases during week 49. Similar decreases in activity were observed with other medically provided positive influenza cases. (See graph 1 with logarithmic scale.)
- Due to few reports, there were no changes in the demographic information for the medically reported cases, not hospitalized; the average age is 16.7 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 11 years. The majority of individuals affected by this year's influenza strain continue to be in the age group 5 to 24 years (**64%**).
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from ≤ 1 month to 80 years with a median of 37 years, and the age group with the highest percentage affected is the 25-50 year olds at 36%. However, when looking at population rates, **young children aged 0-4 years** are hospitalized at the highest rate, >9 per 10,000 population. Also of note is a **disproportionate** number of hospitalizations among the African American (AA) Community; of reports received with race this season 22% are reported as AA. (Note: 2008 US Census states Stark County is 7.4% AA and Ohio is 12%AA)
- Of the 135 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported since CDC Week 35, (the official beginning of the 2009-2010 influenza season) 44 have been confirmed with 2009 Influenza A (H1N1). An earlier report of a rapid test positive for an Influenza B hospitalized patient has since been determined to be negative for influenza and the status is changed to Not A Case.
- Reports from local Sentinel Providers on the number of patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County are incomplete for week 49. The National level of ILI visits remained above the National baseline of 2.3% but showed a continued **decreasing trend** to 2.6%. (See Graph 2)
- Emergency department visits by Stark County residents for both Constitutional and Respiratory visits **decreased slightly** to 19.5%. The number of total patient visits by residents, also continued to **decline** and is within 5% of the expected levels for this time of year. (See Graph 3)
- For week 49, both sales of Cough/Cold (C/C) Products and Thermometers **remained steady** and are both below expected values for this time of year. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism, as reported by 59 local schools in Stark County, **decreased** during week 49 to a median percentage of student absenteeism of 3.5%. (See graph 6)
- The state of Ohio continued to report a geographic influenza activity level of **Regional**. Only eleven states across the Nation continue to report Widespread activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease.(See National Map)
- This season Ohio has identified one (1) influenza A/H1, one (1) influenza A/H3, and 1185 Pandemic A/H1 isolates. Nationally, the CDC continues to identify **>99%** of cocirculating strains of influenza (seasonal influenza A (H1), A (H3), and 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and influenza B) as *2009 influenza A (H1N1)*.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **decreased to 7.6%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. For the 11th consecutive week, this percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold, currently at 7.2%.
- Sadly, the state of Ohio reported another **pediatric death**, bringing our total for this season to eight: one from Athens County, three from Cuyahoga County, two from Franklin County, one from Henry County, and one from Warren County. Five of these mortalities had confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection (through 12/15/09). As a nation, the CDC reports a total of 212 pediatric deaths just this season.

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

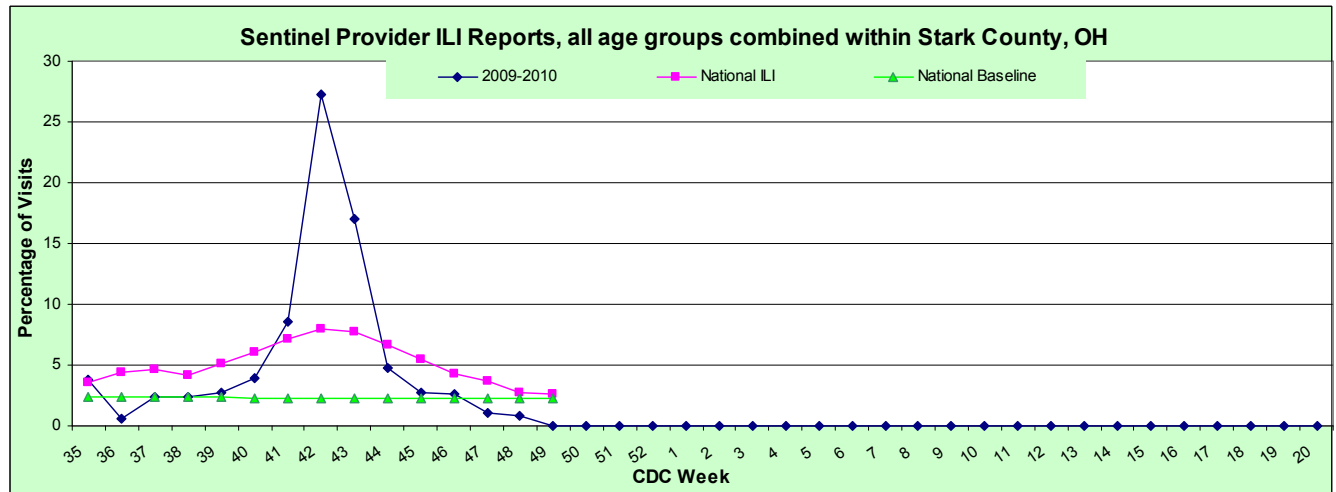
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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

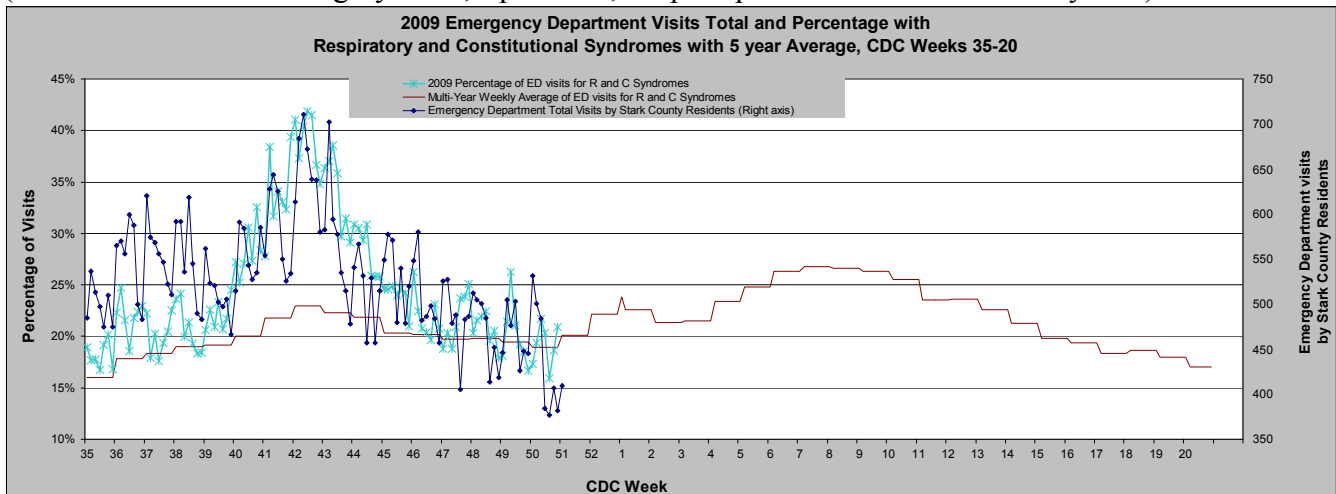


Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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 provider's s are combined with other influenza surveillance data to provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity.

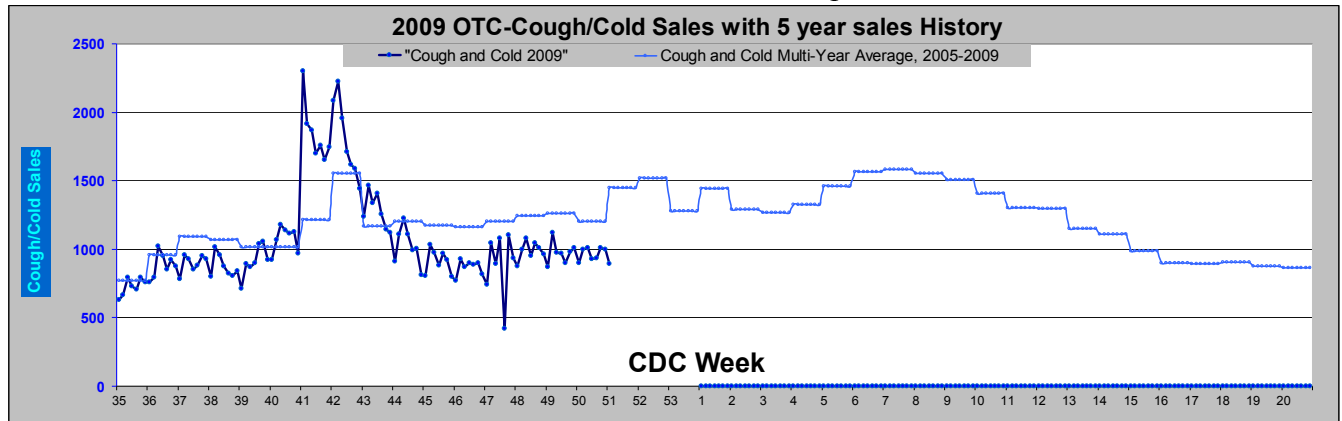


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



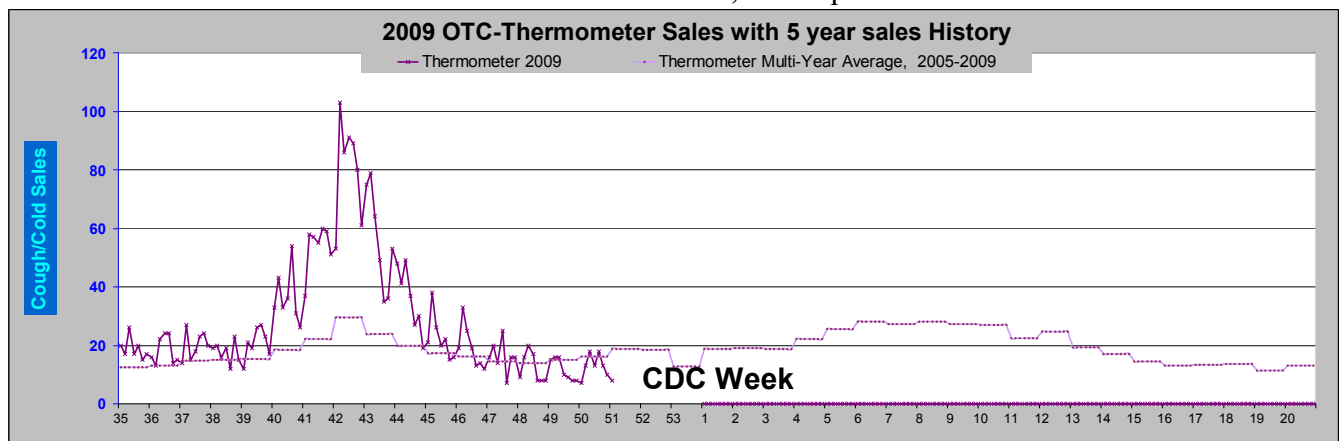
Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County

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



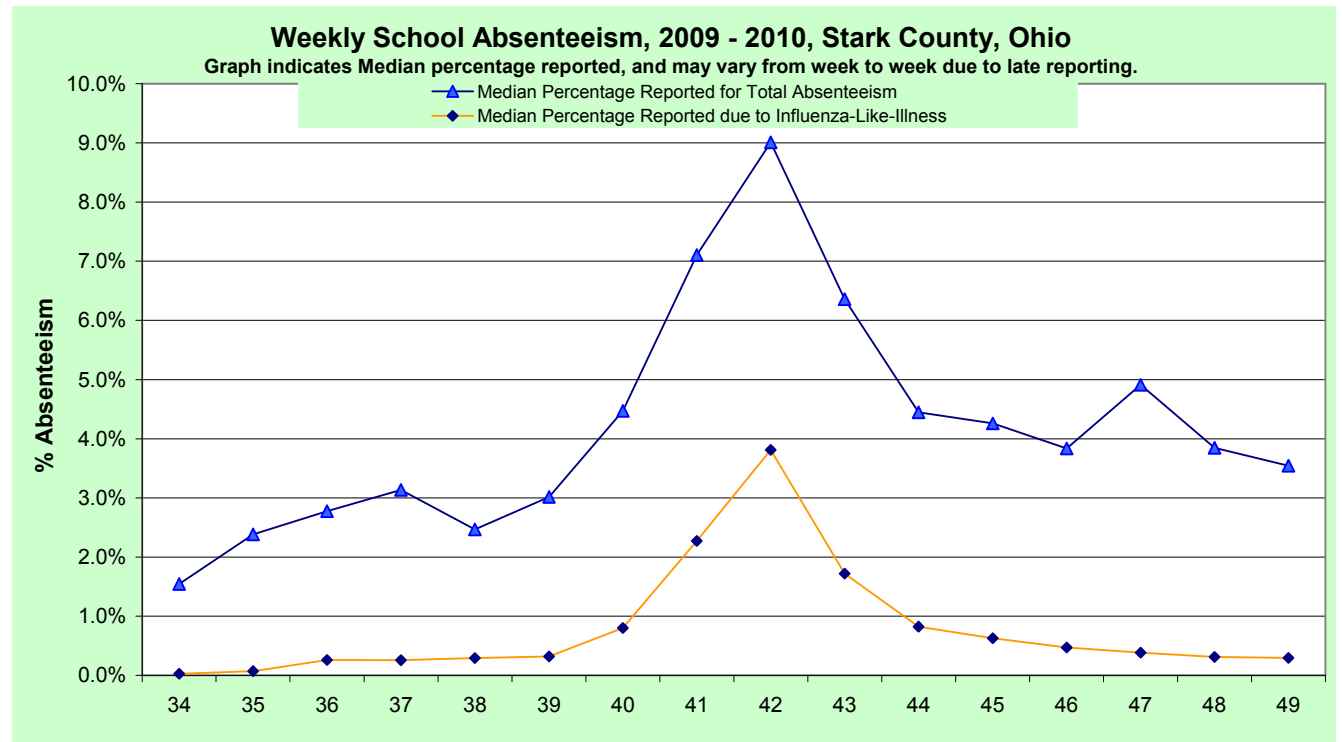
Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County

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



Graph 6: School Absenteeism, 2009-2010, Stark County, Ohio.

(Source: Voluntary reporting by area public and private schools. Schools report overall absenteeism and five illness categories including influenza –like-illness and gastrointestinal illness.)



Map Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

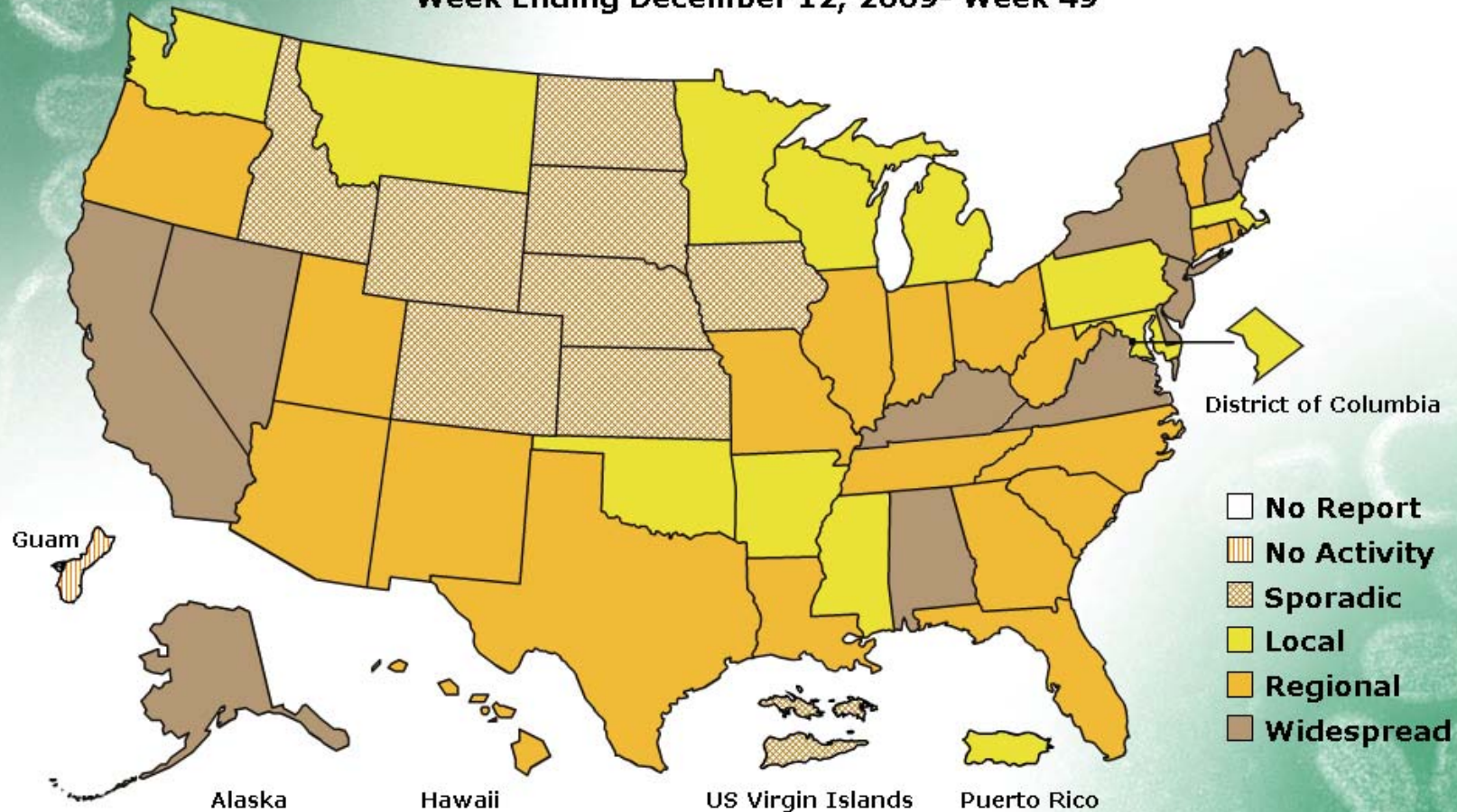
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

FLUVIEW



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

Week Ending December 12, 2009- Week 49



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