



## STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 49

**Week ending December 11, 2010.** With updates through 12/17/2010.

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

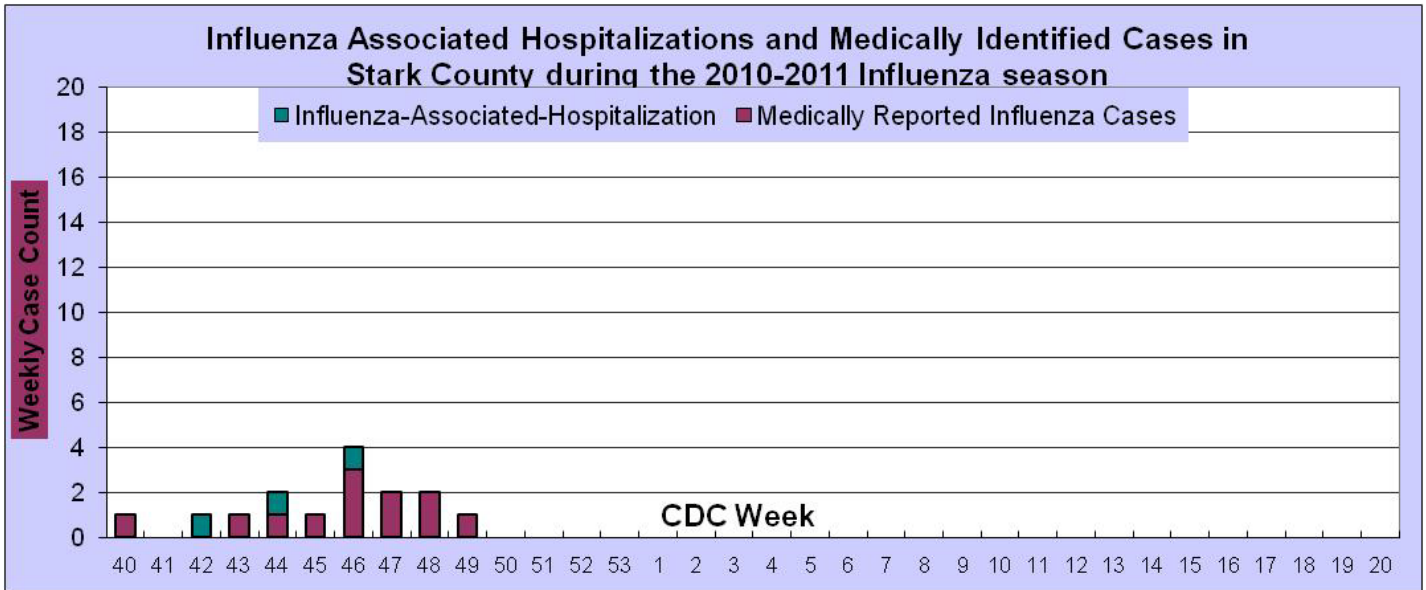
NOTE: Compilation of multiyear averages do not include the 2009/2010 H1N1 season.

During week 49, (December 5, 2010 – December 11, 2010) influenza activity continued at relatively low levels in Stark County, Ohio and in the United States.

- For the third week, there were **no Influenza-associated hospitalizations** reported to public health in Stark County. One laboratory report of influenza, not hospitalized, was reported during Week 49. The season-to-date total is three influenza-associated hospitalizations and twelve laboratory reported cases of influenza. (Graph 1)
- Of the known cases of influenza in Stark County, **all have been type A**. Six were further sub typed as Influenza A (H3).
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has antigenically characterized 89 influenza viruses [13 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses, 26 influenza A (H3N2) viruses, and 50 influenza B viruses] collected by U.S. laboratories since October 1, 2010. **All** antigenic characterizations were represented in the 2010-11 influenza vaccine.
- The CDC further reports high levels of resistance to the adamantanes (amantadine and rimantadine) persist among 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and A (H3N2) viruses (the adamantanes are not effective against influenza B viruses) circulating globally.
- Demographics for influenza-associated hospitalized cases in Stark County: the **age range is 6 to 75 years with 33% African American**.
- Demographics for medically/lab reported influenza cases in Stark County: the age range is 2 years to 71 years with a **median of 27.5 years** and 33% self- identified as African American. Due to a low number of reports with demographics, the information is highly unreliable at this time.
- Stark County Sentinel Providers reported <0.5% of patient visits attributed to ILI during week 49. The National level of ILI visits **increased** to 1.8%, remaining below the baseline level of 2.5%. (Graph 2)
- The total number of patient visits, by Stark County residents, to emergency departments **decreased slightly** to an average of 460 hospital emergency room visits per day.
- The percentage of visits to emergency departments in Stark County displaying chief complaint symptoms consistent with Constitutional and Respiratory (C & R) syndromes was 18.2%. This percentage is **below** the expected 19.48%. The percentage of visits to emergency departments in Stark County displaying chief complaint symptoms consistent with the syndrome classifier, fever + ILI matches the expected level of 1.12%. Additionally, as seen on the graph, early indicators for CDC week 50 show increases in C & R symptom visits to local emergency departments. (Graph 3)
- Over-the-counter sales of Cough/Cold Products remain slightly **above** expected levels for this time of year, while Thermometer sales remain well **below expected levels**. (Graph 4)
- School absenteeism, as reported by 56 schools in Stark County, is 4.2%. This is a modest increase from week 48 and continues an upward trend in school related illness. (Graph 5)
- The state of Ohio remains at **sporadic** geographic influenza activity, however the state has indicated that there are numerous indicators revealing slight increases in influenza activity. National geographic indicators of influenza indicated slight increases in geographical spread. Regional influenza activity was reported by four states (Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi and Nevada), local influenza activity was reported by 20 states (an increase from 12 in week 48), sporadic activity was reported by 21 states, and no influenza activity was reported by five states (See National map)
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 6.9%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **below** the epidemic threshold of 7.3% for week 49
- The CDC received a notification of a second pediatric death this year from Influenza. This case was a child from New York who was diagnosed with Influenza A(H3) in CDC week 48.

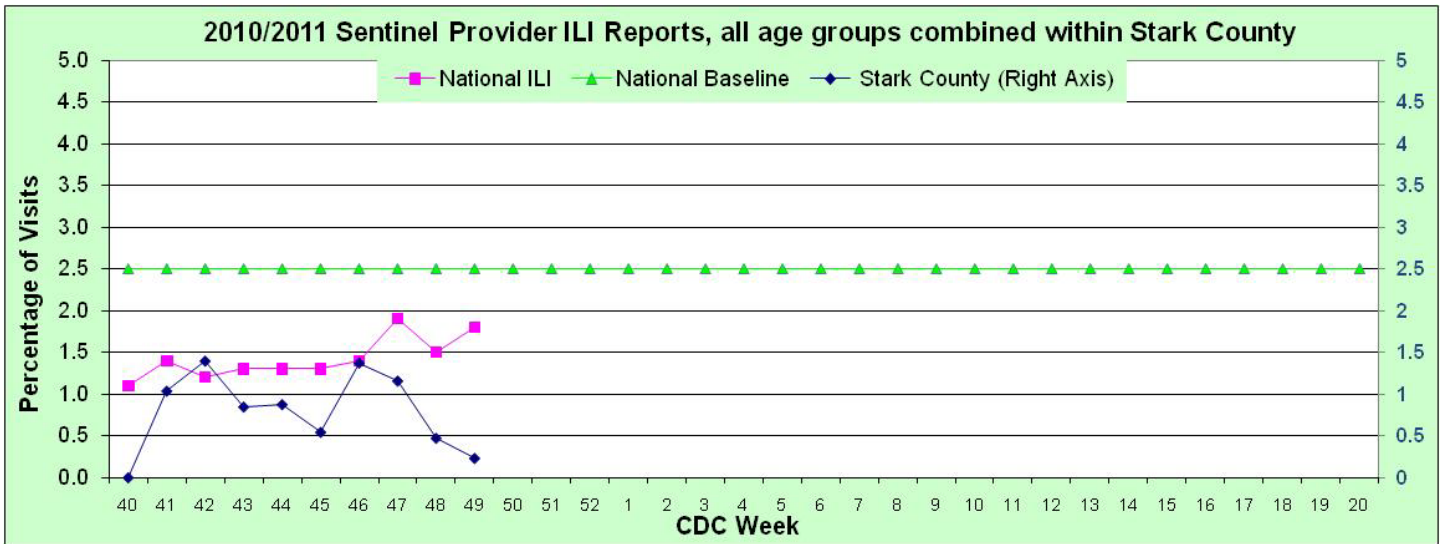
For questions, or to receive this report weekly by email, send requests to either [chenning@cantonhealth.org](mailto:chenning@cantonhealth.org) or [schanzk@starkhealth.org](mailto:schanzk@starkhealth.org).

**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.



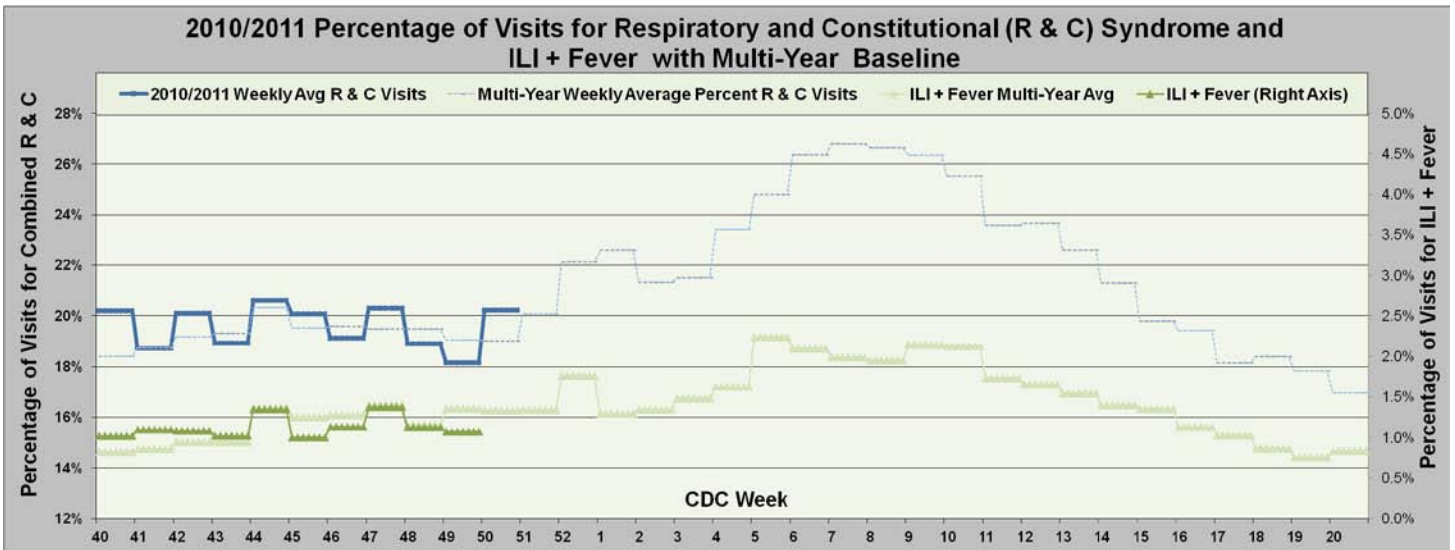
**Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County**

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



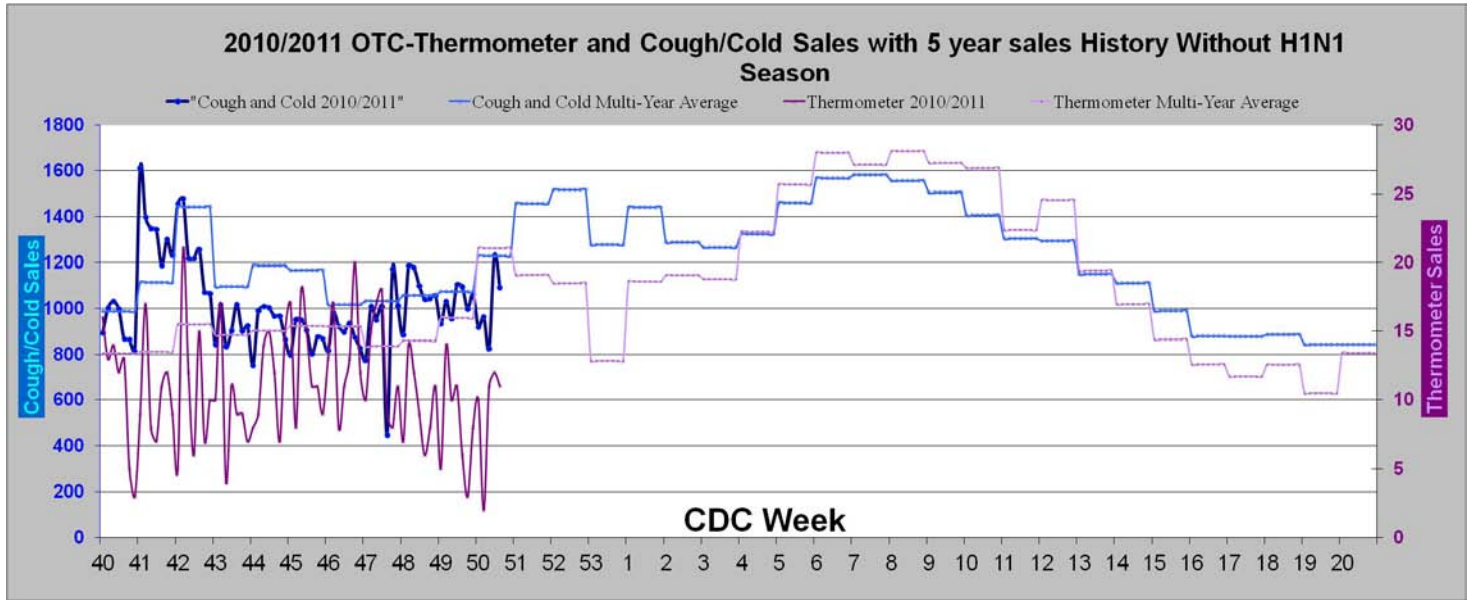
**Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes**

(Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)

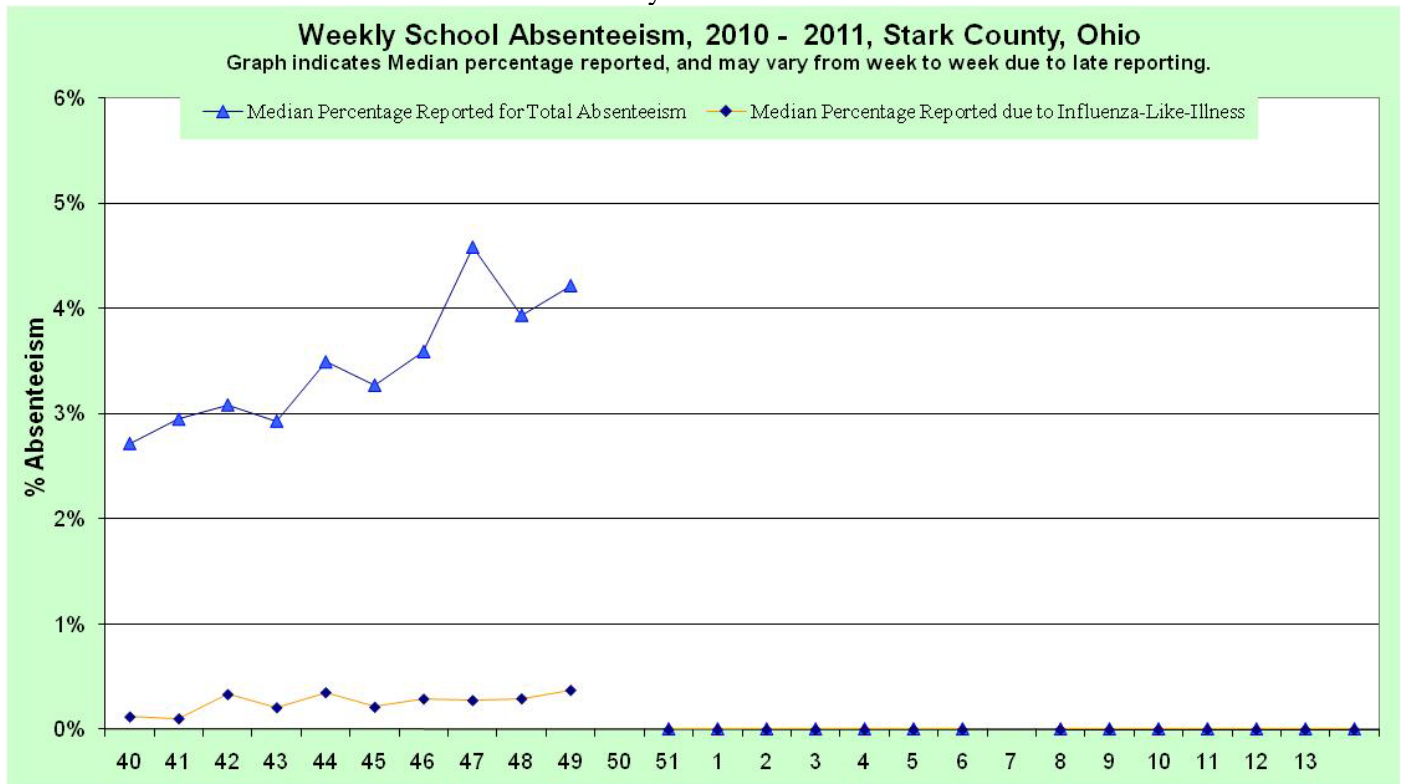


**Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County**

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



**Graph 5: School Absenteeism.** School systems from throughout Stark County report total absenteeism and absenteeism due to influenza-like-illness on a weekly basis.

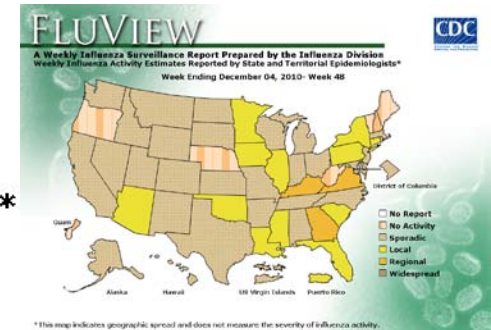
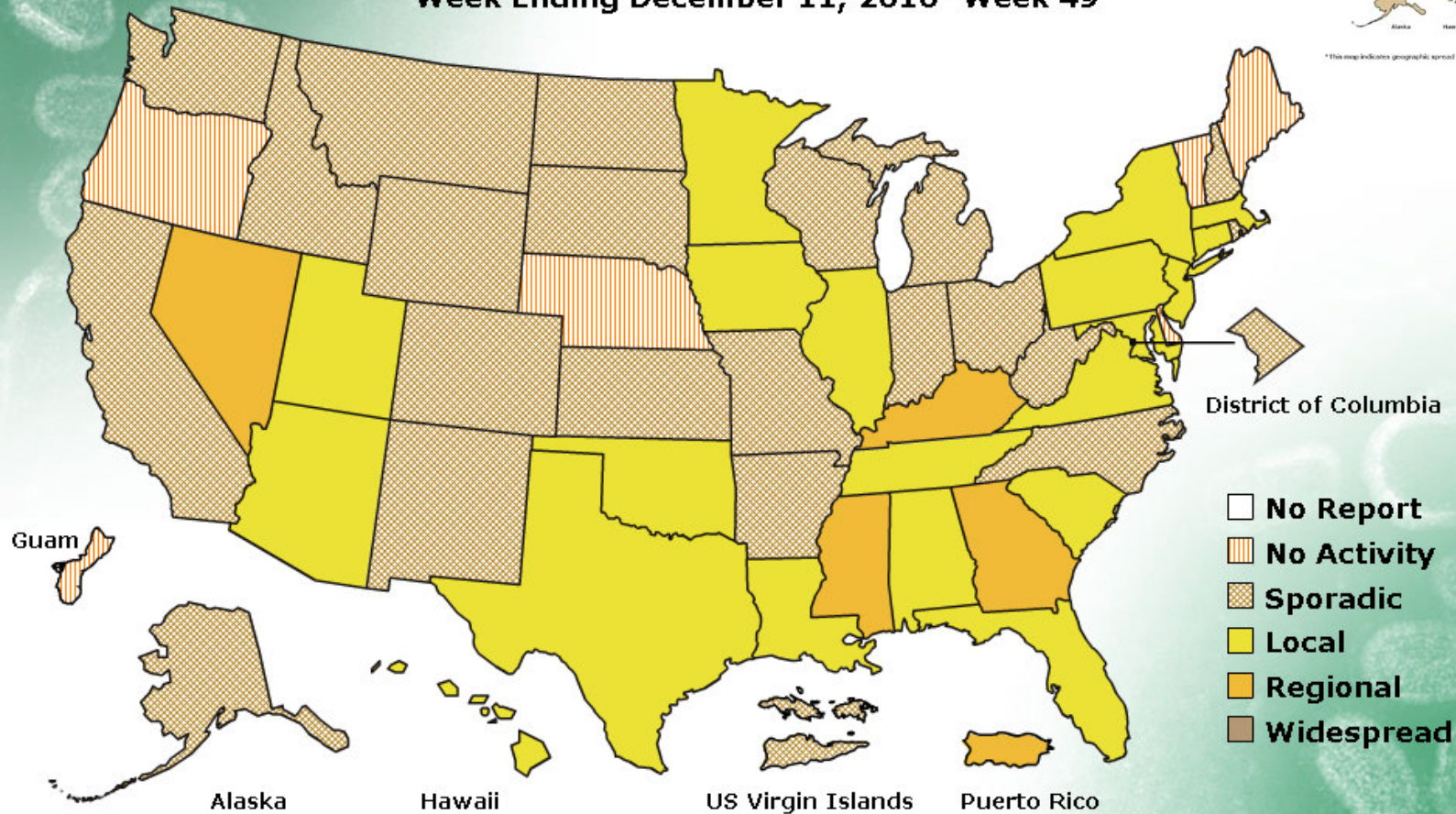


Map: Weekly Geographic Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists (Inset is previous week) (Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

# FLUVIEW

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

Week Ending December 11, 2010- Week 49



\*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 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 coming soon the fever + ILI symptoms classifier are analyzed for influenza surveillance.

**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.

**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 4 in Stark County for the 2010-2011 season.

**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.

**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.

**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.