



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 12

Week ending March 27 2010. With updates through 04/05/2010.

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

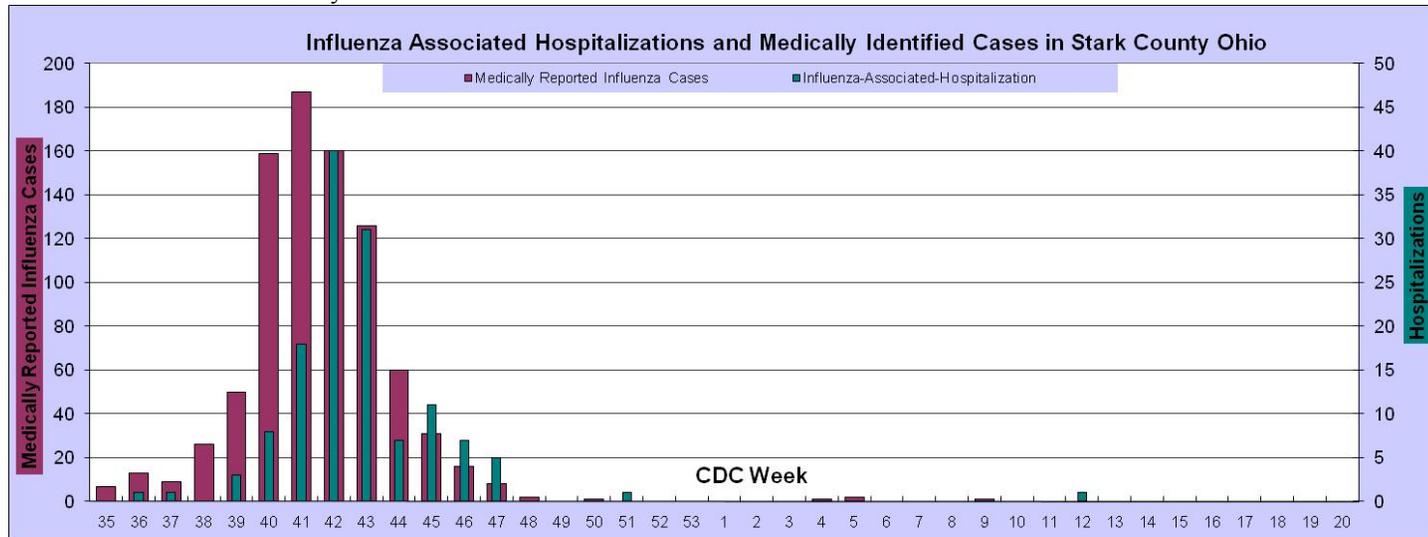
During week 12, (March 12 – March 27, 2010) the first influenza-associated hospitalization in 2010 was reported in Stark County. Further, the Southeastern US is reporting continued and in some cases increasing flu activity. The CDC reported “Georgia has (recently) seen more laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations each week than they've seen at any time since October.” This serves as a reminder that influenza is still present, and in areas where Ohioans tend to travel during spring break.

- One influenza-associated hospitalization occurred during week 12. This is the first known hospitalization for influenza in 2010 in a Stark County resident. No other medically reported cases of influenza were reported in Stark County this week. (Graph 1)
- 859 medically reported cases of non hospitalized influenza were reported in Stark County during the current season; along with an additional 135 cases of influenza-associated hospitalization. Thus leading to a total 994 Stark County residents identified as having influenza during the 2009-2010 season. Identification was determined either by confirmation with a rapid influenza test or viral culture.
- Of the 135 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported this season, 45 were confirmed with the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) strain.
- Demographics for the medically reported cases not hospitalized are: average age for this season is 16.7 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 11 years, 64% are 5 to 24 years.
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from ≤ 1 month to 80 years with a median of 37 years. The most affected age group, based on percentage, is 25-50 years at 35%. Young children, aged 0-4 years have been hospitalized at the highest rate, >8 per 10,000 population.
- Reports of Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI), from two Stark County Sentinel Providers, revealed NO patient visits for ILI. The National level of ILI visits **was constant** at 1.6%. The National level remains below the baseline level of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- The percentage of visits to emergency departments in Stark County, displaying symptoms consistent with Constitutional and Respiratory (C & R) syndromes, **decreased slightly** to 19.85%. The number of total patient visits by Stark County residents to emergency departments **decreased slightly** to an average of 502 hospital emergency room visits per day, nearly equal to the expected value of 499 expected visits. (See Graph 3)
- Sales of Cough/Cold (C/C) Products dropped an additional 3% during week 12. Sales of Thermometers remained steady. Sales of both of these products remain well below expected. (See Graph 4)
- Student absenteeism reported by 69 area schools **increased** to a median of 4.4% in Stark County. (See graph 5)
- National geographic indicators of influenza activity remain moderate in the Southern United States; and once again, there were no states reporting Widespread geographic activity. The state of Ohio remains at **sporadic** geographic influenza activity. (See National map)
- Reports of Influenza-Associated pediatric death continue to be received by the CDC. The latest report was a child from New York who passed away the week of March 6th. This season 269 pediatric deaths have been reported.
- Nationally, the CDC identified $>99\%$ of cocirculating strains of influenza (seasonal influenza A (H1), A (H3), and 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and influenza B) as 2009 influenza A (H1N1). The remaining cocirculating strain of influenza was a single influenza A (H3).
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 7.9%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold of 7.8% for week 12.

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

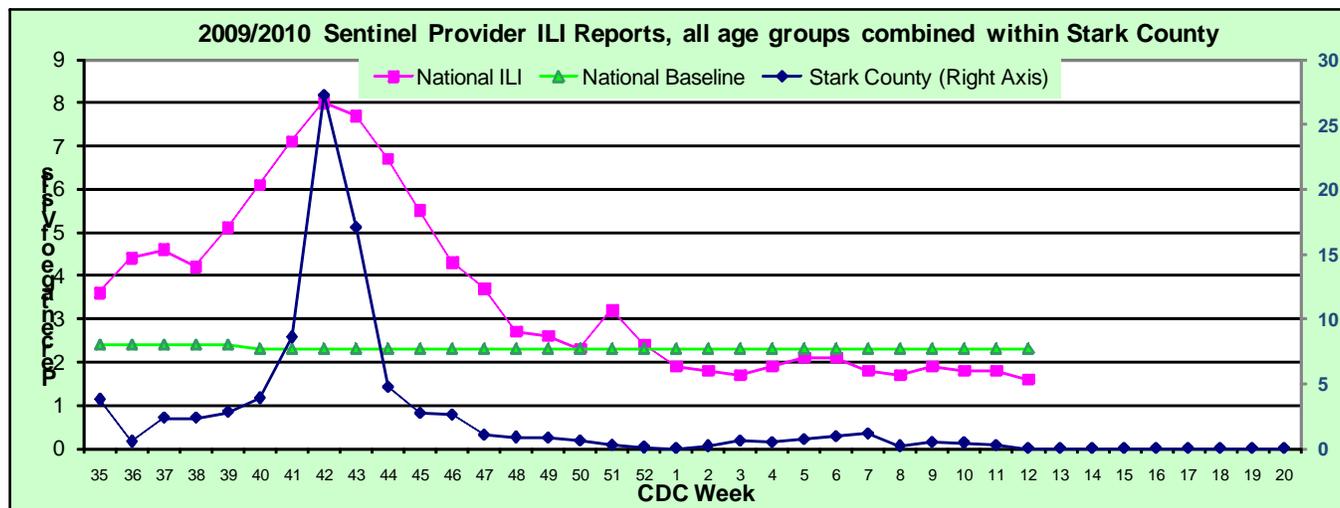
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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



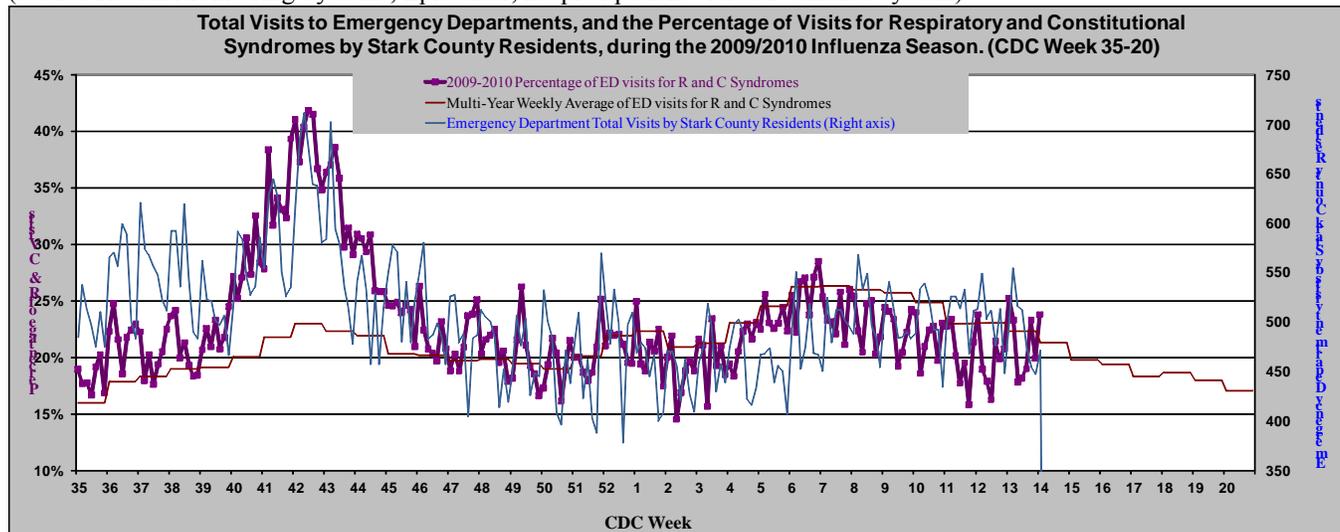
Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.



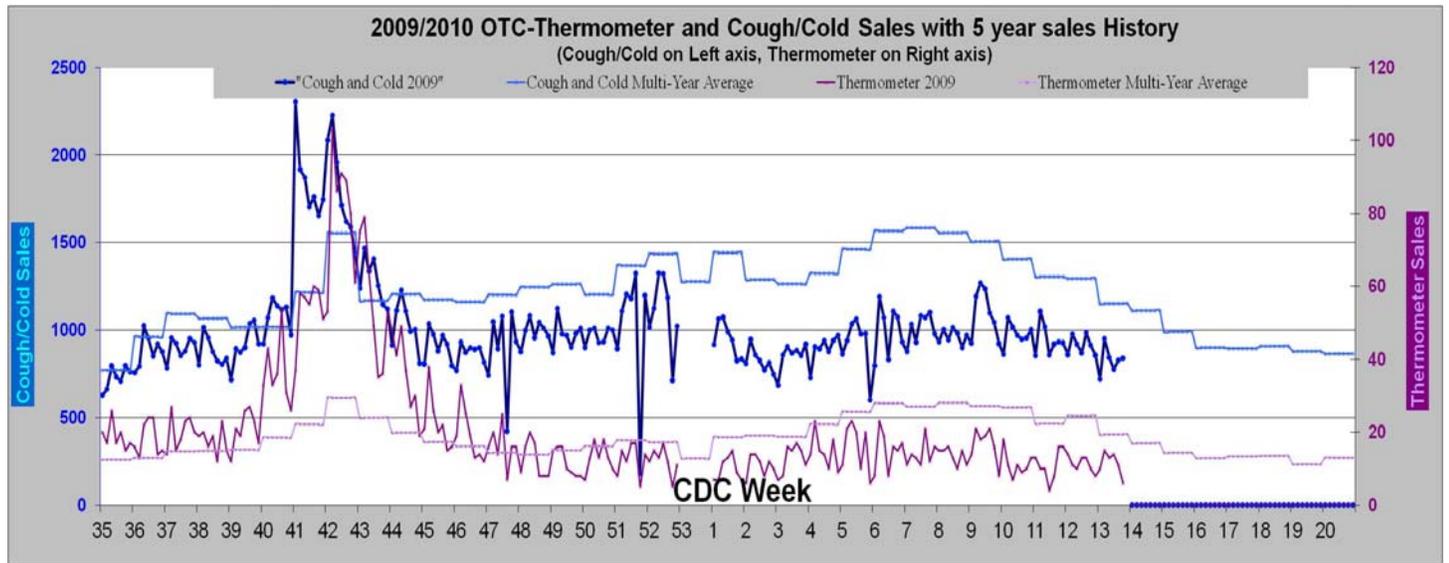
Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes

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



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

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



Graph 5: School Absenteeism, 2009-2010, Stark County, Ohio.

(Source: Voluntary reporting by area public and private schools in Stark County Ohio)

