



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 35

Week 35 ending September 5, 2009, with updates through 09/13/2009.

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

During week 35 (August 30-September 5, 2009), influenza activity increased locally, statewide, and nationally.

- An **increase** in the number of medically reported influenza cases was observed in Stark County and continues into the current week. See Graph 1 for details
- Outpatient visits to Sentinel Providers for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) **increased** in Stark County and Nationally. National levels of ILI visits are above the baseline for the first time since CDC week 17. (See Graph 2) (Note: Only one sentinel provider report is currently available for CDC Week 35)
- Emergency Department visits in Stark County revealed an increase in visits for combined Constitutional and Respiratory Syndromes. These visits remained **above** the five-year average for the entire week and continue into the current week at elevated rates.
- 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 **increased** the Influenza Activity Level for the second week to Regional Activity. The United States saw an increase to 11 states with Widespread activity (See Map)

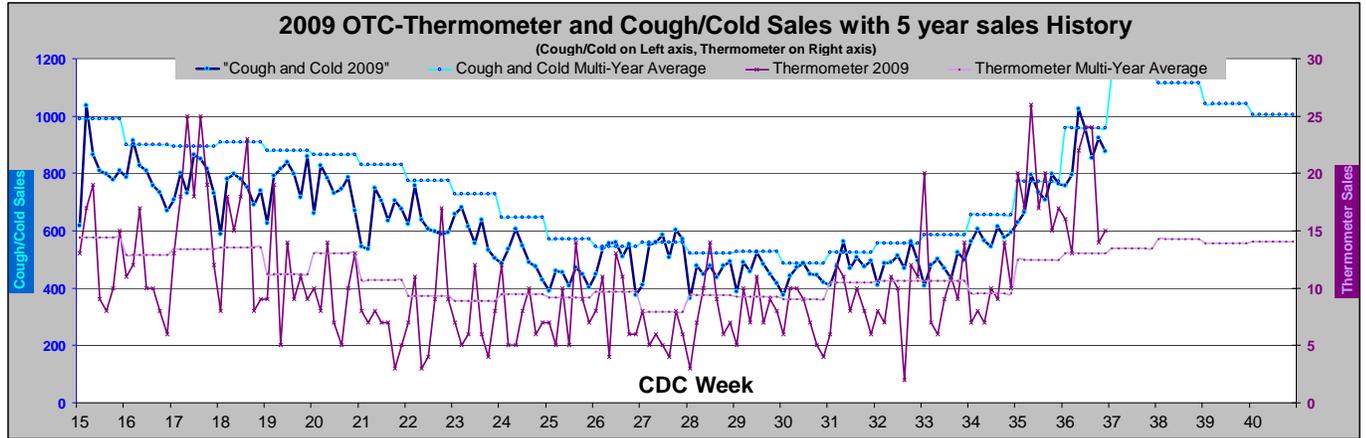
Regional Activity is defined as Increased ILI in ≥ 2 but less than half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions, OR institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in ≥ 2 but less than half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks)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

- Clusters of Influenza-Like-Illness or laboratory confirmed Influenza have been identified in Ohio Middle and High Schools, Colleges and Universities and community gatherings throughout Ohio. The majority of these clusters were identified in the Southwestern and West Central regions of Ohio. These clusters illustrate the pervasiveness of influenza in Ohio and at an earlier time than is expected for influenza.
- Nationally, the CDC identified greater than **97%** 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 **decreased to 5.3%** 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 35.

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 kschanz@starkhealth.org for details.

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>)

