



## STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 37

Week 37 ending September 19, 2009, with updates through 09/28/2009.

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

During week 37 (September 13-September 19, 2009), influenza activity continued to increase locally, statewide, and nationally.

- An **increase** in the number of influenza-associated hospitalizations was observed in Stark County. As observed in the graph 1, hospitalizations and medically provided cases, continued to increase into the current week. See Graph 1 for details
- Of the medically reported cases, not hospitalized, the average age is 14.7 years with a range of 0.7 to 40 years and a median of 12 years. They were dispersed throughout the county, appearing in 17 different zip codes.
- Sentinel Provider reports for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) **increased** in Stark County, Region V, which includes Ohio, and Nationally. The National level of ILI visits are 91% **above** the national baseline and local levels have reached the National baseline. (See Graph 2)
- Emergency Department visits in Stark County remained **above** the five-year average; however, the percentage above the average was only 9.33% compared with 23% during the previous week.
- Over-The Counter sales of Thermometers continued to be **elevated** above the 5-year average (35% above baseline). Cough/Cold Product sales increased for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive week, however they remain **below** the 5-year average.
- The state of Ohio Influenza Activity Level continued at Regional Activity. The United States continues to see geographic spread of influenza activity with 26 states now reporting Widespread activity. States reporting Widespread activity includes the entire Southern half of the United States.

In Ohio, Regional Activity is defined as Increased ILI in  $\geq 2$  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  $\geq 2$  but less than half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions.

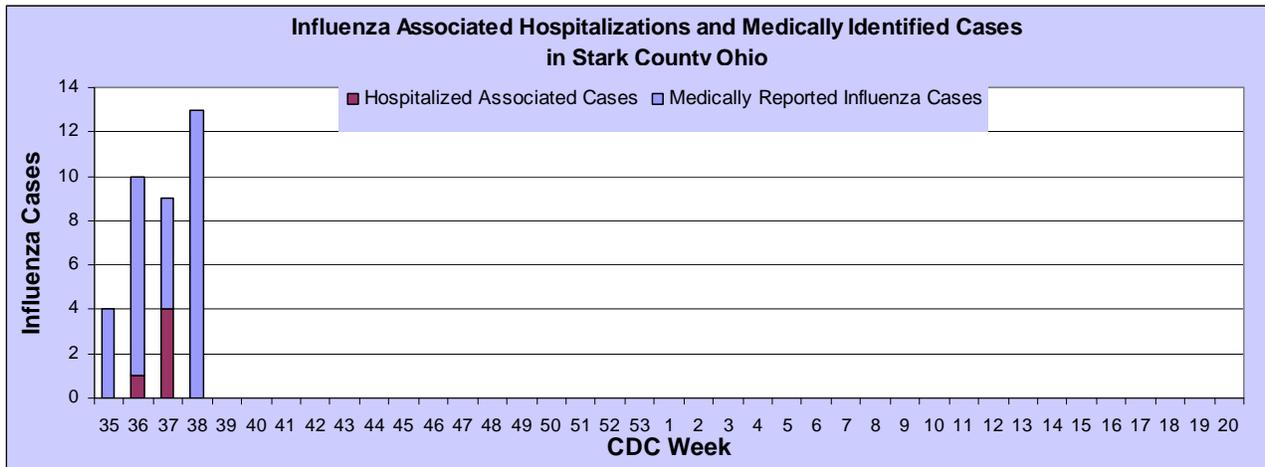
- Clusters of Influenza-Like-Illness or laboratory confirmed Influenza continue to be identified in Ohio. The latest clusters were identified in the Northeast Central region and in the Northwest region. (Northeast Central region includes Stark and 12 other nearby counties).
- Nationally, the CDC identified **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)*.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 6.1%** 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 37.

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.

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).

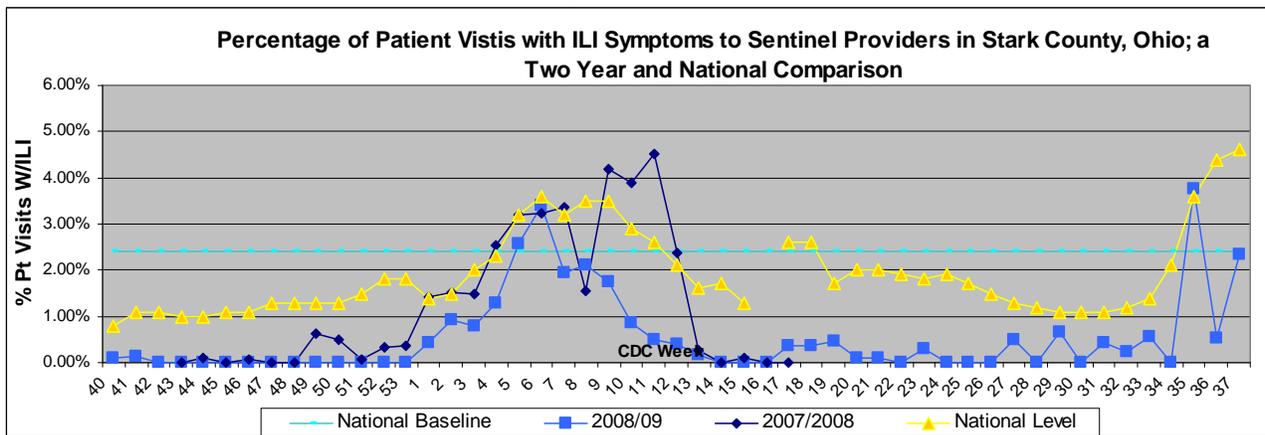
**Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments**

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

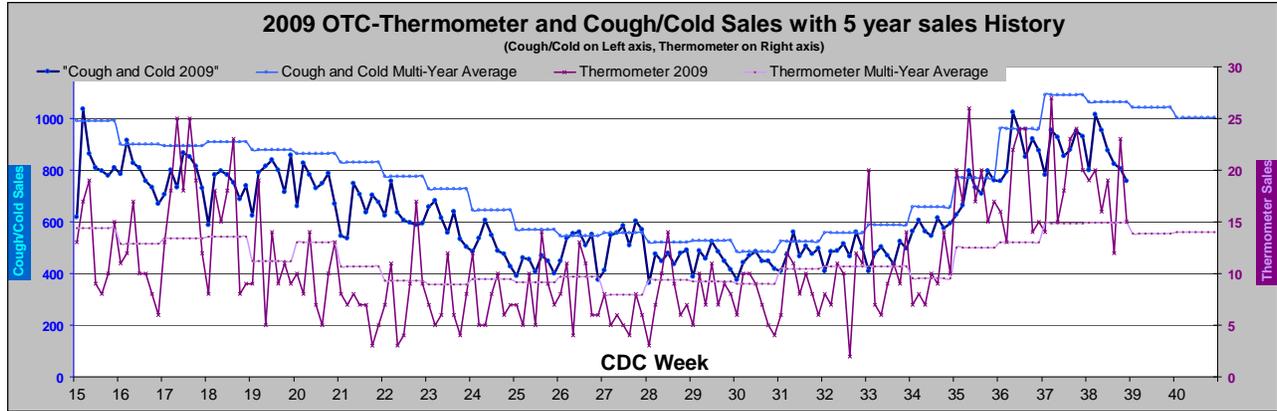


**Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County**

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



**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>)

