



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 39

Week 39 ending Oct 3, 2009, with updates through 10/11/2009.

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

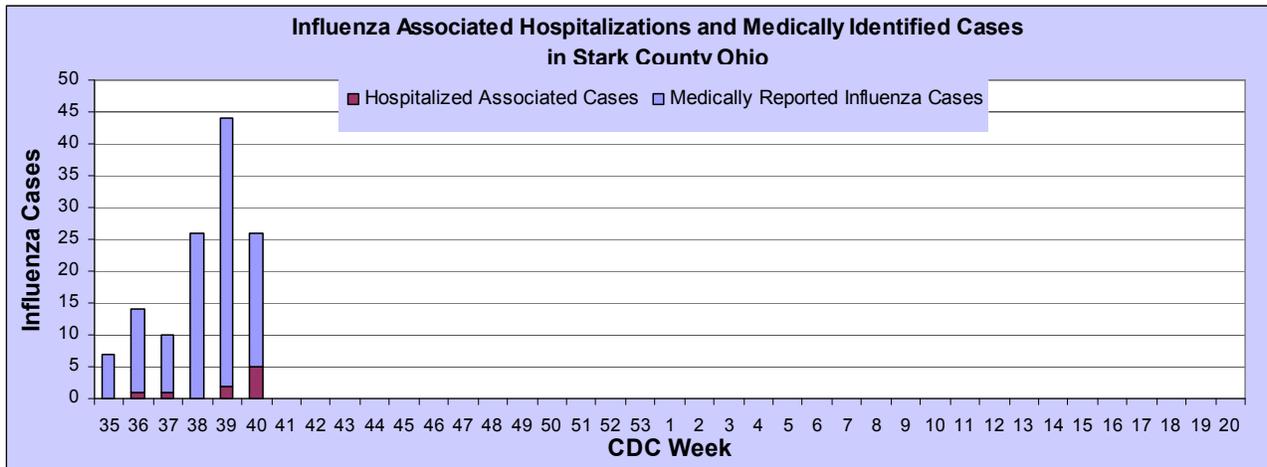
During week 39 (September 27-October 3, 2009), increased influenza-like-illness was observed in nearly all key indicators.

- During week 39, a continued **increase** in the number of medically provided positive influenza patients was observed in Stark County with **2** influenza-associated hospitalizations. Additionally, as observed in graph 1, five influenza-associated hospitalization have also been reported for week 40. (See graph1).
- Of the medically reported cases, not hospitalized, the average age is 17 years with a range of 0.7 to 53 years and a median of 13 years. Hospitalized cases ranged in age from 6 years to 81 years with a median of 33 years.
- Sentinel Provider reports for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) **increased** in Stark County and the nation. Further, the percentage of visits to the providers in Stark County was above the national baseline for the first time this season. Typically, Stark County does not reach this level of ILI activity until early February. The age group most affected in Stark County is 5-24 year olds. (See Graph 2)
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County **increased** to 15% above the multi-year average during week 39. This increase continued into week 40, when 28% of the visits to ED's were for combined Constitutional and Respiratory symptoms; a percentage that is greater than 41% above the multi-year average. (See Graph 3)
- Over-The Counter sales of Thermometers continue to be **elevated** above the 5-year average (18.7% above baseline). For week 38 Cough/Cold Product sales **decreased** slightly, remaining **below** the 5-year average.
- 37 states including the state of Ohio are reporting Widespread influenza activity, an **increase** from 27 in week 38. (See US Map)
- 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)*. **Of note**, the state of Ohio reported identification of one seasonal H1N1 virus last week.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **elevated to 6.5%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is at the epidemic threshold of 6.5% for week 39.
- (NEW) School Absenteeism, as reported by 59 local schools in Stark County, reveals an increasing trend in overall absenteeism. Currently, the highest single category of absenteeism is due to influenza-like-illness.

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

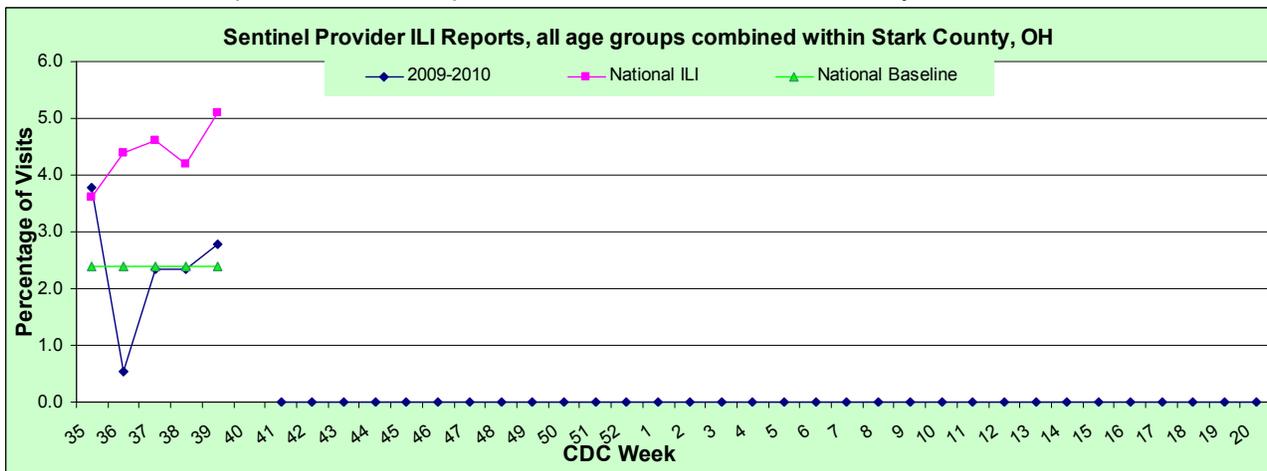
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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



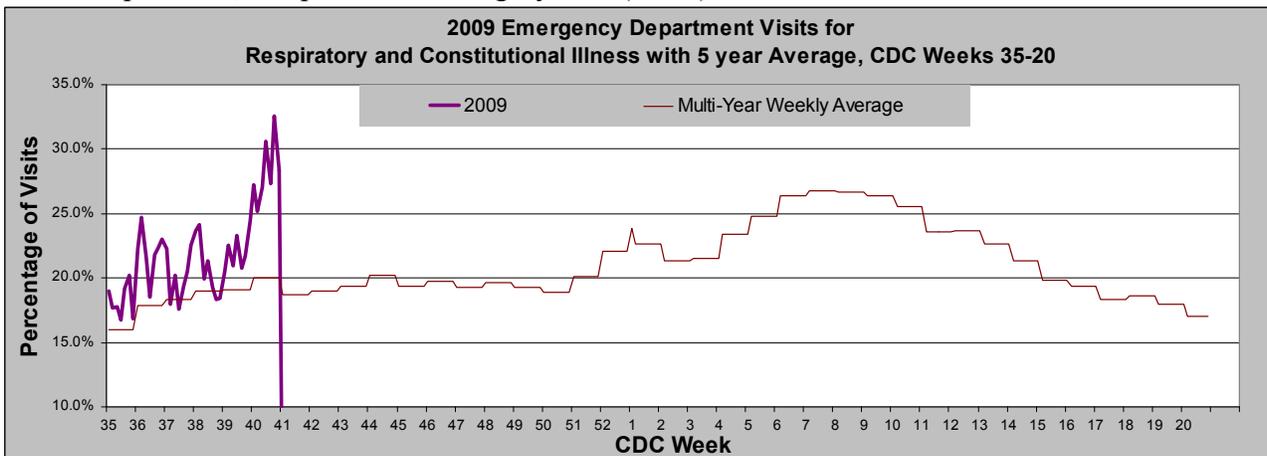
Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

Sentinel Providers-An influenza sentinel provider (local physician) 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 County’s 4 providers are combined with other influenza surveillance data to provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity.

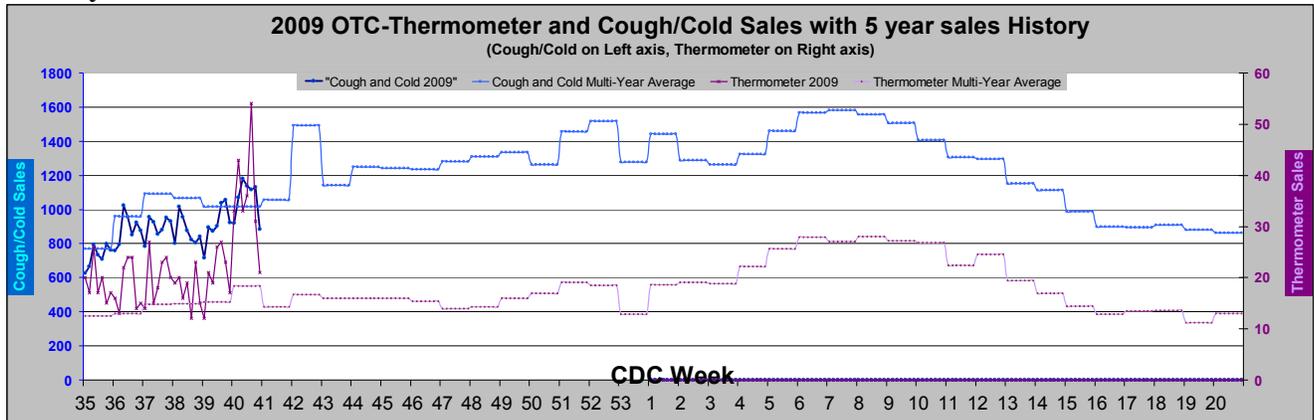


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes

Source: EpiCenter, Hospital Monitoring System (HMS).

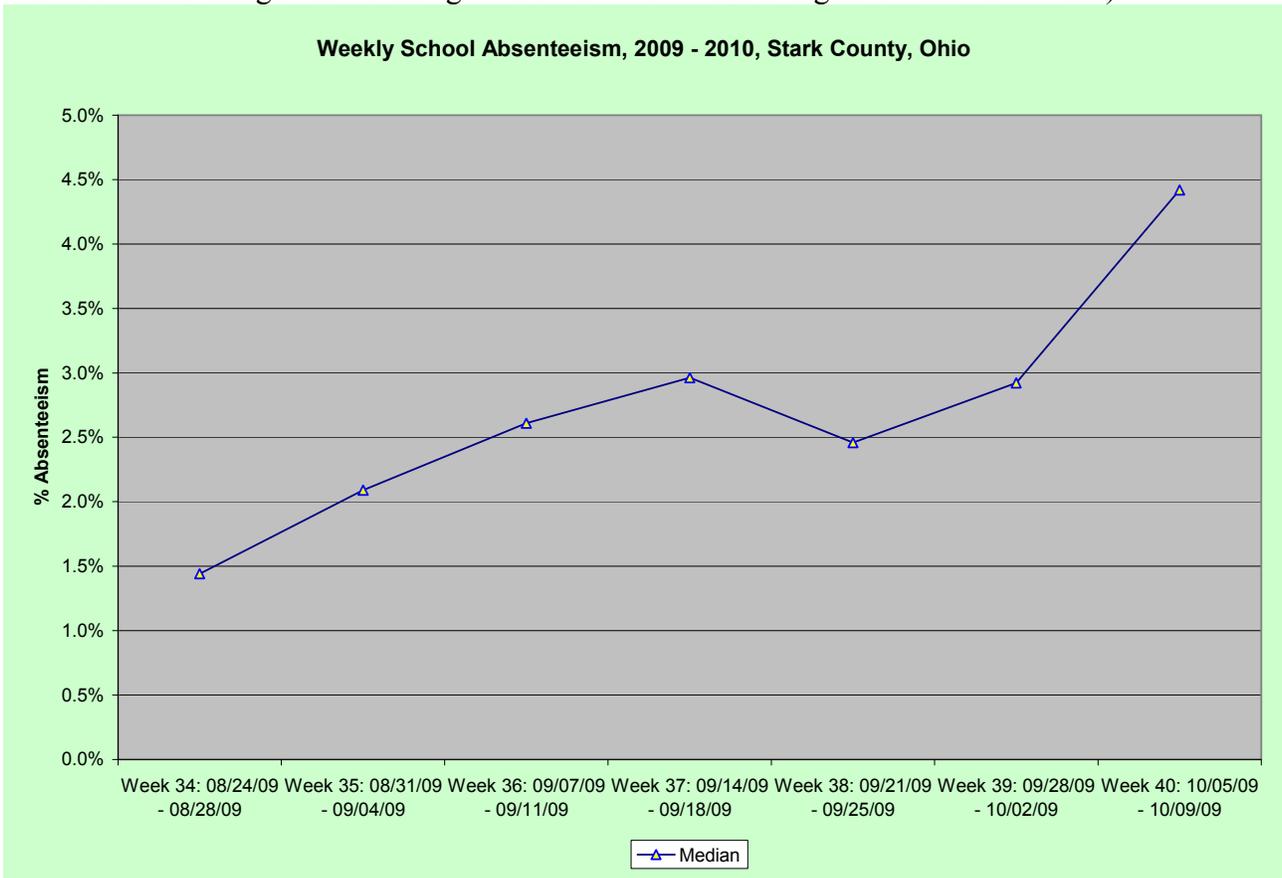


Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers and Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County



Graph 5: 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

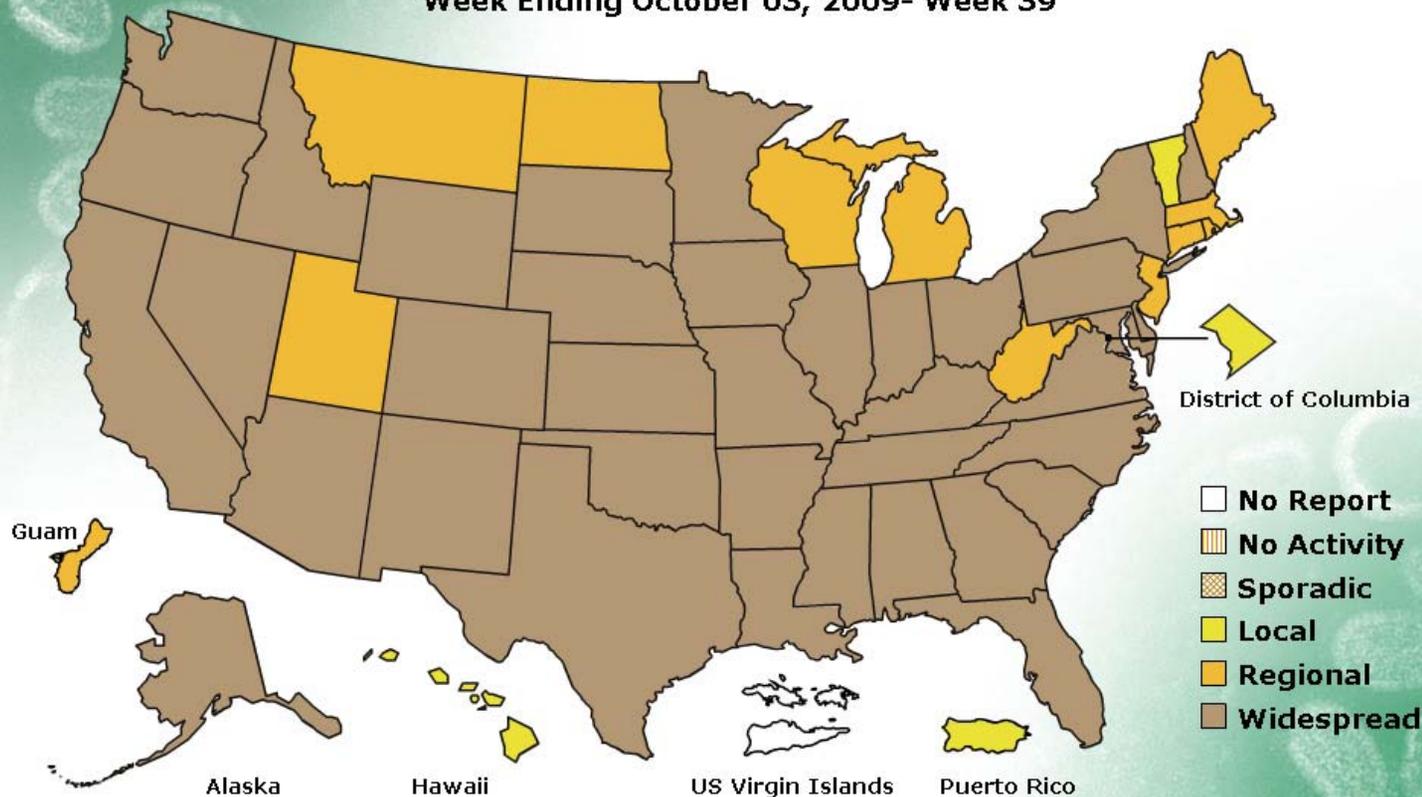
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

FLUVIEW



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

Week Ending October 03, 2009- Week 39



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