



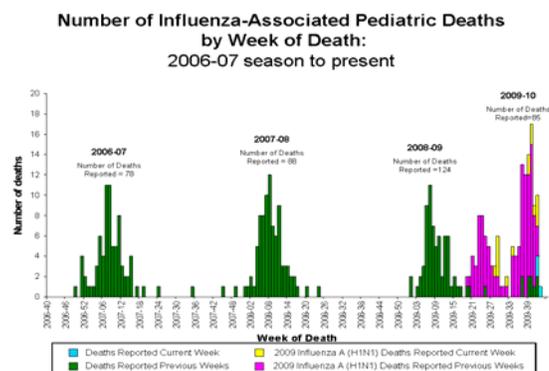
STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 43

Week 43 ending October 31, 2009, with updates through 11/08/2009.

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

During week 43 (October 25-31, 2009), several local indicators of influenza activity revealed decreasing intensity however, most remain well above expected for this time of year.

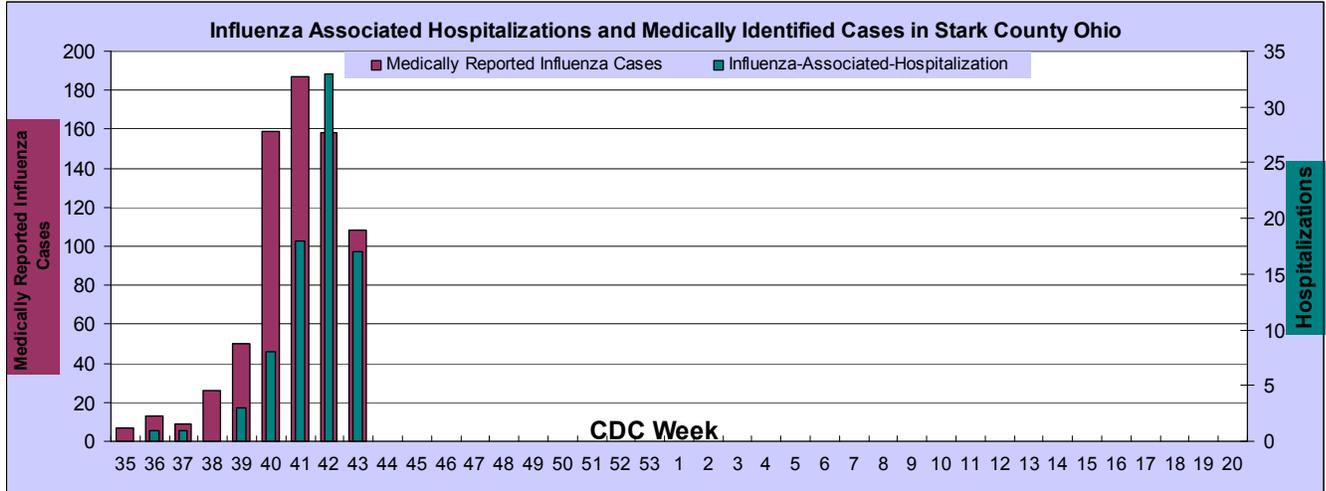
- A **decrease** in the number of hospitalizations and medically provided positive influenza cases was observed in Stark County during week 43. **Seventeen** influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported, a decrease from 33 during week 42 and medically reported positive influenza cases decreased 32%. (Graph 1)
- Of the medically reported cases, not hospitalized, the average age increased to 17 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 12 years. Additionally, **66%** of the reports are in the age group of 5 to 24 years. Hospitalized cases ranged in age from 1 month to 74 years with a median of 37 years, and the most affected age group, based on percentage, is the 25-50 years at 38%. However, when looking at population rates, young children aged 0-4 years are hospitalized at the highest rate, 6 per 10,000 population.
- Reports from three Sentinel Providers indicated a **decrease** to 17% of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits decreased slightly to 7.7%, a level well **above** the national baseline of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County **decreased to 33.6%** from 39% in week 42. Although this is a reduction, a look at the 2009 full-year graph, provided as graph 3, clearly reveals that this is well above expected levels for this time of year as well as earlier than the usual winter season. Note, the highest average number of visits for these syndromes usually occurs in CDC week 7 (late February) and is 26.79%. (See Graph 3)
- For week 43, both Cough/Cold (C/C) Products and Thermometer sales decreased bringing C/C product sales to near normal levels. Thermometer sales remained significantly elevated for this time of year at nearly a **100% above** the 5-year average. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism, as reported by 52 local schools in Stark County, decreased during week 43, with a median percentage of student absenteeism of 6.2%.
- The state of Ohio and 47 other states reported **widespread** geographic influenza activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease. In Ohio, Widespread Activity is defined as Increased ILI in at least half of the regions AND recent lab confirmed influenza in the state. (See National Map)
- Nationally, the CDC continues to identify **>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)*. Nationally only two A (H1) and two A (H3) isolates were identified from testing done on over 5000 specimens. Ohio identified only the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) strain during week 43.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 7.4%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold of 6.7% for week 43.
- Five influenza pediatric deaths have been reported from Ohio during the 2009/2010 influenza season and a total of 85 nationally. The graph to the right can be found on the CDC website where it displays the significant number of children mortally affected by influenza during the current and previous 3 seasons.



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

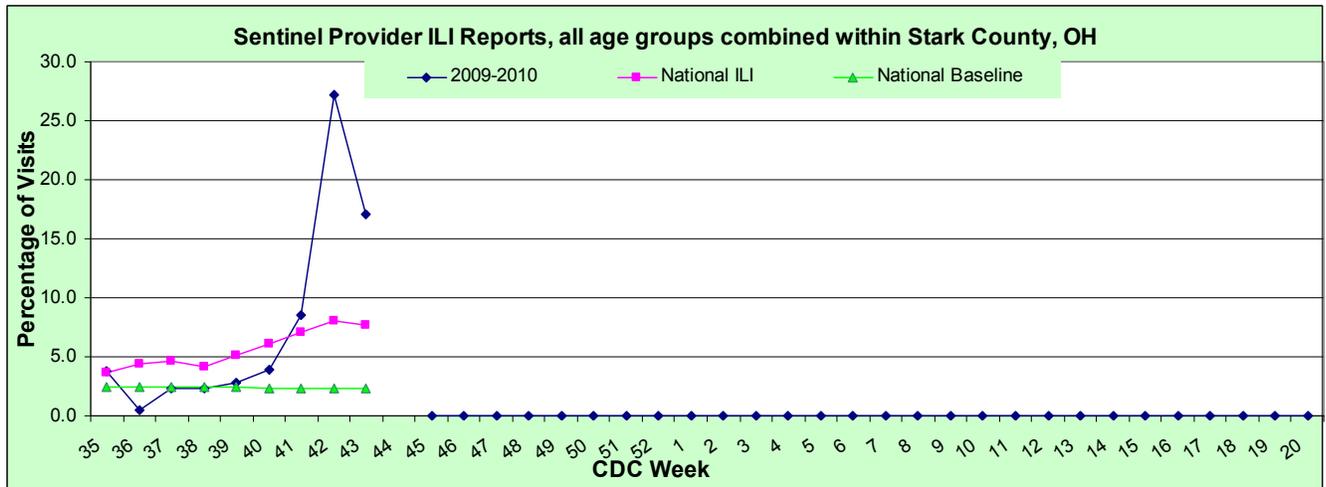
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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

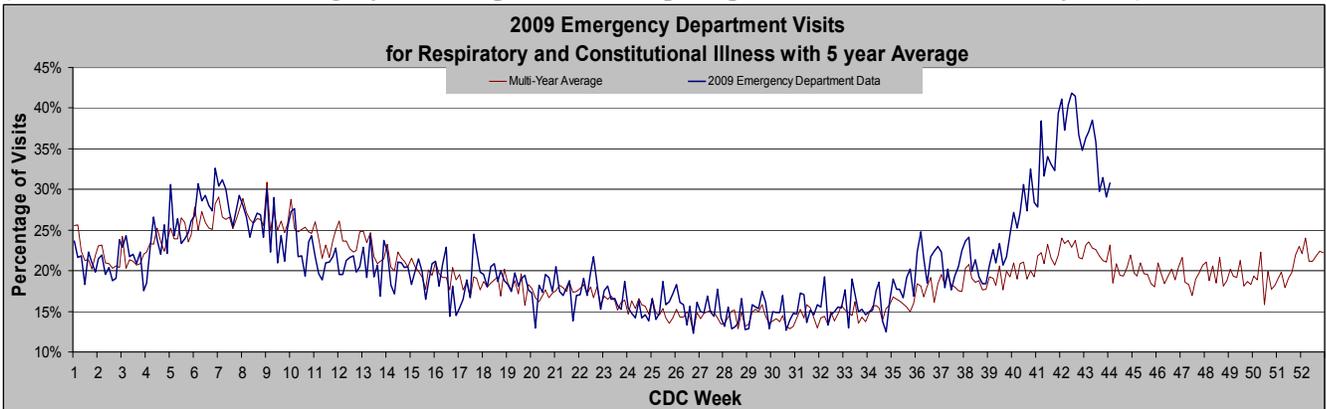


Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.

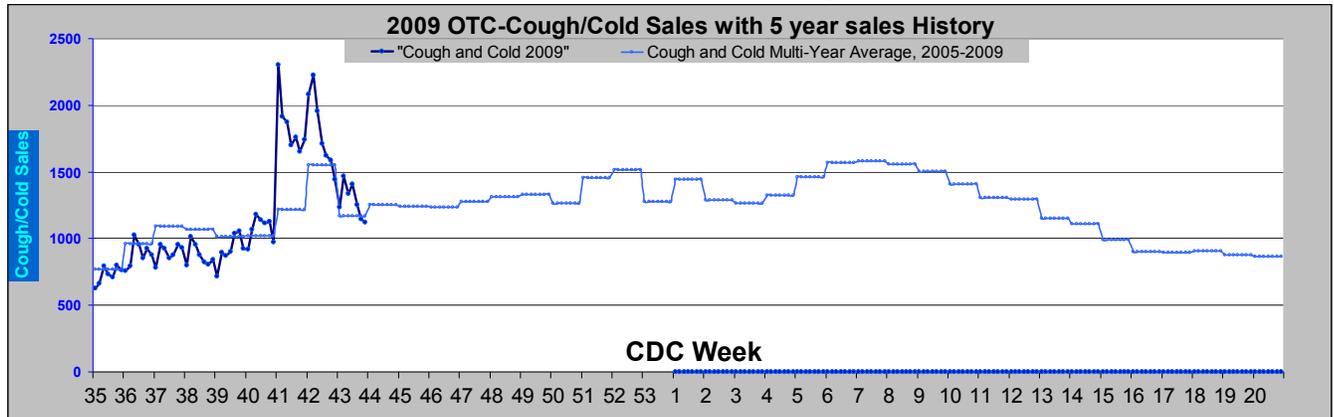


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



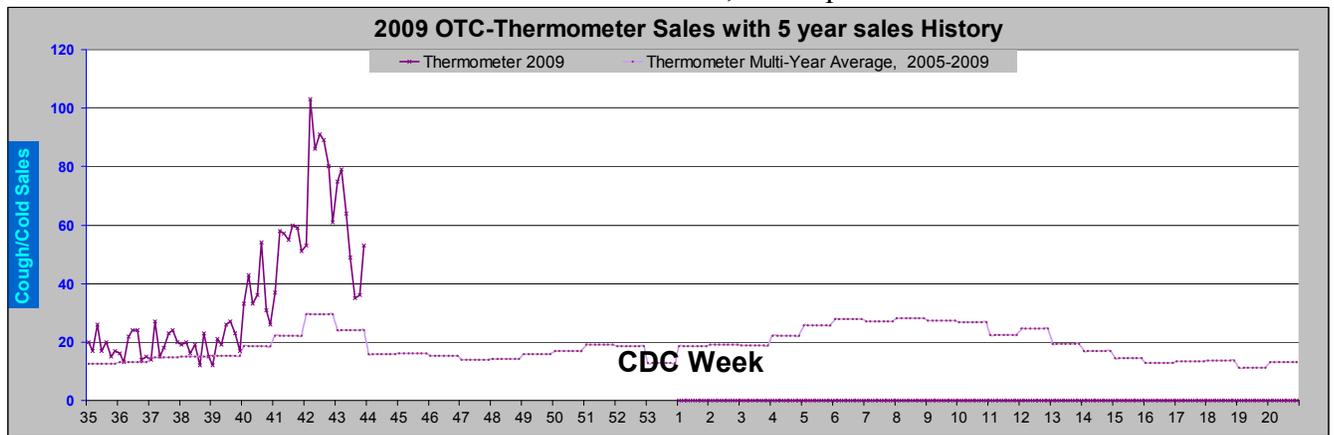
Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County

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



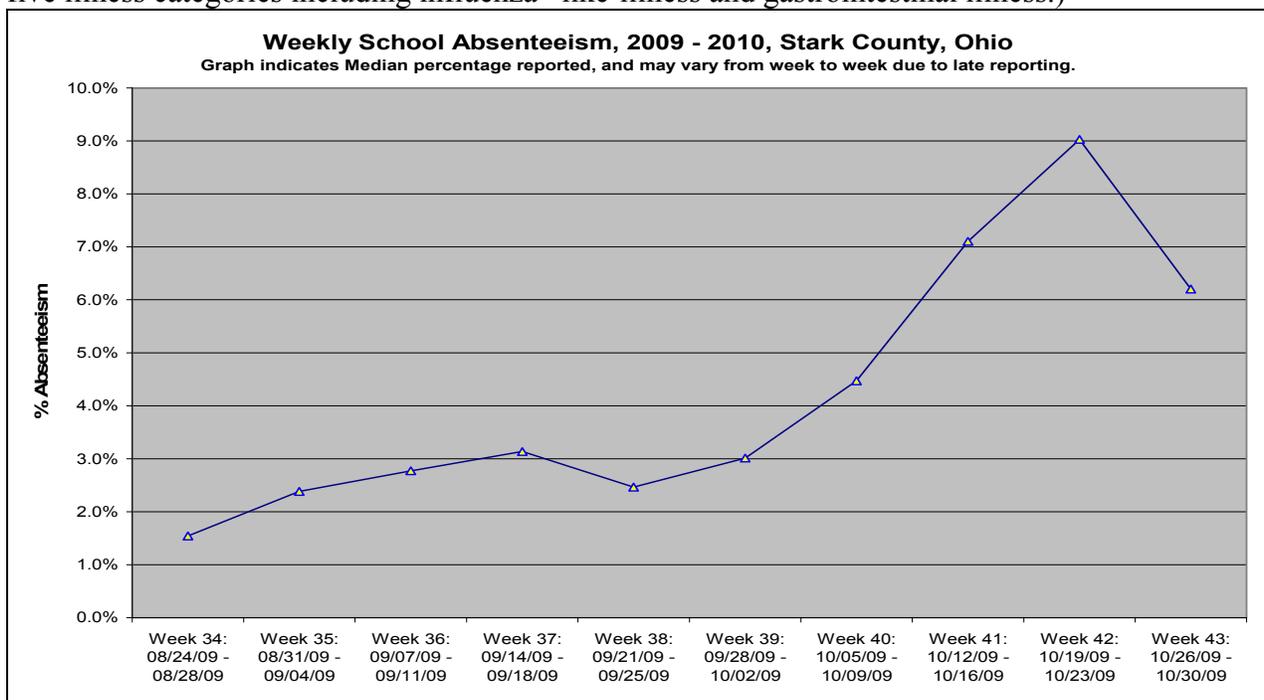
Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County

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



Graph 6: 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

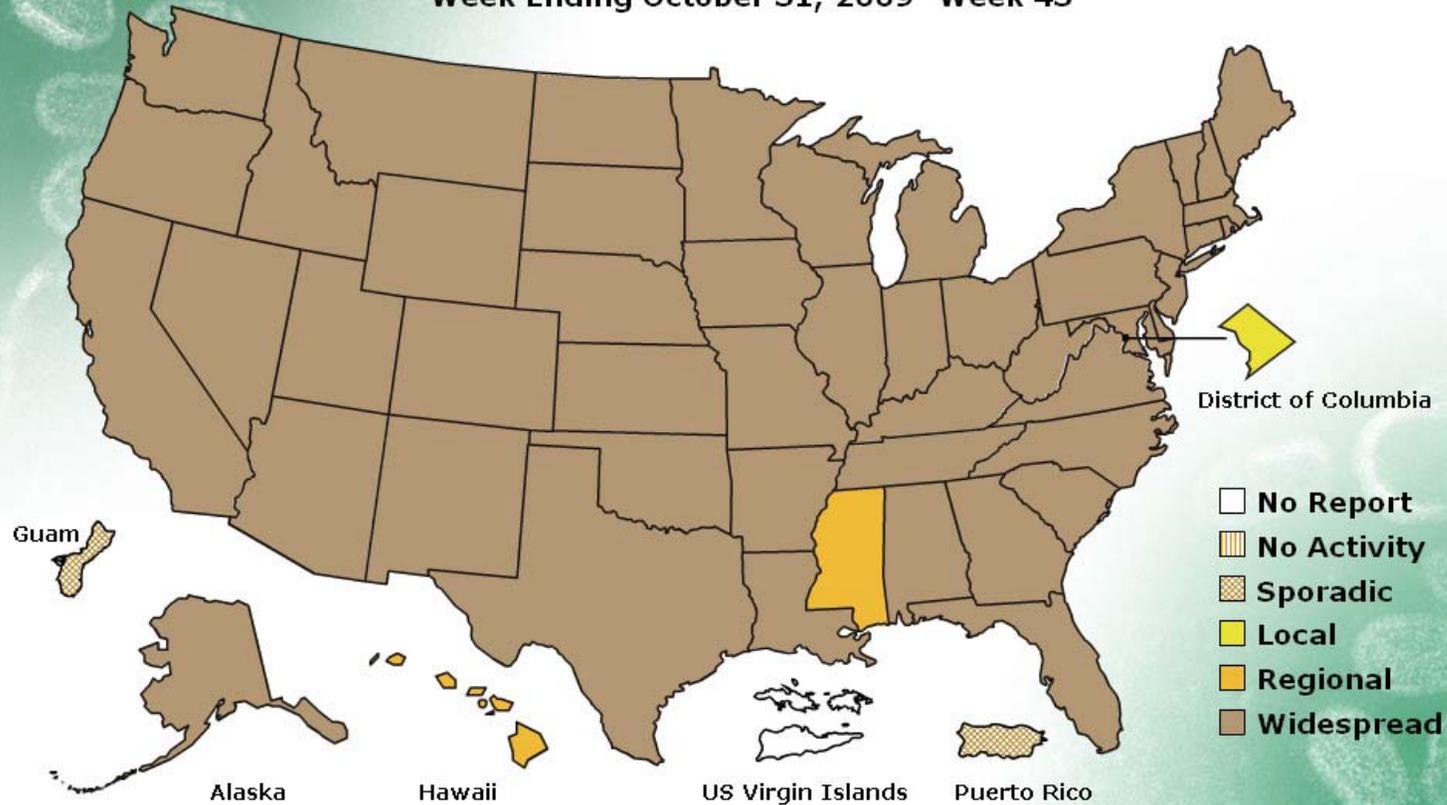
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

FLUVIEW



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

Week Ending October 31, 2009- Week 43



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