



## STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 44

Week 44 ending November 7, 2009, with updates through 11/15/2009.

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

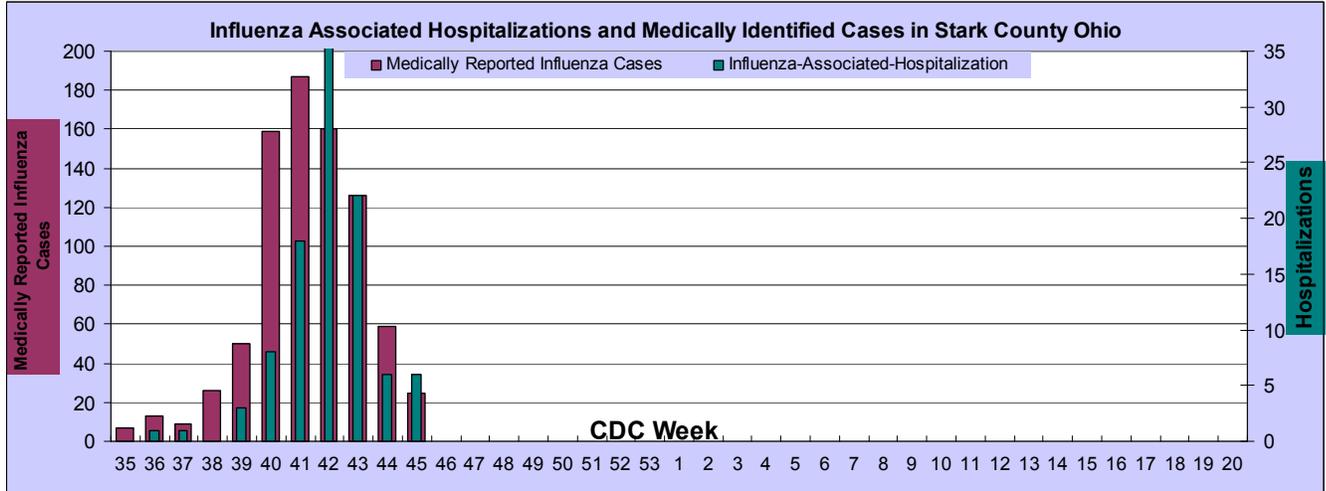
During week 44 (November 1-7, 2009), many local and national indicators of influenza activity revealed decreasing intensity. However, both nationally reported influenza associated pediatric mortality and pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality continued to climb.

- With the third consecutive week of decreasing medically provided positive influenza cases and the second consecutive week in reduced hospitalizations, an overall downward trend is apparent in influenza-like-illness in Stark County. **Six** influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported, a decrease from 22 during week 43. (Graph 1)
- Of the medically reported cases, not hospitalized, the average age decreased slightly to 16.7 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 11 years. Additionally, **65%** of the reports are in the age group of 5 to 24 years. Hospitalized cases ranged in age from 1 month to 77 years with a median of 37 years, and the most affected age group, based on percentage, is the 25-50 years at 39%. However, when looking at population rates, young children aged 0-4 years are hospitalized at the highest rate, 7 per 10,000 population.
- Reports from four Sentinel Providers indicated a **decrease** to 4.75% of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits also **decreased** to 6.7%. Overall ILI activity, remains well **above** the national baseline of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County **decreased to 28.44%** from 34% in week 43. The overall number of total patient visits by Stark County residents has also declined, thereby considerably reducing the overall burden of disease in our area Emergency Departments. 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 44, both Cough/Cold (C/C) Products and Thermometer sales decreased bringing C/C product sales to **below expected levels**. Thermometer sales remain elevated for this time of year, however, a declining trend to expected levels is apparent in week 35. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism, as reported by 58 local schools in Stark County, **decreased** during week 44, with a median percentage of student absenteeism of 4.4%.
- The state of Ohio and 44 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)*. Ohio identified only the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) strain during week 44.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 7.7%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for week 44.
- **Six influenza pediatric deaths** have been reported from Ohio during the 2009/2010 influenza season and a total of 117 influenza pediatric deaths were confirmed nationally. Of the 117 nationally reported pediatric deaths, 18 deaths were in children less than 2 years old, 12 deaths were in children 2-4 years old, 41 deaths were in children 5-11 years old, and 46 deaths in children 12-17 years old.

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).

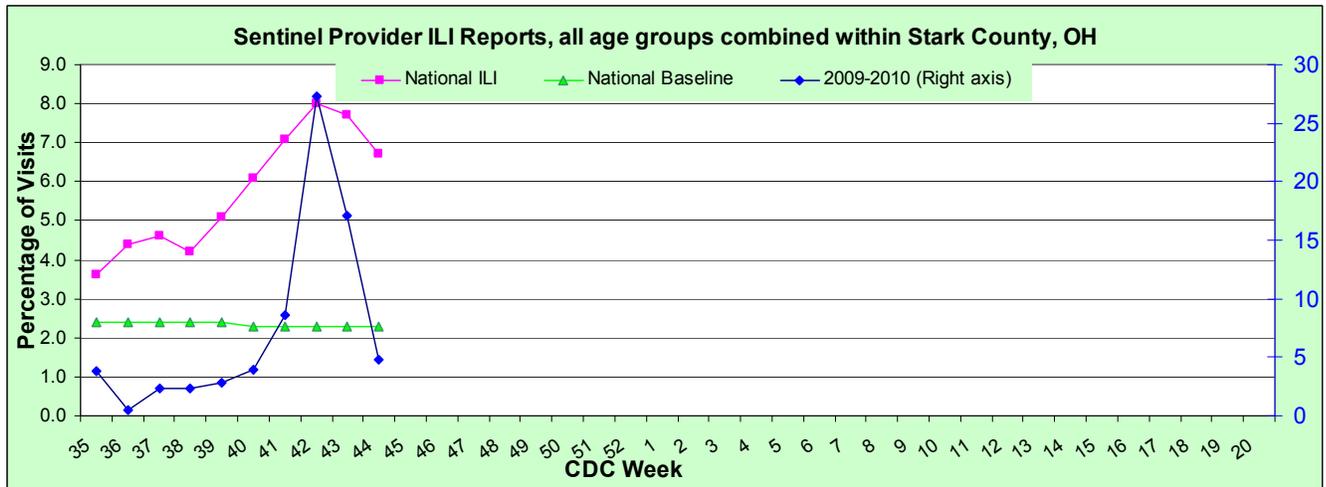
### Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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

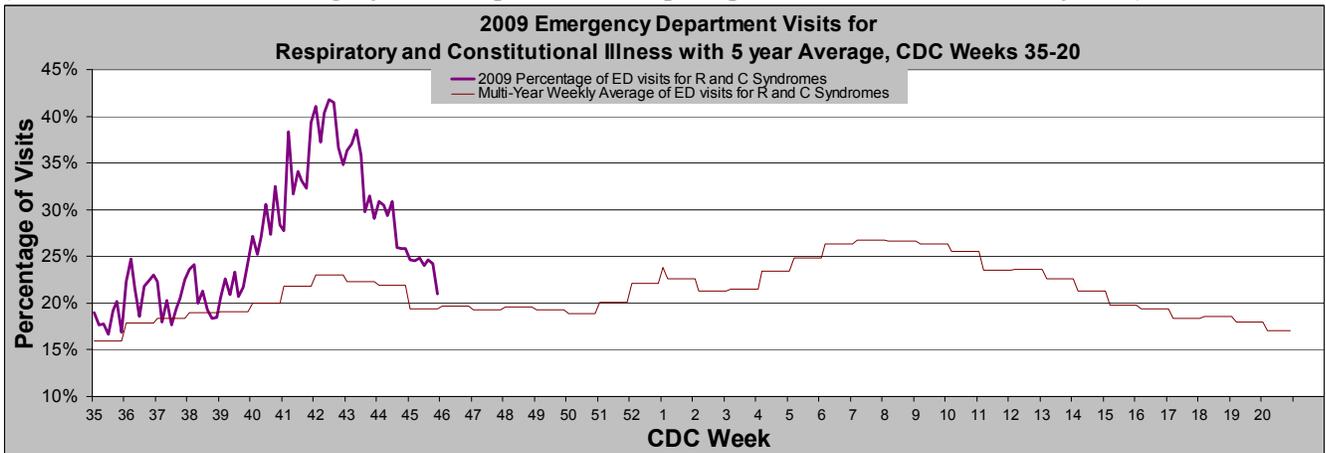


### Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.

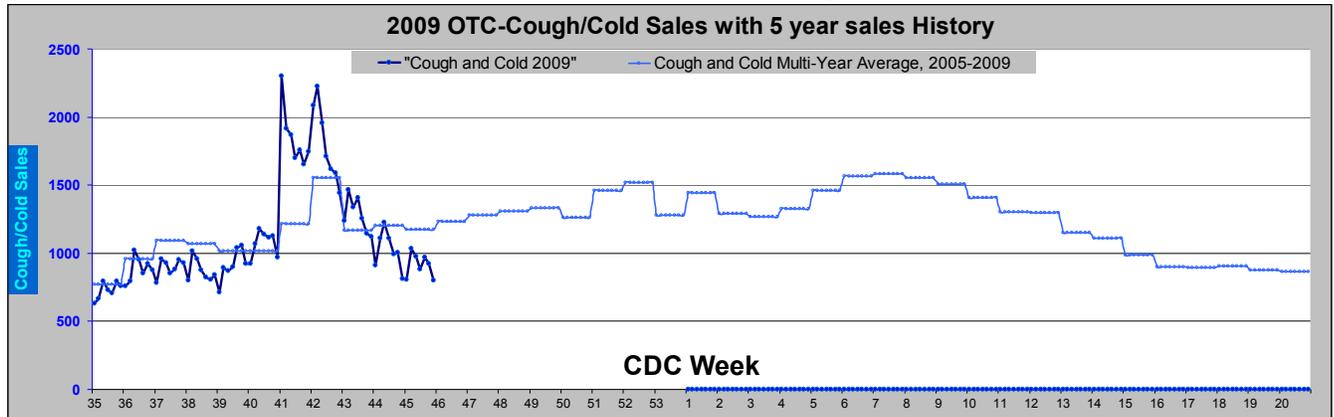


### Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



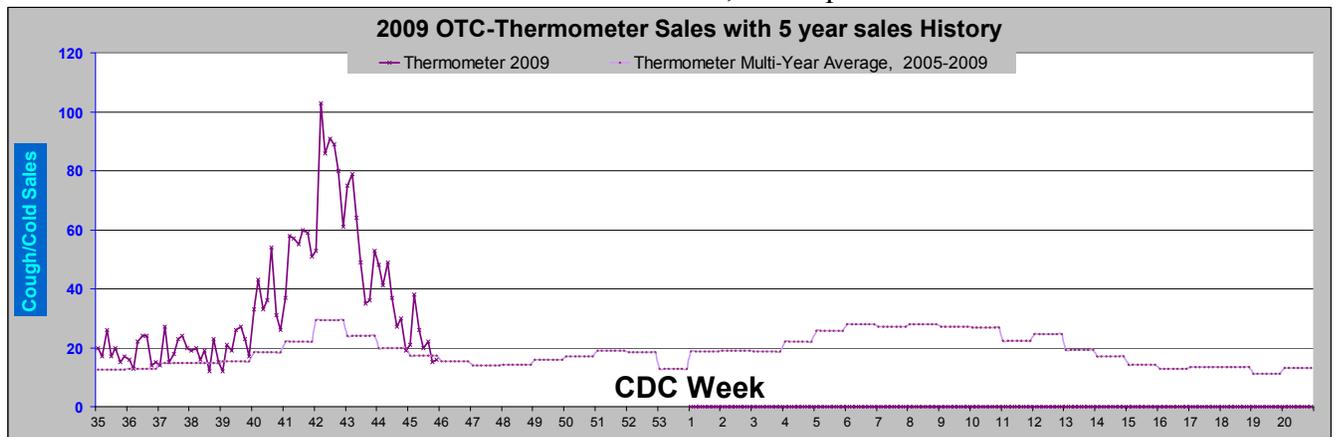
**Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County**

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



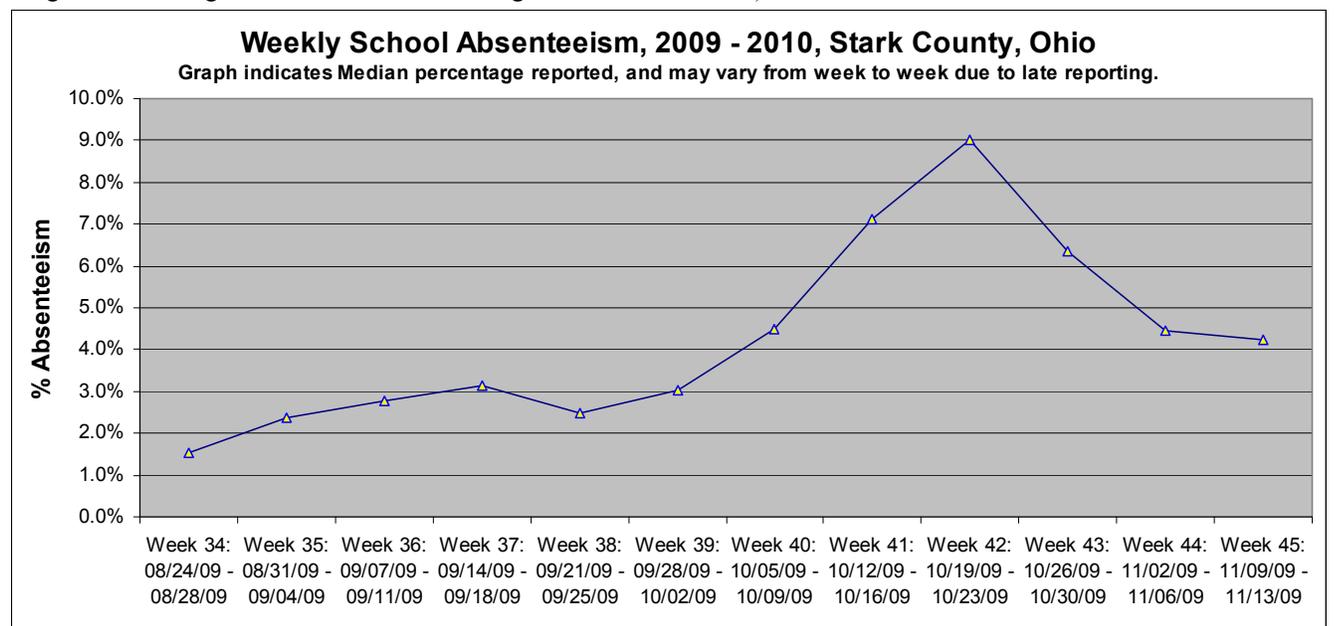
**Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County**

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.)



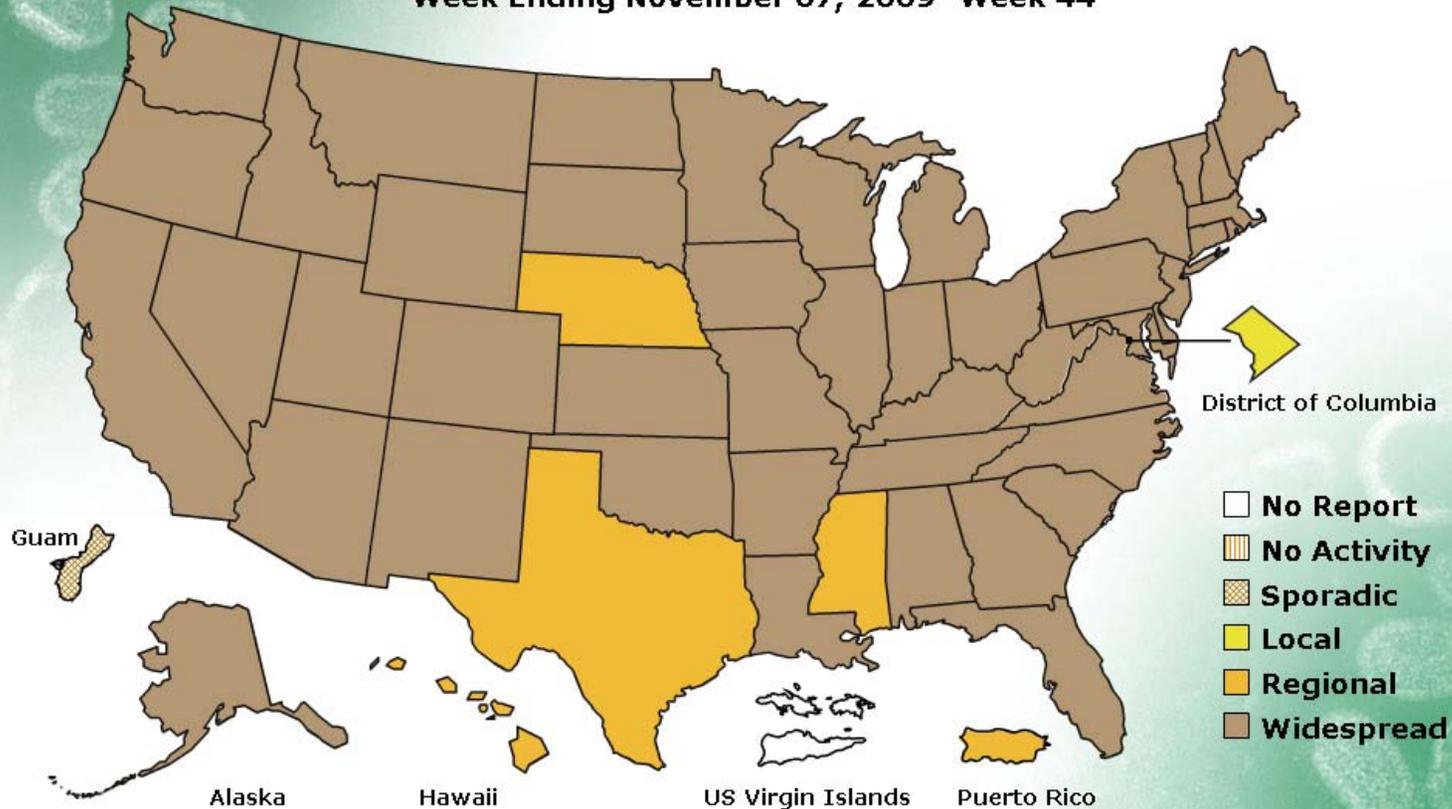
**Map Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists**  
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

# FLUVIEW



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

**Week Ending November 07, 2009- Week 44**



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