



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 48

Week 48 ending December 5, 2009, with updates through 12/13/2009.

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

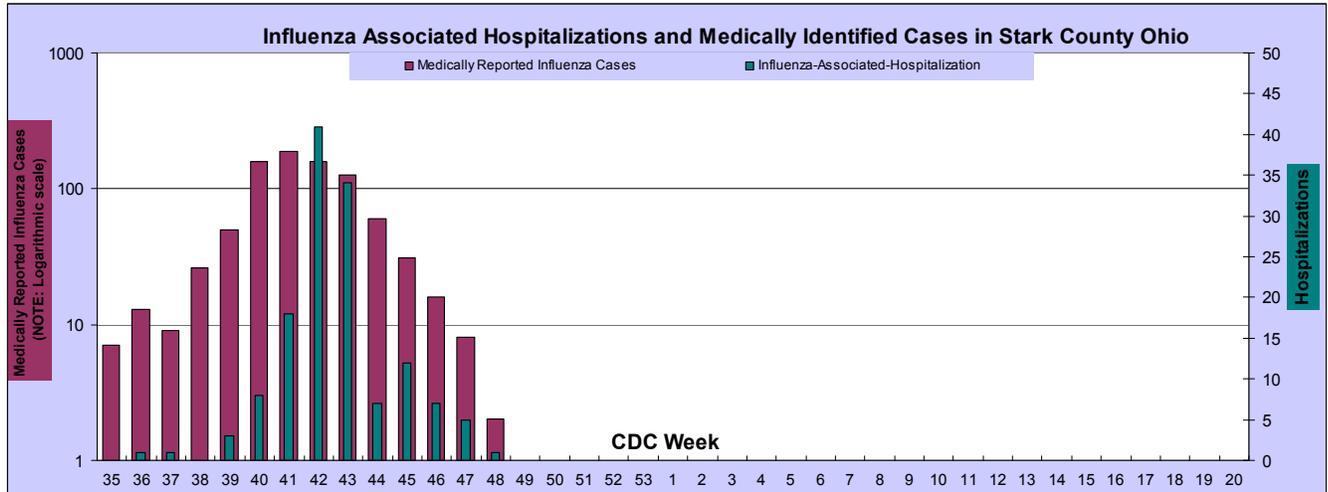
During week 48, (November 29 - December 5, 2009) local and national indicators of influenza activity continued to reveal decreasing intensity. The number of influenza associated hospitalizations, patient visits to area hospitals, sales of thermometers and other indicators showed declining activity. National indicators of severe illness remain elevated for this time of year.

- Influenza associated hospitalizations continued to **decline** with only 1 reported case during week 48. Similar decreases in activity were observed with other medically provided positive influenza cases. Note: Graph 1 was changed to a logarithmic scale due to declining numbers. (Graph 1)
- Due to few reports, there were no changes in the demographic information for the medically reported cases, not hospitalized; the average age is 16.7 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 11 years. The majority of individuals affected by this years influenza strain continues to be in the age group 5 to 24 years (**64%**).
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from ≤ 1 month to 80 years with a median of 37 years, and the age group with the highest percentage affected is the 25-50 year olds at 36%. However, when looking at population rates, **young children aged 0-4 years** are hospitalized at the highest rate, >9 per 10,000 population. Also of note is a **disproportionate** number of hospitalizations among the African American (AA) Community; of reports received with race this season 24% are reported as AA. (Note: 2008 US Census states Stark County is 7.4% AA and Ohio is 12%AA)
- Of the 139 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported since CDC Week 35 (the official beginning of the 2009-2010 influenza season) 41 have been confirmed with Influenza A (H1N1), AKA the Pandemic Strain. One of the 137 is positive for Influenza B and is awaiting additional confirmation and all others were positive for Influenza A with no sub typing.
- Reports from four Sentinel Providers indicated a **decrease** to less than 1% of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits remained above the National baseline of 2.3% but showed a **decreasing trend** to 2.7%. (See Graph 2)
- Emergency department visits by Stark County residents for both Constitutional and Respiratory visits **remained steady** just below 20%. The number of total patient visits by residents **declined** and is near expected levels. (See Graph 3) An unusually high percentage of visits for particular symptoms occurred in the current week 49, specifically for congestion and fever.
- For week 48, Cough/Cold (C/C) Product sales **increased** slightly, remaining well below expected for this time of year. Thermometer sales **decreased** and are below expected for the **first time** this influenza season. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism, as reported by 58 local schools in Stark County, **decreased** during week 48 to a median percentage of student absenteeism of 3.8%. (See graph 6)
- The state of Ohio **reduced** the geographic influenza activity level to **Regional**. Fourteen states across the Nation continue to report Widespread activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease.(See National Map)
- This season Ohio has identified one (1) influenza A/H1, one (1) influenza A/H3, and 1179 Pandemic A/H1 isolates. 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)*.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 7.8%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. For the 10th consecutive week this percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold, currently at 7.1%.
- The CDC reported 16 influenza associated pediatric deaths during week 48, none from Ohio. A total of seven confirmed influenza-associated pediatric mortality reports have been reported in Ohio for the 2009-2010 season: one from Athens County, three from Cuyahoga County, two from Franklin County, and one from Warren County. Four of these mortalities had confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection.

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

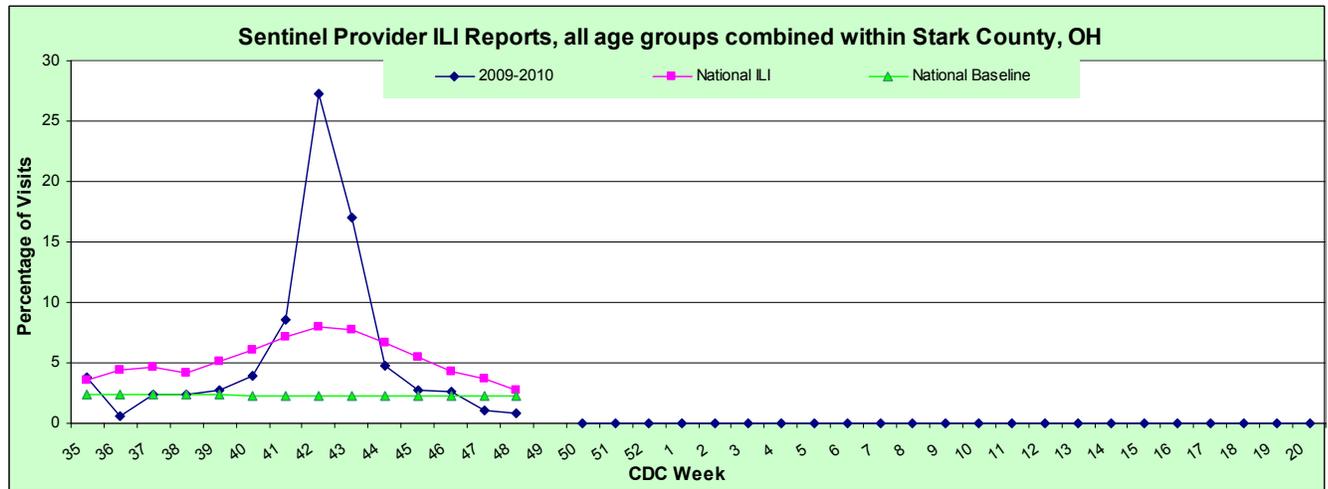
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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

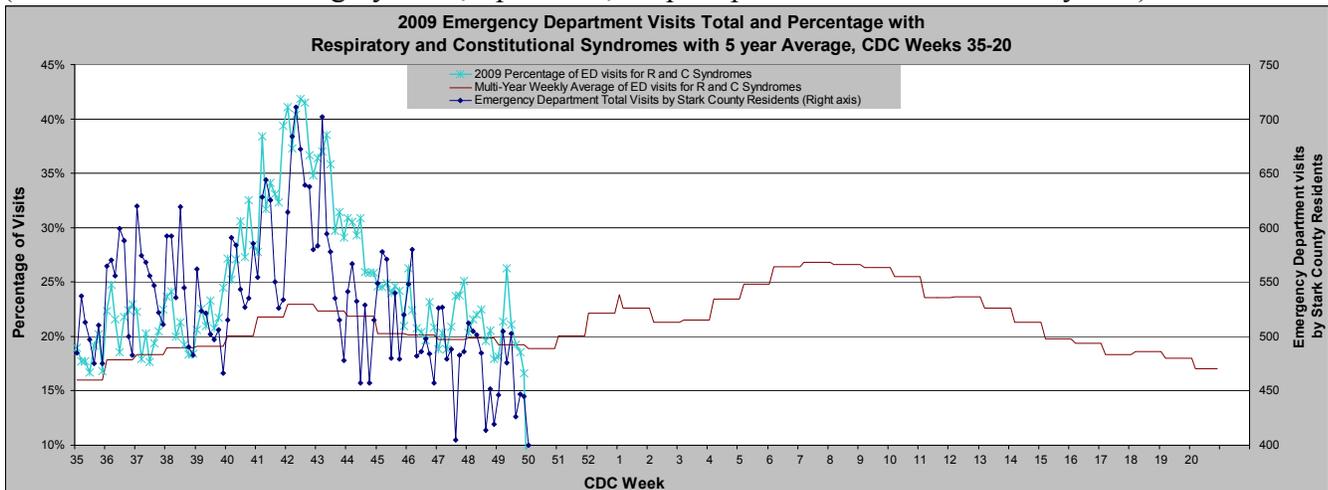


Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.

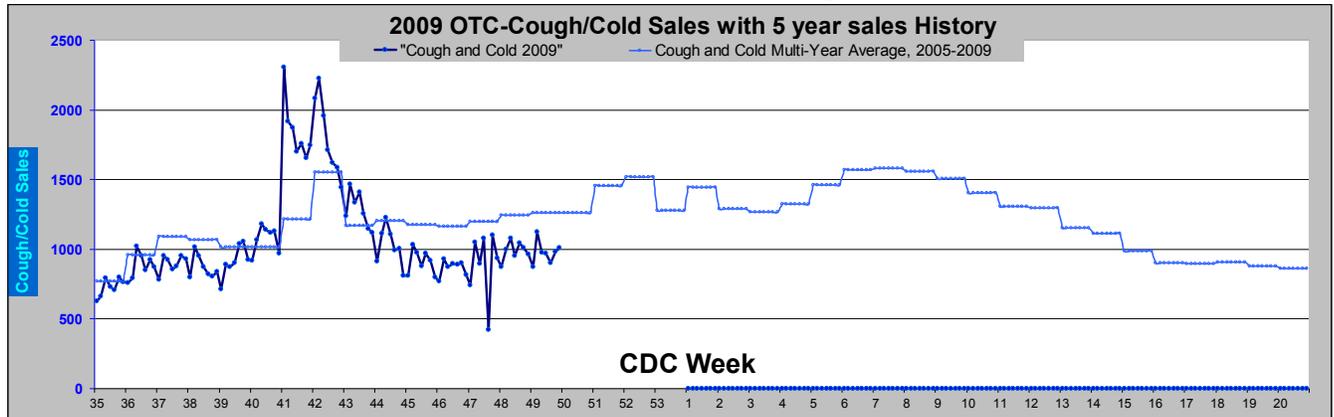


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



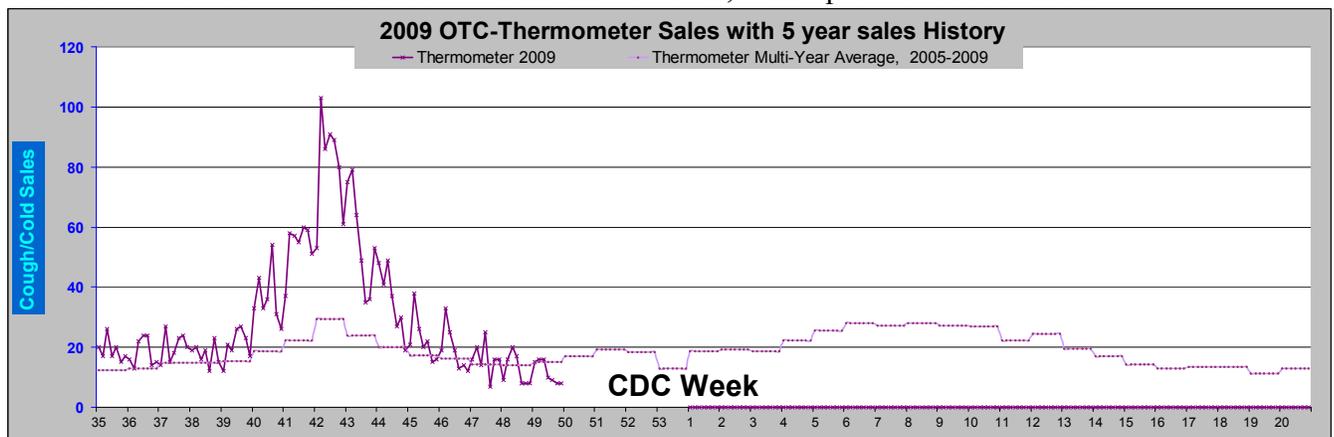
Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County

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



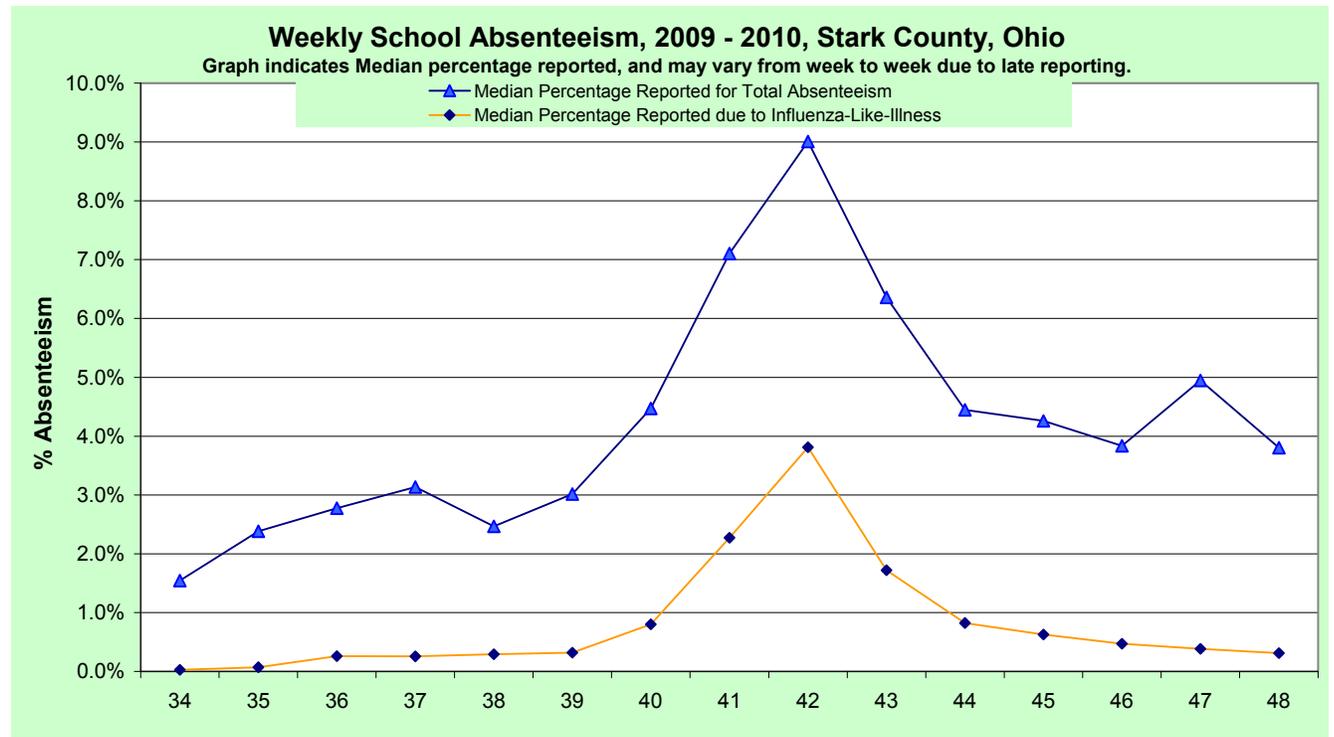
Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County

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

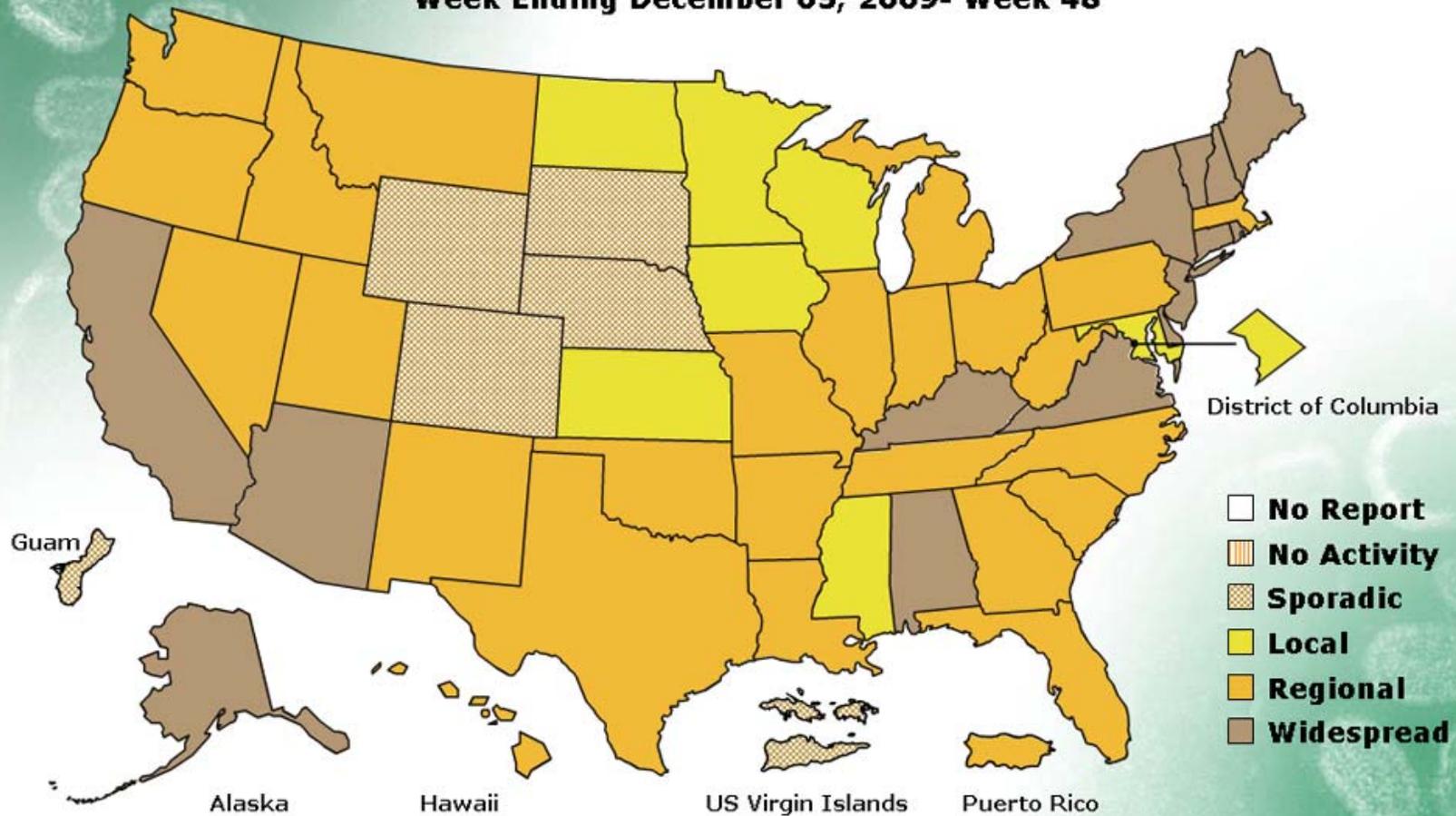
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

FLUVIEW



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

Week Ending December 05, 2009- Week 48



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