



## STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 50

Week 50 ending December 19, 2009, with updates through 12/28/2009.

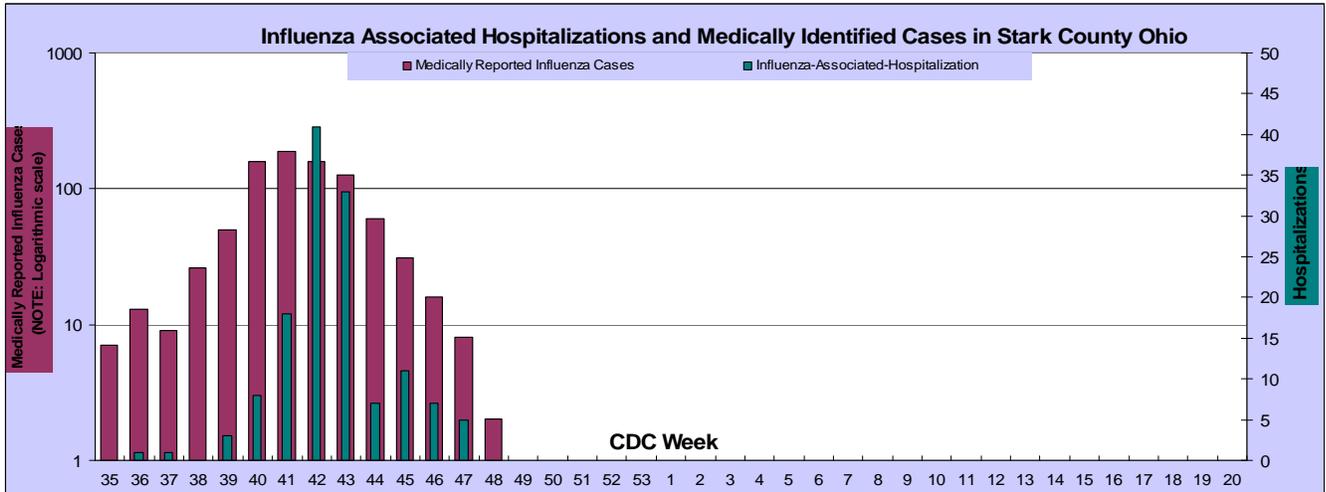
All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

During week 50, (December 13 - 19, 2009) local and national indicators of influenza activity continued to decline.

- There were NO influenza-associated hospitalizations or other medically reported positive influenza case reports in week 50. (See Graph 1 with logarithmic scale.)
- There was no change 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. Additionally, **64%** of the reports are in the age group of 5 to 24 years.
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from  $\leq 1$  month to 80 years with a median of 37 years. The most affected age group, based on percentage, is the 25-50 years at 36%. Based on population rates, young children aged 0-4 years are hospitalized at the highest rate,  $>9$  per 10,000 population. A disproportionate number of hospitalizations have been reported among the African American community; of reports received with race information, 22% are reported as African American while the 2008 US Census reports that the total population of Stark County is only 7.4% African American.
- Reports from four Sentinel Providers **declined** to only 0.6% of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. Overall ILI activity is **below** the national baseline of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County continued to **decrease**, and are now down to **19.3%**. Note: The highest average number of visits for these syndromes usually occurs in CDC week 7 (late February) and is 26.79%; increases are also seen in the weeks following large holidays. (See Graph 3)
- For week 50, Cough/Cold (C/C) Product and Thermometer sales remained **steady**. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism, as reported by 41 local schools in Stark County, remained relatively **steady** during week 50 with a median percentage of student absenteeism of 3.7%. Changes in Influenza-Like-Illness mirror the declines seen in overall student absenteeism. (See Graph 6)
- The state of Ohio and 10 other states reported **sporadic** geographic influenza activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease. In Ohio, Sporadic Activity is defined as small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak, but no increase in ILI. (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)*.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **decreased slightly to 7.2%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **below** the epidemic threshold of 7.3% for week 50.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported 9 influenza associated pediatric deaths in week 50, including one from Ohio. Since August 30, 2009, CDC has received 221 reports of influenza-associated pediatric deaths that occurred during the current influenza season (40 deaths in children less than 2 years old, 25 deaths in children 2-4 years old, 81 deaths in children 5-11 years old, and 75 deaths in children 12-17 years old). 181 (82%) of the 221 deaths were due to 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infections, 38 were associated with influenza A virus for which the subtype is undetermined, and 1 was associated with an influenza B virus infection. A total of 241 deaths in children associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have been reported to CDC.
- 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).

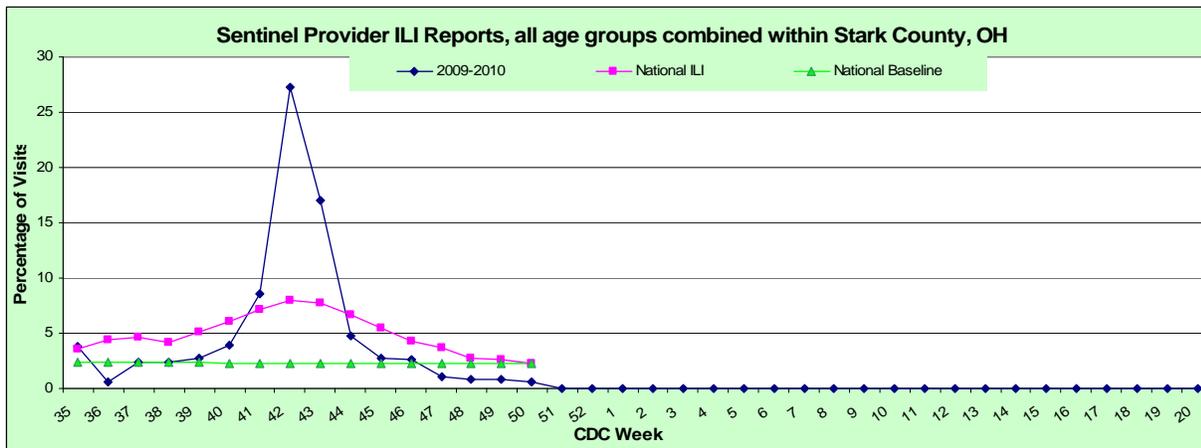
### Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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

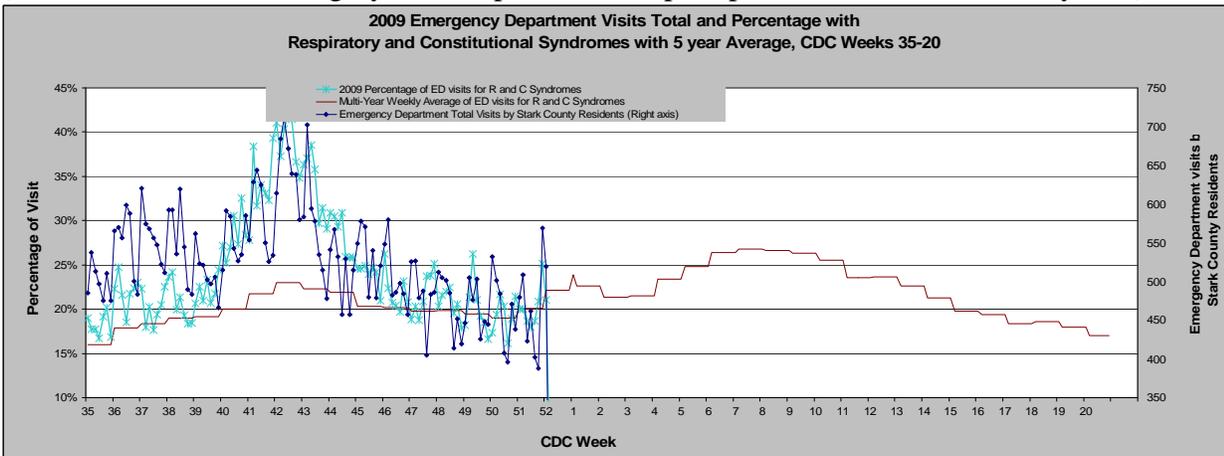


### Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.

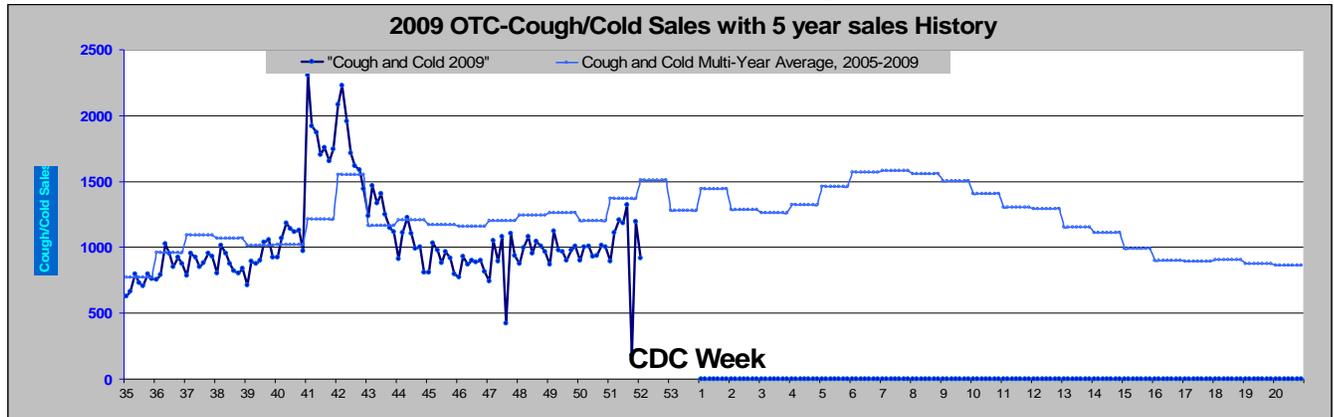


### Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



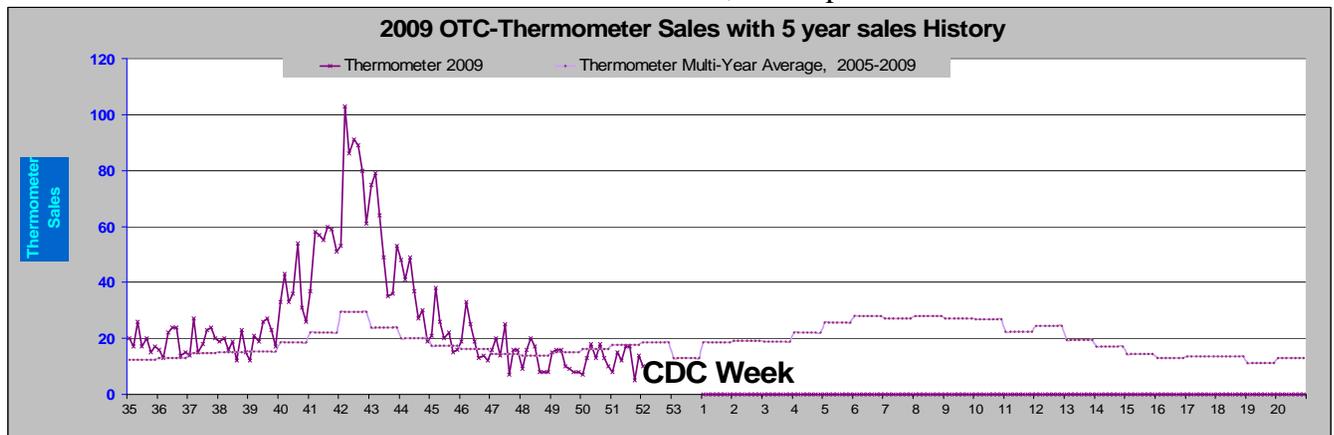
**Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County**

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



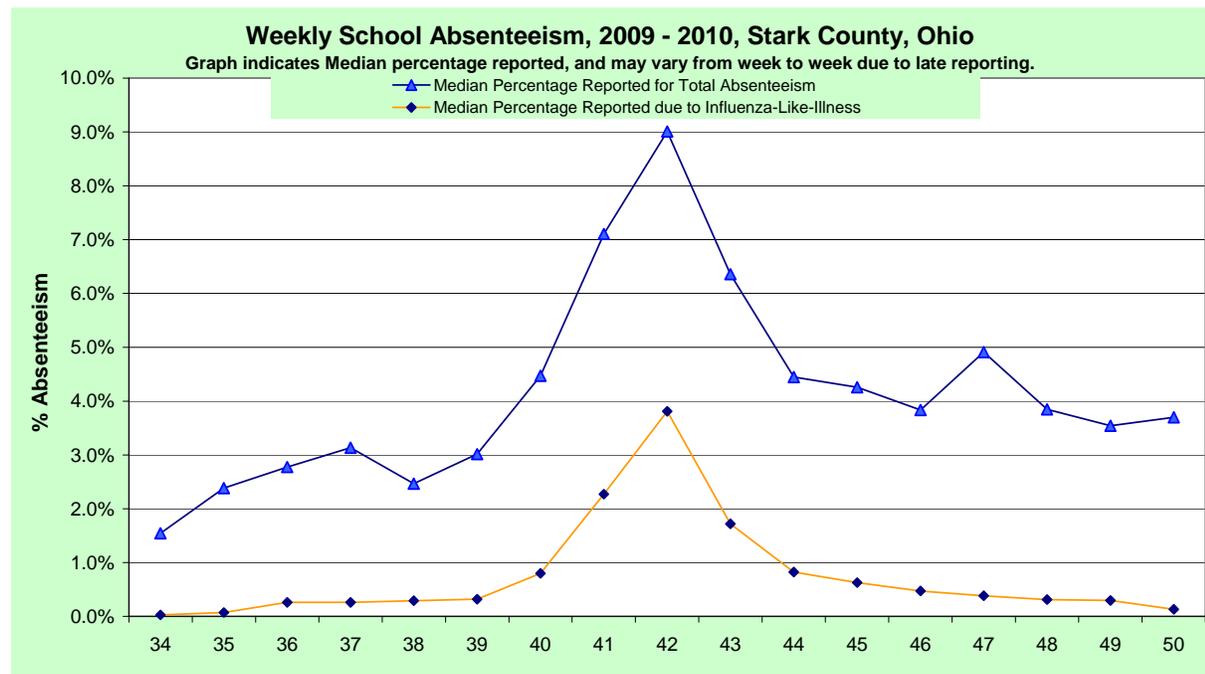
**Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County**

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

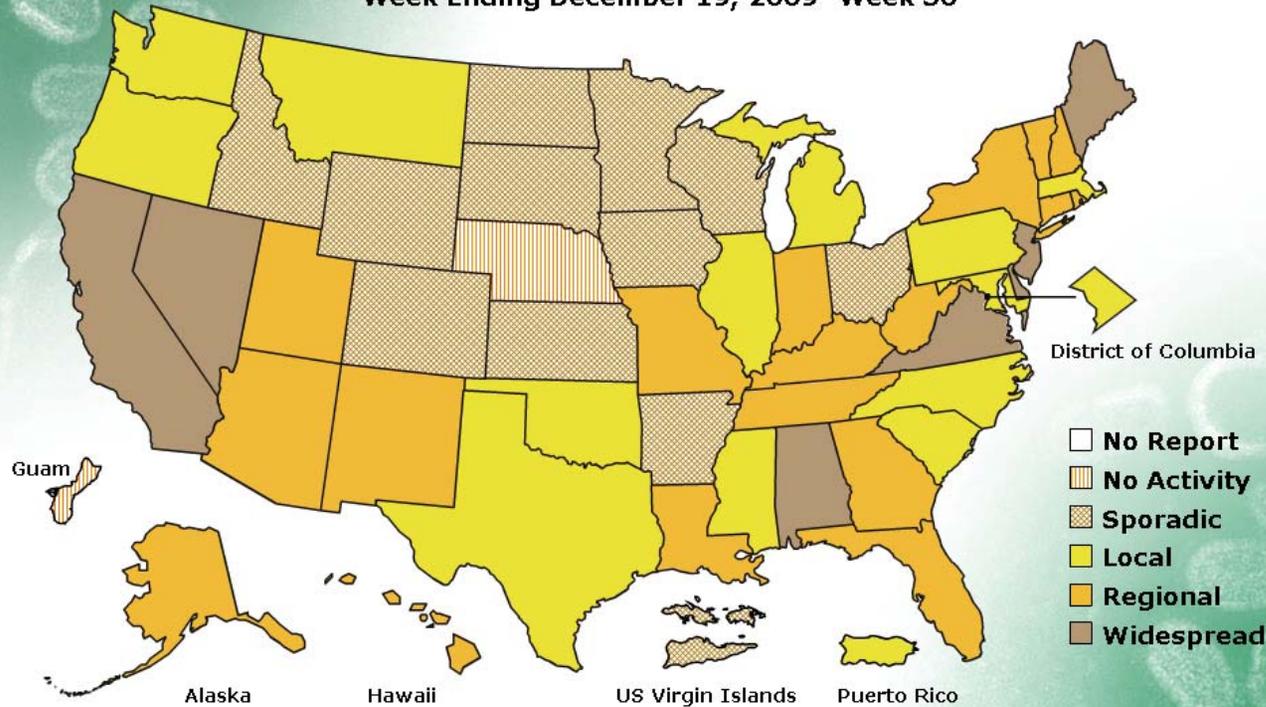
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

# FLUVIEW



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

Week Ending December 19, 2009- Week 50



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