



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 6

Week ending February 13, 2010. With updates through 02/21/2010.

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

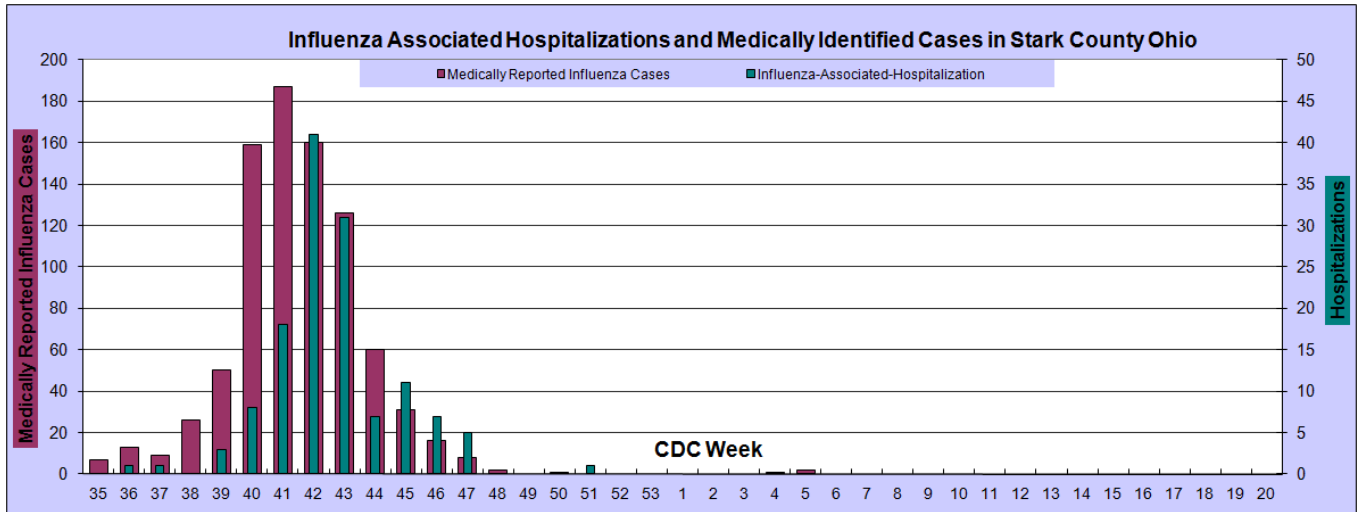
During week 6, (February 7 – February 13, 2010) indicators of influenza like activity continued to reveal very modest increases locally, and remained steady and at very low levels throughout other communities the State and the Nation.

- There were no influenza-associated hospitalizations or medically reported influenza cases during CDC Week 6. (Graph 1)
- Demographics for the medically reported cases not hospitalized: the two cases: the average age for this season 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 ≤ 1 month to 80 years with a median of 37 years. The most affected age group, based on percentage, is 25-50 years at 35%. Young children aged 0-4 years have been hospitalized at the highest rate, >7 per 10,000 population.
- Reports from four Sentinel Providers once again indicated a very slight **increase** to **1.1%** of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits **remained steady** at 2.1%. The National level remains below the baseline level of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Despite the lack of influenza positive tests, combined Constitutional and Respiratory (C & R) visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County are near expected for an average season. C & R visits **increased** to **25.81%** from 23.36 in week 5. This level is faintly below 26.27%, which is expected for CDC Week 6. The overall number of total patient visits by Stark County residents to emergency departments has **increased** slightly to an average of 488 visits per day, just shy of the 492 expected. 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 06, Cough/Cold (C/C) Products sales **increased** 8% from week 5; however sales remain well below expected for this time of year. Sales of Thermometers **declined** slightly and are nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of expected for this time of year. Both of these influenza surveillance indicators remain well below expected for this time of year. This is the fourth consecutive week of slight increases in C/C product sales. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- Only 41 schools reported absenteeism information for week 6, likely due to weather related reporting delays. The median percentage of student absenteeism reported **increased** to 5.0%. The last time absenteeism was reported at this level was in CDC Week 43, which was shortly after the peak of 2009 H1N1 cases in our community. (See graph 6)
- Nationally the majority of influenza activity, based on geographic indicators, is in the Southeastern United States; and once again, there were no states reporting Widespread activity. The state of Ohio remains at **sporadic** geographic influenza activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease. Sporadic geographic activity is defined as: Small numbers of laboratory- confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI. (See National Map)
- Nationally, the CDC identified **97%** of cocirculating strains of influenza (seasonal influenza A (H1), A (H3), and 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and influenza B) as *2009 influenza A (H1N1)*. The remaining 3% of cocirculating strains of influenza are influenza B.
- 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 **below** the epidemic threshold of 7.8% for week 6.

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

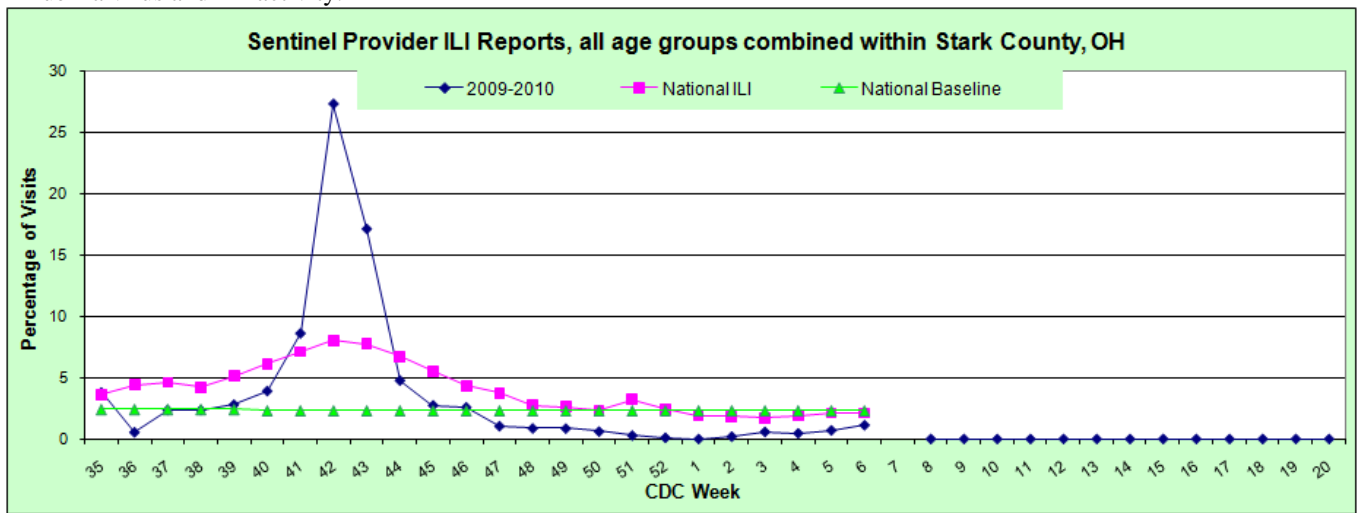
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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



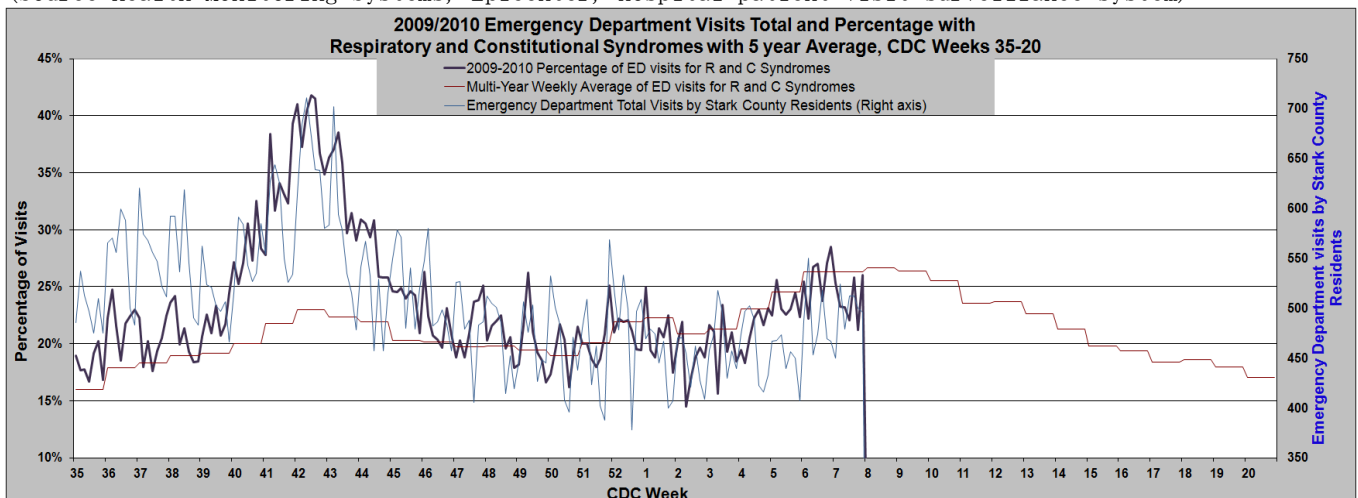
Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.



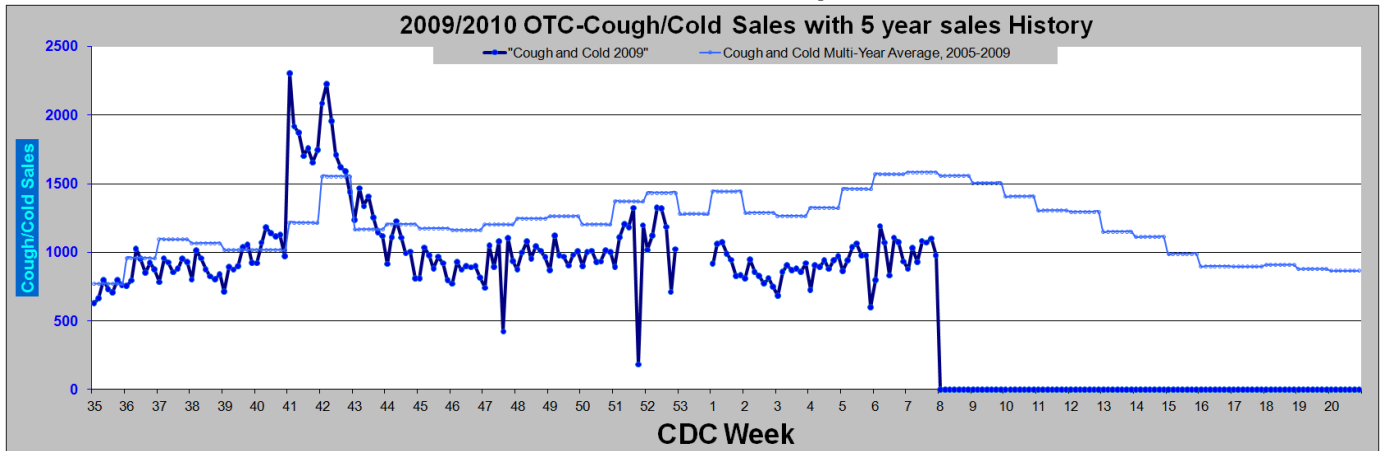
Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes

(Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



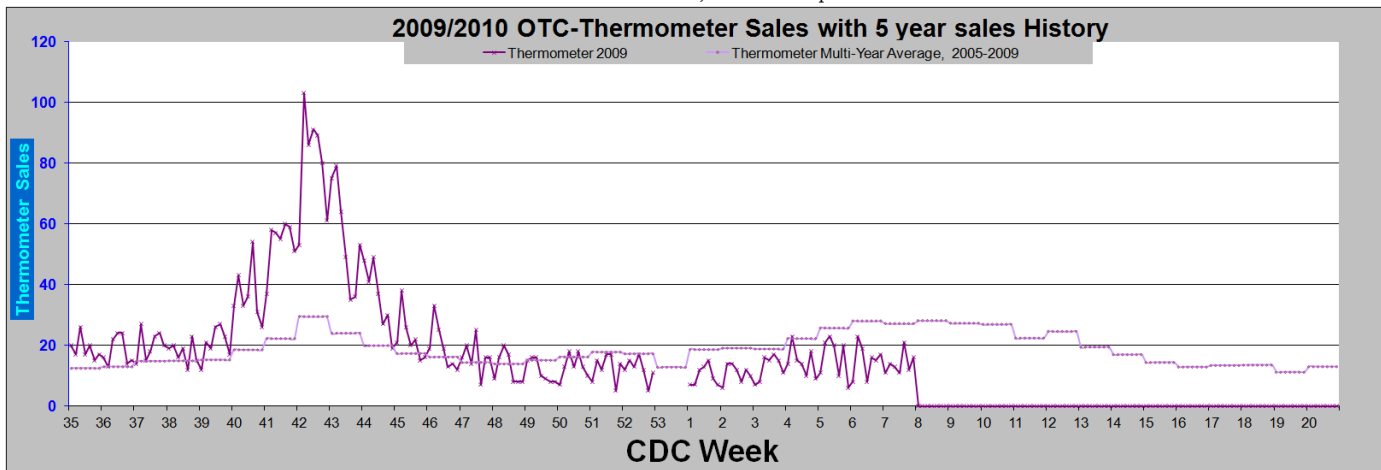
Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County

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



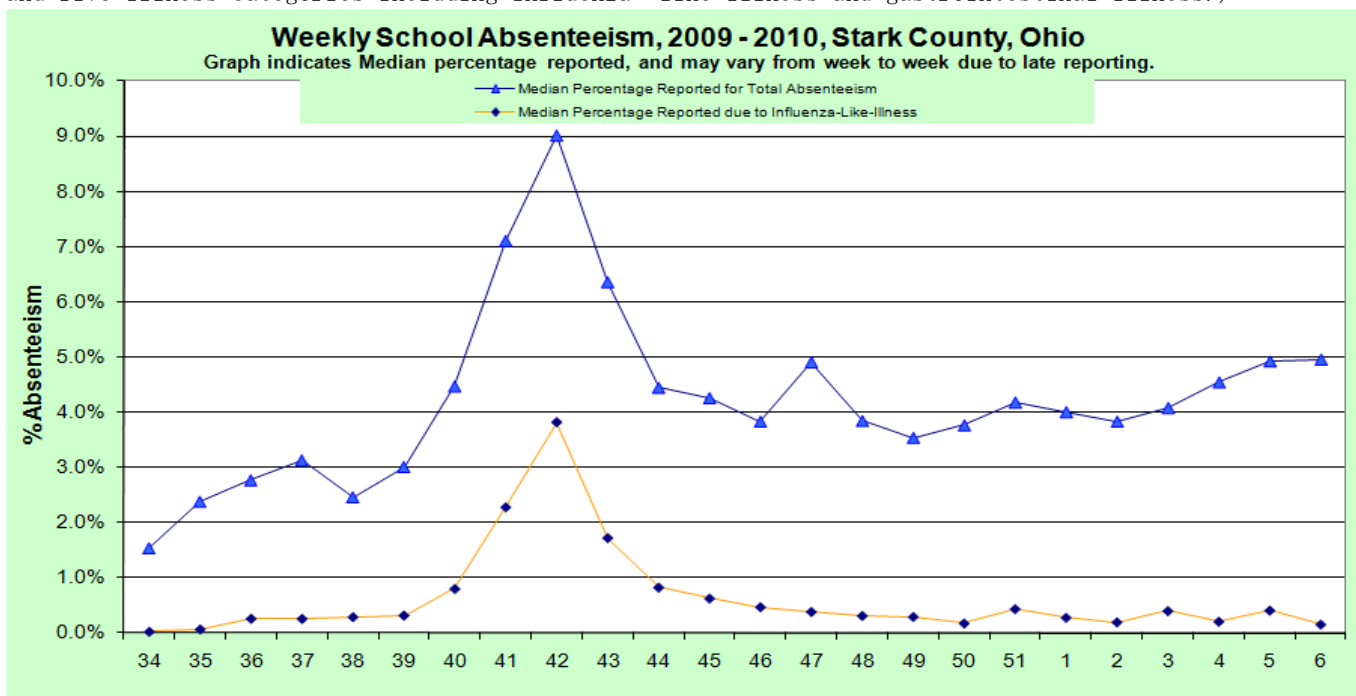
Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County

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

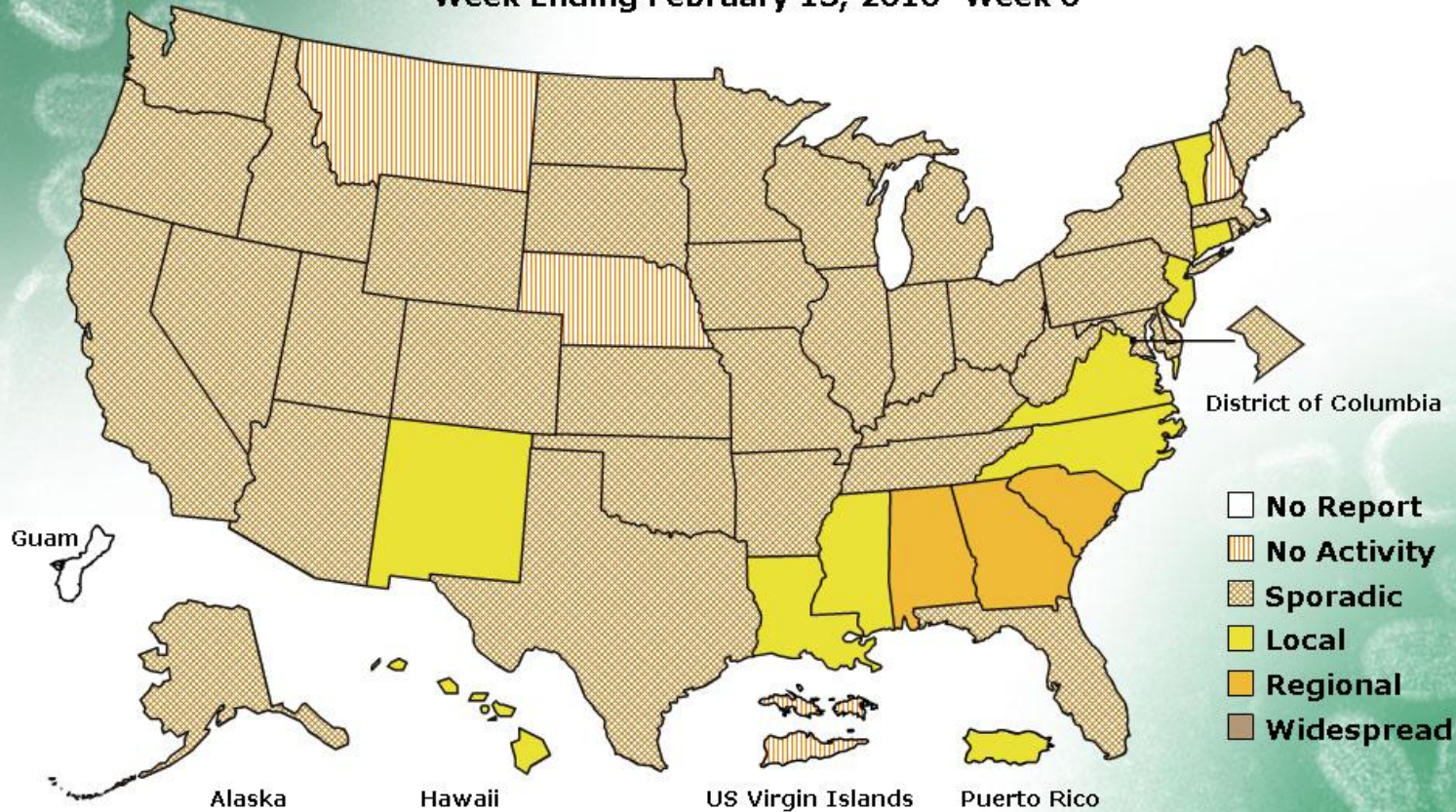
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

FLUVIEW



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

Week Ending February 13, 2010- Week 6



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