



## STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 8

Week ending February 27, 2010. With updates through 03/07/2010.

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

During week 8, (February 21 – February 27, 2010) local indicators of influenza-like-illness (ILI) activity remained below expected for this time of year. Similarly, State and National ILI activity was very low with elevated ILI activity primarily seen only in the Southeastern US.

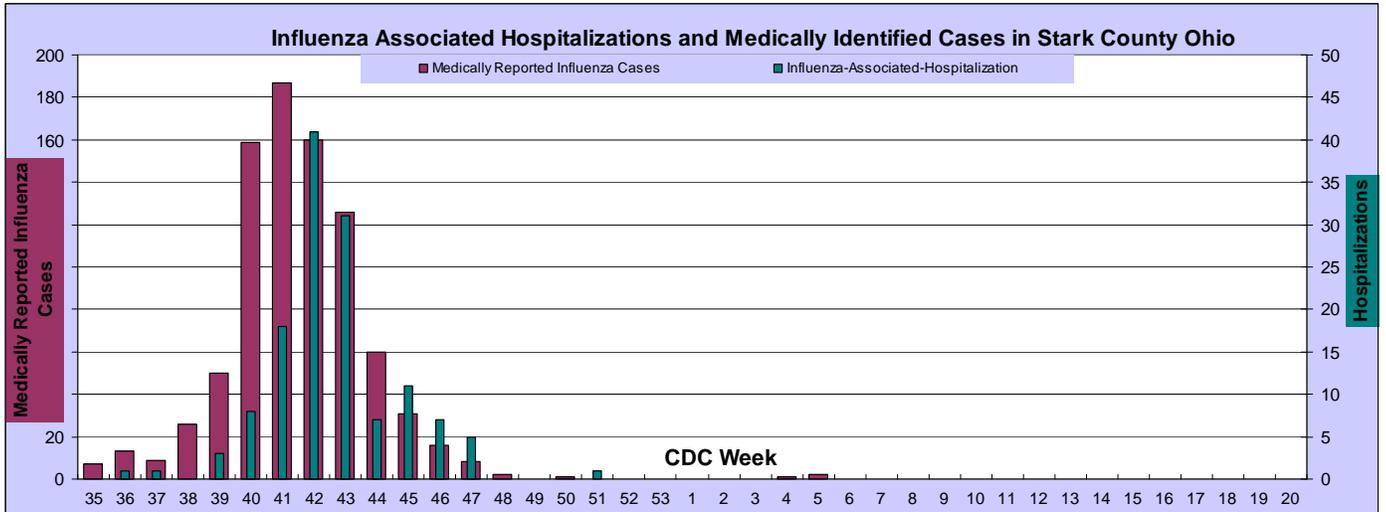
During week 8 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted on updated recommendations for use of trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2010-2011 influenza season. Vaccination recommendations for adults were expanded to include **all adults** beginning in the 2010-11 influenza season. Therefore, all people age 6 months and older are now recommended to receive annual influenza vaccination. Vaccination remains the best way to fight the threat of flu in our community.

- No additional influenza-associated hospitalizations or medically reported influenza cases have been reported since CDC Week 51 and Week 5 respectively. (Graph 1)
- Of the 134 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported this season, 45 were confirmed with the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) strain.
- Demographics for the medically reported cases not hospitalized: 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  $\leq 1$  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 of Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) from three Stark County Sentinel Providers **decreased** sharply to only 0.22% of all patient visits. The National level of ILI visits **declined** to 1.7%. The National level remains below the baseline level of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Visitors to emergency departments in Stark County displaying Constitutional and Respiratory (C & R) symptoms **decreased** to 23.88% which is below expected. The overall number of total patient visits by Stark County residents to emergency departments **increased** an additional 2.8% this week, bringing our weekly average to 510 hospital emergency room visits per day, exceeding the 490 visits expected. (See Graph 3)
- For week 08, Cough/Cold (C/C) Products sales **decreased** 5% from week 7; with sales remaining well below expected for this time of year. Sales of Thermometers also **declined** slightly and are nearly 1/3 of expected for this time of year. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- The median percentage of student absenteeism reported **increased** very slightly to 4.6%. The total number of individual schools providing data for this report has increased to 80. The large increase is due to the addition of one large school district with greater than 20 school buildings. The data from the district was updated for the entire influenza season. (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. (National Map is not available this week)
- Nationally, the CDC identified **> 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). The remaining cocirculating strains of influenza are influenza B.
- 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. This percentage is **below** the epidemic threshold of 7.9% for week 8.

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).

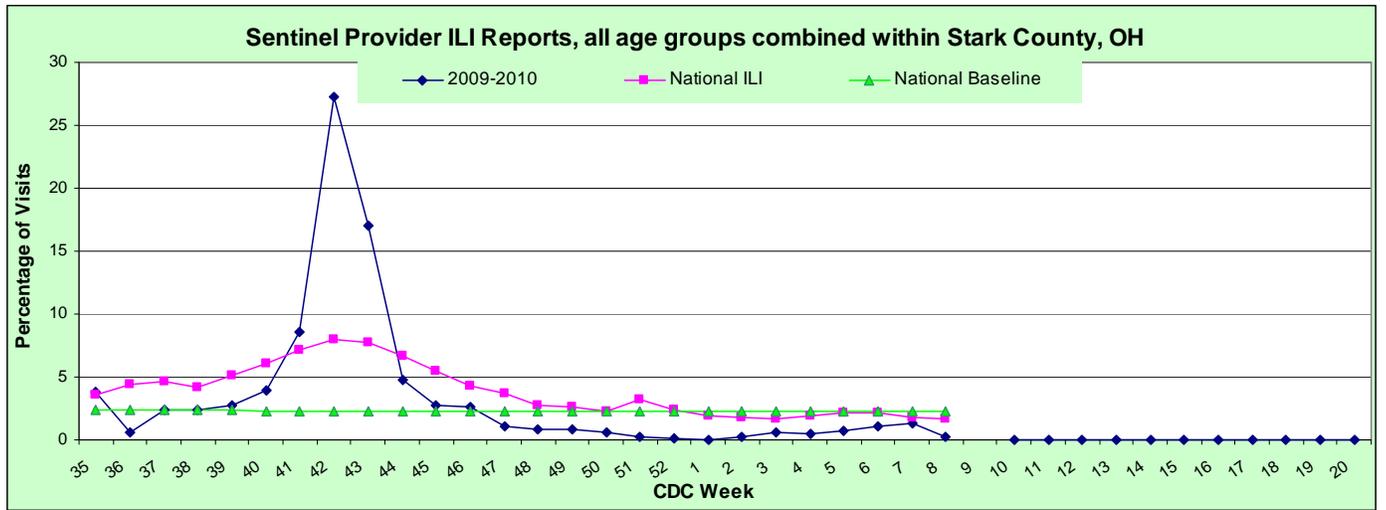
### Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

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



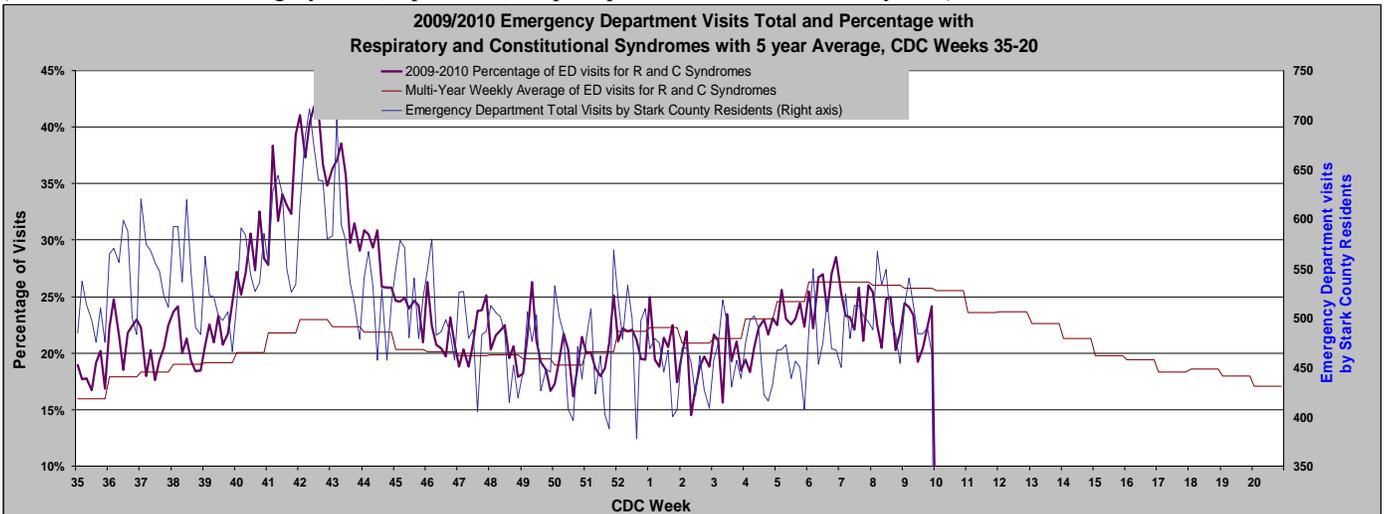
### Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

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.



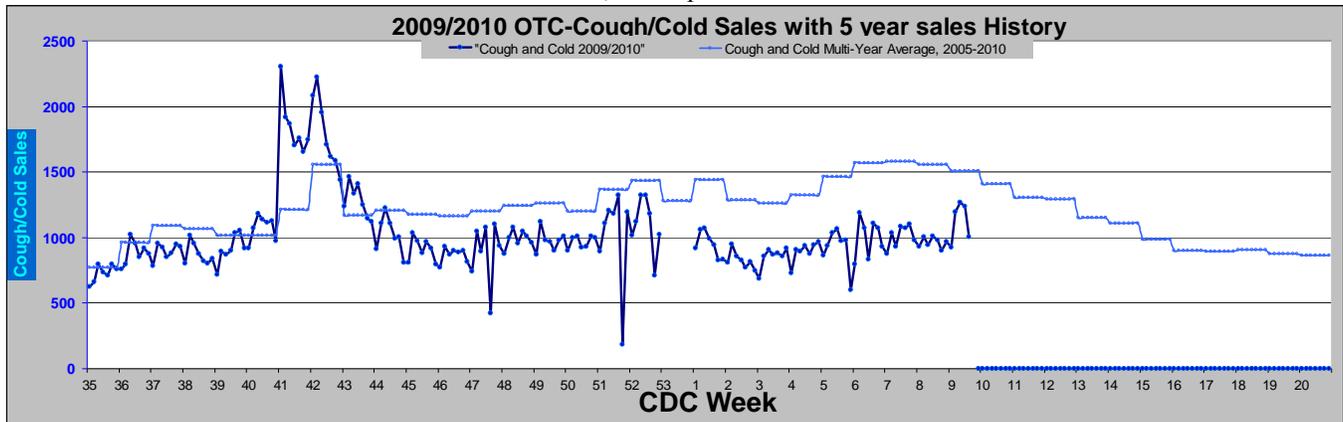
### Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes

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



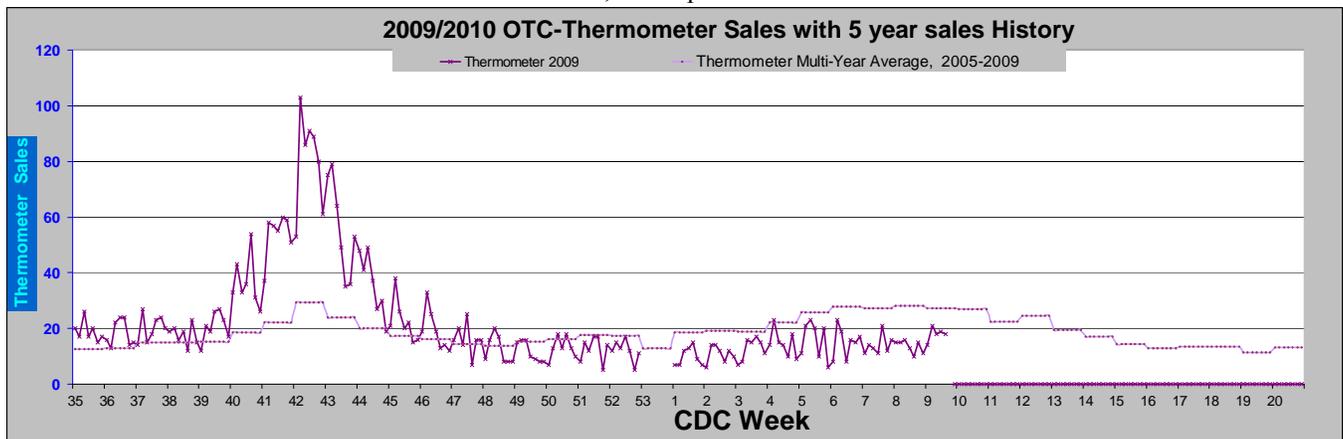
### Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County

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



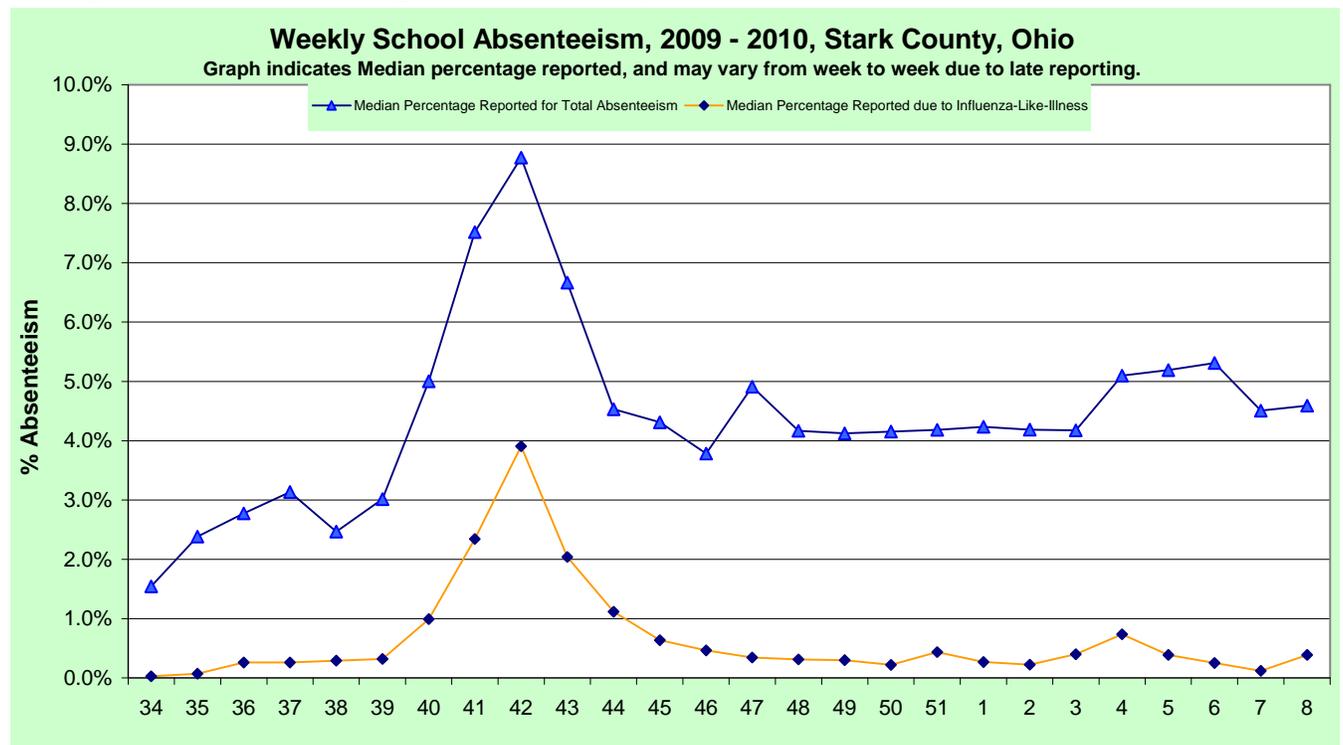
### Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County

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>)

Not available on the CDC website at the time of report publication.