Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report
A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to MDH for the week ending November 4, 2017
Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health
The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.

SUMMARY
During the week ending November 4, 2017, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was MINIMAL and there was SPORADIC geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments was low. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI was also low. Clinical laboratories reported a low number of specimens testing positive for influenza. There were no specimens that tested positive for influenza at the MDH lab. There were 12 influenza-associated hospitalizations and two respiratory outbreaks were reported to MDH.

ILI Intensity Levels
- ✔ Minimal
- Low
- Moderate
- High

Influenza Geographic Activity
- No Activity
- ✔ Sporadic
- Local
- Regional
- Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers
24 sentinel providers reported a total of 6,663 visits this week. Of those, 58 (0.9%) were visits for ILI. This is below the Maryland baseline of 2.0%.

ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-4</td>
<td>23 (40%)</td>
<td>23 (31%)</td>
<td>104 (29%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5-24</td>
<td>25 (43%)</td>
<td>32 (43%)</td>
<td>137 (38%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 25-49</td>
<td>9 (16%)</td>
<td>11 (15%)</td>
<td>76 (21%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 50-64</td>
<td>1 (2%)</td>
<td>4 (5%)</td>
<td>29 (8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ≥ 65</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>4 (5%)</td>
<td>11 (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58 (100%)</td>
<td>74 (100%)</td>
<td>357 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI
Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 44,562 visits this week through the ESSENCE surveillance system. Of those, 785 (1.8%) were visits for ILI.

ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
<th>Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0-4</td>
<td>267 (34%)</td>
<td>250 (35%)</td>
<td>1,015 (32%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 5-24</td>
<td>208 (26%)</td>
<td>188 (26%)</td>
<td>827 (26%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 25-49</td>
<td>187 (24%)</td>
<td>185 (26%)</td>
<td>799 (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 50-64</td>
<td>74 (9%)</td>
<td>62 (9%)</td>
<td>321 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age ≥ 65</td>
<td>49 (6%)</td>
<td>38 (5%)</td>
<td>216 (7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>785 (100%)</td>
<td>723 (100%)</td>
<td>3,178 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page

Neighboring states’ influenza information:
- Delaware: http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html
- District of Columbia: http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 570 residents responded to the MRITS survey this week. Of those, 6 (1.1%) reported having ILI and missing greater than 19 cumulative days of regular daily activities.

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

40 clinical laboratories reported performing 937 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 21 (2.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 9 (43%) were influenza Type A and 12 (57%) were influenza Type B. The reliability of RIDTs depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The MDH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 81 PCR tests for influenza and no specimens tested positive. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The MDH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A and lineages of influenza B, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type, subtype, and lineage.

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2017-18 influenza season? Go to https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/getvaccinated.aspx and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.
Influenza-associated Hospitalizations
A total of 12 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported this week. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g., RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease
There were two respiratory outbreaks reported to MDH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g., from ILI to influenza.)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)
During week 44 (October 29–November 4, 2017), influenza activity remained low in the United States, but is increasing.

- **Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories during week 44 was influenza A. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.8%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Two states experienced moderate ILI activity; six states experienced low ILI activity; New York City, the District of Columbia, and 42 states experienced minimal ILI activity; and Puerto Rico had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam and six states was reported as regional; 13 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia and 31 states reported sporadic activity; and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.