
Highlights

- In week 52 of 2017, notable increases continue to be seen in many local flu activity indicator values. As a whole, flu intensity (composite indicator) continued to increase and is high.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click [here](#) for definitions) = WIDESPREAD, HIGH
- Local medical facility labs reported 2,965 tests run with 824 (27.8%) positive results for week 52 of 2017.
- The percentage of ED visits for both influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms increased markedly compared to last week. The percentage of ED visits for both ILI and respiratory symptoms were above their respective baseline averages for the week.
- In week 52 of 2017, trends for the majority of local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked increased (increase in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; stable thermometer sales) compared to last week.
- Nationally, influenza activity sharply increased in week 52. Please [visit the CDC website for specific information](#) (National data is usually updated on Friday of each week).

Local Flu Activity Dashboard (All data are preliminary and may change as updated reports are received.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Week Number(s) Available</th>
<th>Current Week Value</th>
<th>% Change Chart from Last Week</th>
<th># Weeks</th>
<th>General Trend Line Chart*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>27.8% Pos.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>9.0 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>3 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>86 runs</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>3 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-51</td>
<td>14.4% Absent</td>
<td>Update not available due to winter break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data5:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>27.2% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>22.7% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medication Data:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTC Cough &amp; Cold Sales</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>21,183 Total Sales</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>3 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermometer</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>151 Total Sales</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations6</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>114 Admitted (237 Since wk. 35, 2017)</td>
<td>▲</td>
<td>3 ▲</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Jan 4, 2018)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Influenza Associated Death Reported by Year (based on date of death)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza Associated Hospitalizations (IAH) Reported by Admission Year5</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAH comparison by Season (October - May or Weeks 35 - 20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current season (2017-18) is from week 35 through week 52</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>872</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Combination of Lab Data, Primary Care Physician Medical Claims Data, ED Visits, and Influenza Associated Hospitalizations.

*With interpretation. Indicators with small numbers subject to large weekly percentage fluctuations.

5Number of weeks: ▲ = Increase (>2%); ▼ = Decrease (<2%); = Stable (-2% to +2%).

6Black line is current years data. Based on data availability, red line is historical average (excluding pandemic year).

5Data Source: Medical claims data from athenaHealth® (www.athenahealth.com). Rate of Flu or ILI visits to Franklin County, OH athenaHealth® network primary care practices/physicians. Claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.

6Franklin County, OH residents only (based on zipcode). NOTE: Excludes one hospital system included in the past due to technical changes affecting visit classification assignment and numbers.

6Confirmed cases only. Based on jurisdiction equal to Franklin County or City of Columbus and admission data available in ODRS.
Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports

In week 52, the preliminary local influenza and influenza-like-illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (9.0 per 1,000 visits) increased compared to the previous week and is above its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 52 percentage of all Emergency Department (ED) visits categorized as ILI increased markedly compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is above its historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 52 of 2017, 5.8% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). The percentage is above the national baseline of 2.2% for week 52.

Laboratory Surveillance

During week 52 of 2017, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 2,965 specimens, with 824 (27.8%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2017 through week 52 of 2017 is 19,896 with 1,766 (8.9%) positives (1,572 type A, 192 type B, 1 type A and B, 1 type unknown).

Nationally in week 52 of 2017, clinical laboratories reported 36,226 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 9,228 (25.5%) of which were positive (7,818 type A, 1,410 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 1,801 specimens, 923 of which were positive (784 type A – of which 60 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 682 were A/H3, and 42 were not subtyped; 139 type B – of which 81 were Yamagata lineage, 9 were Victoria lineage, and 49 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 52, Ohio clinical labs reported 22,253 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (10) A(H1N1)pdm09; (101) A/H3N2; (1,893) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (191) Flu B (through 12/30/17). In week 52, ODH Public Health Lab reported 274 specimens tested for influenza from various submitters this season thus far. Positive results include: (19) A(H1N1)pdm09; (213) A/H3N2; (9) Influenza B (through 12/30/17). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits

In the 52nd week of 2017, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory increased markedly compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is above its historic baseline for the week (Figure 5).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales

In week 52 of 2017, trends for the majority of local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked increased (increase in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; stable thermometer sales) compared to last week.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:
Ohio Seasonal Flu Surveillance: http://www.odh.ohio.gov/seasflu/Ohio%20Flu%20Activity.aspx
CDC National Seasonal Flu Surveillance Reports: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/
Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 52, 2017 (12/24/2017-12/30/2017)

Figure 1: Local Participating Outpatient Primary Care Provider Influenza or Influenza-Like-Illness Visit Rate*, Franklin County, OH

*Source: Medical Claims data from athenaHealth®. Note: athenaHealth® claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.

Figure 2: Percentage of Local Outpatient Participating Provider* and CDC National Outpatient Sentinel Health Care Provider** Site visits for ILI and Associated Illnesses, 2017-18

**Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits

Figure 3: Franklin County Resident ILI Defined** ED Visits, 2017-18, Franklin County, OH

**Source: Local medical claims data provided by athenaHealth®. Data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when received.

Figure 4: Percentage of Local Reporting and National Laboratory Positive Influenza Tests by Week, 2017-18

Legend:
- Franklin County Historical Weekly Avg.
- Franklin County - Current Year
- National - Current Year
- US Region 5 - Current Year