2017-2018 Columbus & Franklin County Seasonal Influenza Activity Weekly Summary (Week 3, Jan. 14th, 2018– Jan. 20th, 2018)

**Highlights**

- In week 3 of 2018, despite recent decreases in some of the individual preliminary local flu activity indicator values, key indicators continue to be elevated. As a whole, flu intensity (composite indicator) continues to be high.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click [here](#) for definitions) = WIDESPREAD, HIGH
- Local medical facility labs reported 2,998 tests run with 975 (32.5%) positive results for week 3 of 2018.
- The percentage of ED visits for both influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms decreased compared to last week. The percentage of ED visits for both ILI and respiratory symptoms continue to be above their respective baseline averages for the week.
- In week 3 of 2018, trends for local over-the-counter medication category sales generally decreased (increase in pediatric anti-fever and adult anti-fever sales; decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, and throat lozenge sales) compared to last week.
- Nationally, influenza activity increased in week 3 of 2018. 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.)*

**Current Week's Composite Intensity Indicator**

<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>35-3</td>
<td>32.5% Pos.</td>
<td>-1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Composite Intensity Indicator* Weekly Trend (DRAFT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>23.6 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>74 runs</td>
<td>-20.4%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>5.9% Absent</td>
<td>-42.2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data‡: Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>24.3% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-7.8%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>19.9% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-9.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Data: OTC Cough &amp; Cold Sales</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>13,809 Total Sales</td>
<td>-18.4%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermometer</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>99 Total Sales</td>
<td>-57.1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations§</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>127 Admitted (687 Since wk. 35, 2017)</td>
<td>-22%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports
In week 3, the preliminary local influenza and influenza-like-illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (23.6 per 1,000 visits) increased compared to the previous week and is above its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 3 percentage of all Emergency Department (ED) visits categorized as ILI decreased compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is above its historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 3 of 2018, 6.6% 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 3.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 3 of 2018, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 2,998 specimens, with 975 (32.5%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2017 through week 3 of 2018 is 30,092 with 4,763 (15.8%) positives (4,292 type A, 468 type B, 2 type A and B, 1 type unknown).

Nationally in week 3 of 2018, clinical laboratories reported 50,276 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 13,421 (26.7%) of which were positive (10,536 type A, 2,885 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 2,209 specimens, 1,349 of which were positive (1,136 type A – of which 144 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 914 were H3N2, and 78 were not subtyped; 213 type B – of which 127 were Yamagata lineage, 8 were Victoria lineage, and 78 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 3, Ohio clinical labs reported 34,645 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (29) A(H1N1)pdm09; (211) A/H3N2; (4,740) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (548) Flu B (through 1/20/18). In week 3, ODH Public Health Lab reported 600 specimens tested for influenza from various submitters this season thus far. Positive results include: (46) A(H1N1)pdm09; (457) A/H3N2; (33) Influenza B (through 1/20/18). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 3rd week of 2018, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory decreased 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 3 of 2018, trends for local over-the-counter medication category sales generally decreased (increase in pediatric anti-fever and adult anti-fever sales; decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, and throat lozenge 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/
Figure 1: Local Participating Outpatient Primary Care Provider Influenza or Influenza-Like-Illness Visit Rate*, Franklin County, OH

Figure 2: Percentage of Local Outpatient Participating Provider* visits for ILI and Associated Illnesses, 2017-18

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

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