

**Highlights**

- In week 3 of 2019, the trends for individual local flu activity indicators were mixed compared to the previous week. As a whole, flu intensity (composite indicator) increased slightly compared to the previous week and is moderate.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click [here](#) for definitions) = WIDESPREAD, MODERATE
- Local medical facility labs reported 1,849 tests run with 197 (10.7%) positive results for week 3 of 2019.
- The percentage of ED visits for both influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms decreased compared to last week.
- In week 3 of 2019, the trends for all local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, adult anti-fever, and pediatric anti-fever sales, and throat lozenge sales) compared to last week.
- In the U.S., influenza activity increased. Please visit the [CDC website](#) for specific information.

**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>
<th><em>Combination of Lab Data, Primary Care Physician Medical Claims Data, ED Visit Data, and Influenza Associated Hospitals.</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>10.7% Pos.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data, PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio) are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio)</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>11.5 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio) are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>41 runs</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>9.8% Absent</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-11.9%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td>School Absences are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data*: Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>20.9% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-3.2%</td>
<td>2 ▼</td>
<td>Hospital ED Data: Includes all local hospital emergency department visits. Complaints are reported as ILI. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data*: Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>16.4% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-8.5%</td>
<td>2 ▼</td>
<td>Hospital ED Data: Includes all local hospital emergency department visits. Categorized as Respiratory. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Data: OTC Cough &amp; Cold Sales</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>21,732 Total Sales</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
<td>2 ▼</td>
<td>Medication Data: Includes all local hospital emergency department visits. OTC Cough &amp; Cold Sales. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Data: Thermometer</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>111 Total Sales</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-14.6%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td>Medication Data: Includes all local hospital emergency department visits. Thermometer. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations*: Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations</td>
<td>35-3</td>
<td>18 Admitted (100 Since wk. 35, 2017)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations: Includes all local hospital emergency department visits. Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations. Historical data are updated when they are received.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Jan. 23, 2019)**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza Associated Deaths 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 Year*:</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Current season (2018-19) is from week 35 through week 3.

(1) Interpret with caution. Indicators with small numbers subject to large weekly percentage fluctuations.
(2) Number of weeks "▲" = Increase (>2%), "▼" = Decrease (>2%), "★" = Stable (-2% to +2%).
(3) Black line is current years data. Based on data availability, red line is historical average (excluding pandemic year).
(4) Data Source: Medical claims data from athenaHealth® (www.athenahealth.com). Rate of Flu or ILI visits to Ohio (statewide) athenaHealth® network primary care practices/physicians. Claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.
(5) Franklin 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.
(6) Confirmed cases only. Based on jurisdiction equal to Franklin County or City of Columbus and admission date available in ODRS.
Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports
In week 3, the preliminary Ohio1 (statewide) influenza and influenza-like-Illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (11.5 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 2019, 3.3% 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 three.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 3 of 2019, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 1,849 specimens, with 197 (10.7%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2018 through week 3 of 2019 is 25,035 with 1,016 (4.1%) positives (906 type A, 108 type B, 0 type A and B, 2 type unknown).

Nationally in week 3 of 2019, clinical laboratories reported 30,778 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 4,950 (16.1%) of which were positive (4,851 type A, 99 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 1,284 specimens, 752 of which were positive (740 type A – of which 573 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 133 were H3N2, and 34 were not subtyped; 12 type B – of which 5 were Yamagata lineage, 4 were Victoria lineage, and 3 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 3 of 2019, Ohio clinical labs reported 33,155 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (92) A(H1N1)pdm09; (40) A/H3N2; (2,246) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (46) Flu B (through 1/19/2019). In week 3 of 2019, ODH Public Health Lab reported 186 positive influenza tests from specimens sent by various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (137) A(H1N1)pdm09; (49) A/H3N2; (1) Influenza B (through 1/19/2019). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 3rd week of 2019, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory decreased compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is above its baseline for the week (Figure 5).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales
In week 3 of 2019, the trends for all local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, adult anti-fever, and pediatric anti-fever sales, and throat lozenge sales) compared to last week.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:
Ohio Seasonal Flu Surveillance: https://odh.ohio.gov
CDC National Seasonal Flu Surveillance Reports: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

1 Note: County level athenaHealth® network primary care medical claims data is no longer available.
Figure 1: Ohio Outpatient Primary Care Provider Influenza or Influenza-Like-Illness Visit Rate

Figure 2: Percentage of Ohio Outpatient Participating Provider* and CDC National Outpatient Sentinel Health Care Provider** visits for ILI and Associated Illnesses, 2018-19

Figure 3: Franklin County Resident ILI Defined** ED Visits, 2018-19, Franklin County, OH

Figure 4: Percentage of Local Reporting and National Laboratory Positive Influenza Tests by Week, 2018-19

*Source: Ohio (Statewide) 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.

*Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.
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Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 3, 2019 (1/13/2019-1/19/2019)

Figure 5: Franklin County Resident Respiratory ED Visits, 2018-19, Franklin County, OH

Figure 6: Selected Number of Over-the-Counter Medication Total Sales, 2018-19, Franklin County, OH

Figure 7: Columbus and Franklin County Jurisdiction Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations by Hospital Admission Week (As of 1/23/2019)

Columbus and Franklin County, OH Jurisdiction Confirmed Influenza Hospitalization Cumulative Rates (per 100,000) by Age-Group and Admission Week, 2016-2019 Season

*Note: Certain years have a 53rd week (e.g., season 2014-15) based on CDCs MMWR Weeks.