### Highlights

- In week 4 of 2019, the trends for individual local flu activity indicators were mixed compared to the previous week. As a whole, flu intensity (composite indicator) was stable 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 1,766 tests run with 237 (13.4%) positive results for week 4 of 2019.
- The percentage of ED visits for both influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms decreased compared to last week.
- In week 4 of 2019, the majority of trends for local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, adult anti-fever and throat lozenge sales; stable pediatric anti-fever 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.)

**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>35-4</td>
<td>13.4% Pos.</td>
<td><a href="#">Red square</a> 26% ▲</td>
<td>3 ▲</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio)</td>
<td>35-4</td>
<td>13.8 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td><a href="#">Red square</a> 28% ▲</td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-4</td>
<td>36 runs</td>
<td>-12.2% ▼</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-4</td>
<td>10.3% Absent</td>
<td>4.3% ▲</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-4</td>
<td>20.0% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-4.3% ▼</td>
<td>3 ▼</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-4</td>
<td>15.7% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-4.8% ▼</td>
<td>3 ▼</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<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>35-4</td>
<td>18,790 Total Sales</td>
<td>-17.1% ▼</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermometer</td>
<td>35-4</td>
<td>98 Total Sales</td>
<td>-14.8% ▼</td>
<td>2 ▼</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations⁶</td>
<td>35-4</td>
<td>19 Admitted (119 Since wk. 35, 2017)</td>
<td>6% ▲</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td>▲</td>
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### Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Jan. 30, 2019)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAH</td>
<td>1,961</td>
<td>2,003</td>
<td>2,032</td>
<td>2,095</td>
<td>2,338</td>
<td>2,573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAH (current year)</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Current season (2018-19) is from week 35 through week 4.

¹Interpret with caution. Indicators with small numbers subject to large weekly percentage fluctuations.

²Number of weeks "▲" = Increase (>2%), "▼" = Decrease (>2%), "★" = Stable (-2% to +2%).

³Black line is current years data. Based on data availability, red line is historical average (excluding pandemic year).

⁴Data 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.

⁵Franklin 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 date available in ODRS.
Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports
In week 4, the preliminary Ohio¹ (statewide) influenza and influenza-like-Illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (13.8 per 1,000 visits) increased compared to the previous week and is above its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 4 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 4 of 2019, 3.8% 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 four.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 4 of 2019, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 1,766 specimens, with 237 (13.4%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2018 through week 4 of 2019 is 26,801 with 1,253 (4.7%) positives (1,137 type A, 114 type B, 0 type A and B, 2 type unknown).

Nationally in week 4 of 2019, clinical laboratories reported 31,460 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 6,042 (19.2%) of which were positive (5,922 type A, 120 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 1,238 specimens, 774 of which were positive (764 type A – of which 543 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 179 were H3N2, and 42 were not subtyped; 10 type B – of which 3 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 4 of 2019, Ohio clinical labs reported 35,870 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (111) A(H1N1)pdm09; (46) A/H3N2; (2,675) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (49) Flu B (through 1/26/2019). In week 4 of 2019, ODH Public Health Lab reported 293 positive influenza tests from specimens sent by various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (160) A(H1N1)pdm09; (67) A/H3N2; (1) Influenza B (through 1/26/2019). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 4th week of 2019, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory decreased compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is similar to its baseline for the week (Figure 5).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales
In week 4 of 2019, the majority of trends for local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, adult anti-fever and throat lozenge sales; stable pediatric anti-fever 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/

¹Note: County level athenaHealth® network primary care medical claims data is no longer available.
**Emergency Department Visits**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Flu or ILI Visit*</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Unspecified Viral or ILI Visit*</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio Upper Respiratory Infection Visit*</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<td>0.0%</td>
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</table>

*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.

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**Figure 1: Ohio Outpatient Primary Care Provider Influenza or Influenza-Like-Illness Visit Rate**

![Figure 1](chart1.png)

**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 2](chart2.png)

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

![Figure 3](chart3.png)

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

![Figure 4](chart4.png)
Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000), 2010-2011 Season

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

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 1/30/2019)

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