### Highlights

- In week 50 of 2018, the individual local flu activity indicator trends were mixed compared to the previous week. As a whole, flu intensity (composite indicator) increased slightly compared to the previous week and continues to be low.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click [here](#) for definitions) = REGIONAL, LOW
- Local medical facility labs reported 1,418 tests run with 35 (2.5%) positive results for week 50 of 2018.
- The percentage of ED visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms were stable compared to last week.
- In week 50, trends for all local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased compared to last week (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales) compared to last week.
- In the U.S., influenza activity is increasing. 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>2.5% Pos.</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AthenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio)</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>5.0 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>49 runs</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>11.4% Absent</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data[^6]:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>20.5% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>2 ●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>16.1% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-0.7%</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>35-50</td>
<td>18,295 Total Sales</td>
<td>-5.9%</td>
<td>2 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Thermometer</td>
<td>35-50</td>
<td>76 Total Sales</td>
<td>-28.3%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Dec. 16, 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</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 Year[^5]</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAH comparison by Flu Season (October - May or Weeks 35 - 20)</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>1,234</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^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 50, the preliminary Ohio\(^1\) (statewide) influenza and influenza-like-Illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth\(^\circledR\) providers (5.0 per 1,000 visits) increased compared to the previous week and is above its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 50 percentage of all Emergency Department (ED) visits categorized as ILI was stable compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is above its historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 50 of 2018, 2.7% 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 50.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 50 of 2018, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 1,418 specimens, with 35 (2.5%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2018 through week 50 of 2018 is 15,501 with 235 (1.5%) positives (165 type A, 68 type B, 0 type A and B, 2 type unknown).

Nationally in week 50 of 2018, clinical laboratories reported 24,176 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 2,666 (11.0%) of which were positive (2,522 type A, 144 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 1,154 specimens, 408 of which were positive (399 type A – of which 308 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 68 were H3N2, and 23 were not subtyped; 9 type B – of which 3 were Yamagata lineage, 4 were Victoria lineage, and 2 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 50, Ohio clinical labs reported 18,139 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (16) A(H1N1)pdm09; (14) A/H3N2; (275) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (26) Flu B (through 12/15/2018). In week 50, ODH Public Health Lab reported 36 positive influenza tests from specimens sent by various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (34) A(H1N1)pdm09; (1) A/H3N2; (1) Influenza B (through 12/15/2018). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 50\(^{\text{th}}\) week of 2018, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory was stable 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 50 of 2018, trends for all local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased compared to last week (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, 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\(^\circledR\) network primary care medical claims data is no longer available.
Figure 1: Ohio Outpatient Primary Care Provider Influenza or Influenza-Like-Illness Visit Rate

*Source: Ohio (Statewide) medical claims data from athenaHealth®
**Seasons - 2010-11, 2011-12, 2013-14, 2015-16, 2016-17
Note: athenaHealth® claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.

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

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

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

*Chief complaint classifier category includes fever and cough. Chief complaint classifier category includes fever and chief complaint text includes sore throat. Chief complaint classifier category includes "ILI"

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

*Source: Ohio (statewide) medical claims data provided by athenaHealth®. Data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when received.
*Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.

Note:
**Seasons - 2010-11, 2011-12, 2013-14, 2015-16, 2016-17
Franklin County Historical Weekly Avg.
Hospitalization Rates (per 100,000), 2010-2011 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 12/15/2018)

Columbus and Franklin County, OH Jurisdiction Confirmed Influenza Hospitalization Cumulative Rates (per 100,000) by Age-Group and Admission Week, 2018-2019 Season

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