Highlights

- This is the 1st weekly summary for the 2015-16 influenza season. In week 40, local flu activity indicator trends were mixed and overall activity was low.
- Geographic activity and local intensity designation (Click here for definitions) = SPORADIC, LOW
- Local medical facility labs reported 354 tests run with 2 (0.6%) positive results for week 40 of 2015. This is lower than last week’s 1.4% and is slightly higher than the weekly baseline.
- The percentages of ED visits for both influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms were stable compared to week 39. The percentage of ED visits for ILI is slightly above the baseline average while respiratory symptom visits are similar to its weekly baseline average.
- In week 40 of 2015, trends for the local over-the-counter medication sales tracked generally decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever and throat lozenge sales; increase in thermometer sales) compared to last week.
- Nationally in week 40, influenza activity was low. 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.)

- Medical Facility Lab Data
- athenaHealth® Network COP ILI Data
- EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs
- School Absences
- Hospital ED Data:
  - Complaint Defined as ILI
  - Categorized as Respiratory
- Pediatric Urgent Care Data:
  - Complaint Defined as ILI
- Categorized as Respiratory

Medication Data:
- OTC Cough & Cold Sales
- Thermometer

Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations

Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Oct 14, 2015, 9:00 AM)

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

Number of weeks “▲” = Increase (>2%), ”▼” = Decrease (>2%), ”●” = Stable (-2% to +2%).

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

Data Source: Medical claims data from athenaHealth® (www.athenahealth.com). Rate of ILI visits to Franklin County, OH athenaHealth® network primary care practices/physicians.

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.

Confirmed cases only. Based on jurisdiction equal to Franklin County or City of Columbus and admission date available in ODRS.
CDC 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System: Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality
In week 40 of 2015, 4.0% of all Columbus and Franklin County deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza. Nationally, 5.3% of deaths reported were attributed to pneumonia and influenza in week 40. This national percentage is below the national epidemic threshold of 5.9% for week 40.

Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports
In week 40, the preliminary local influenza-like-Illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (0.8 per 1,000 visits) decreased slightly compared to the previous week and is slightly lower than the baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 40 percentage of Emergency Department (ED) visits for ILI symptoms was stable compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is slightly higher than the historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 40 of 2015, 1.2% of patient visits reported through the US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). The percentage is below the national baseline of 2.1%.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 40 of 2015, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 354 specimens, with 2 (0.6%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2014 through week 40 of 2015 is 1,646 with 22 (1.3%) positives (17 type A, 5 type B, 0 both A and B, 0 type unknown).

Nationally in week 40 of 2015, clinical laboratories reported 8,703 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 104 (1.2%) of which were positive (76 type A, 28 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 436 specimens, 28 of which were positive (26 type A – of which 2 were A(H1N1)pdm09 and 24 were H3; 2 type B). Please visit the CDC website for more information.

Participating statewide clinical labs reported 461 specimens tested for influenza virus, 2 (0.4%) of which were positive (1) A/pdmH1N1; (1) A/H3N2; (0) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (0) Flu B (through 10/10/15). ODH Public Health Lab results for Ohio cases that are PCR positive for influenza during the 2015-16 season included: (1) A/pdmH1N1; (0) A/H3N2; (0) Influenza B (through 10/10/15).

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 40th week of 2015, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory was stable compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is similar to its historic baseline for the week (Figure 5).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales
In week 40 of 2015, trends for the local over-the-counter medication sales tracked generally decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever and throat lozenge sales; increase in thermometer sales) compared to last week.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:
CDC National Seasonal Flu Surveillance Reports: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/
CDC International Flu Activity Map: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/activity.htm
Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 40, 2015 (10/4/2015-10/10/2015)

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

Figure 2: Percentage of Local Participating Provider* and CDC National Outpatient Sentinel Health Care Provider Site visits for ILI and Associated Illnesses, 2015-16

Figure 3: Franklin County Resident ILI Defined** ED Visits, 2015-16, Franklin County, OH

Figure 4: Percentage of Local Reporting and National Laboratory Positive Influenza Tests by Week, 2015-16

*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.

**Chief complaint classifier category includes fever and cough. OH chart complaint text includes fever or chief complaint classifier category includes ILI.
Figure 5: Franklin County Resident Respiratory ED Visits, 2015-16, Franklin County, OH

Figure 6: Selected Number of Over-the-Counter Medication Sales, 2015-16, Franklin County, OH

Figure 7: Franklin County Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations by Hospital Admission Week (As of 9:00 AM, 10/14/2015)

Franklin County, OH, Confirmed Influenza Hospitalization Cumulative Rates (per 100,000) by Age-Group and Admission Week, 2015-2016 Season