2015-2016 Columbus & Franklin County Seasonal Influenza Activity Weekly Summary (Week 48, Nov 29th, 2015 – Dec 5th, 2015)

Highlights

- In week 48, individual local flu activity indicator trends were mixed. Overall, local flu intensity continues to be low and decreased slightly compared to the previous week.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click here for definitions) = SPORADIC, LOW
- Local medical facility labs reported 912 tests run with 3 (0.3%) positive results for week 48 of 2015. This is lower than last week’s 1.1% and is lower than the weekly baseline.
- The percentage of ED visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms were both stable compared to week 47. The percentage of ED visits for both ILI and respiratory symptoms are higher than their baseline averages.
- In week 48 of 2015, trends for the local over-the-counter medication sales generally increased (increase in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; stable chest rub sales) compared to last week.
- Nationally in week 48, influenza activity increased slightly in the United States but remained low overall. 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.)

<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># Weeks2</th>
<th>General Trend Line Chart3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>0.3% Pos.</td>
<td>-69%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>2.2 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>29 runs</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>7.9% Absent</td>
<td>-21.2%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hospital ED Data3:

- **Complaint Defined as ILI**
  - Week 35-48: 19.1% of All ED Visits
  - 1.5%
- **Categorized as Respiratory**
  - Week 35-48: 15.6% of All ED Visits
  - 1.0%

Pediatric Urgent Care Data3:

- **Complaint Defined as ILI**
  - Week 35-48: 7.9% Absent
  - -21.2%

Categorized as Respiratory

Medication Data:

- **OTC Cough & Cold Sales**
  - Week 35-48: 16,766 Total Sales
  - 15.5% ▲
- **Thermometer**
  - Week 35-48: 82 Total Sales
  - 22.4% ▲

- **Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations6**
  - Week 35-48: 0 Admitted (11 Since wk. 35, 2015)
  - -100% ▼

Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Dec 8, 2015, 12:00 PM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015 YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Influenza Associated Death Reported by Year (based on date of death)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>theraHealth network primary care practices/physicians.</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Franklin County, OH athenaHealth® network primary care practices/physicians.
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.
**CDC 122-Cities Mortality Reporting System: Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality**

In week 48 of 2015, 6.5% of all Columbus and Franklin County deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza. Nationally in week 48, 6.1% of deaths reported were attributed to pneumonia and influenza. This national percentage was below the national epidemic threshold of 6.6% for week 48.

**Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports**

In week 48, the preliminary local influenza and influenza-like-Illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (2.2 per 1,000 visits) decreased compared to the previous week and is slightly higher than the baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 48 percentage of Emergency Department (ED) visits for ILI symptoms was stable compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is higher than the historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 48 of 2015, 1.8% 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% for week 48.

**Laboratory Surveillance**

During week 48 of 2015, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 912 specimens, with 3 (0.3%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2014 through week 48 of 2015 is 9,722 with 75 (0.77%) positives (52 type A, 19 type B, 4 both A and B, 0 type unknown).

Nationally in week 48 of 2015, clinical laboratories reported 11,509 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 185 (1.6%) of which were positive (122 type A, 63 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 787 specimens, 36 of which were positive (23 type A – of which 5 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 15 were A/H3, and 3 were not subtyped; 13 type B – of which 3 were Yamagata lineage, 3 were Victoria lineage, and 7 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data since week 40.

Participating Ohio clinical labs reported 6,109 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (1) A(H1N1)pdm09; (1) A/H3N2; (11) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (7) Flu B (through 12/5/15). ODH Public Health Lab reported 64 specimens tested for influenza from various submitters this season thus far. Positive results include: (2) A(H1N1)pdm09; (0) A/H3N2; (1) Influenza B (through 12/5/15). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

**ED Respiratory Visits**

In the 48th week of 2015, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory was stable compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is slightly higher than its historic baseline for the week (Figure 5).

**Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales**

In week 48 of 2015, trends for the local over-the-counter medication sales generally increased (increase in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; stable chest rub sales) compared to last week.

**Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:**


CDC International Flu Activity Map: [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/activity.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/international/activity.htm)

**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* 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.
**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 12:00 PM, 12/8/2015)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Case Count</th>
<th>Rates (per 100,000 Pop.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00-04 yr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05-17 yr</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-49 yr</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64 yr</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ yr</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Ages</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>