2015-2016 Columbus & Franklin County Seasonal Influenza Activity Weekly Summary (Week 50, Dec 13th, 2015– Dec 19th, 2015)

**Highlights**

- In week 50, individual flu activity indicator trends were mixed. Overall, local flu intensity continues to be low.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click [here](#) for definitions) = SPORADIC, LOW
- Local medical facility labs reported 1,014 tests run with 11 (1.1%) positive results for week 50 of 2015. This is higher than last week’s 0.5% and is lower than the weekly baseline.
- The percentage of ED visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) was stable, while respiratory symptom visits decreased slightly compared to week 49. The percentage of ED visits for ILI is slightly above its baseline average for the week, while respiratory symptoms were slightly lower than its baseline average for the week.
- In week 50 of 2015, trends for all local over-the-counter medication sales tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest-rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales) compared to last week.
- Updated week 50 National influenza surveillance data was not available at the time of this report. Nationally in week 49, 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.)*

| Medical Facility Lab Data | 35-50 | 1.1% Pos. | >100% | 2 ▲
|---------------------------|-------|-----------|-------|-------
| athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit | 35-50 | 1.9 per 1,000 visits | -8% | 1 ▼
| EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs | 35-50 | 37 runs | -2.6% | 1 ▼
| School Absences | 35-50 | 8.0% Absent | 28.1% | 1 ▲
| Hospital ED Data²: |
| **Complaint Defined as ILI** | 35-50 | 18.3% of All ED Visits | 0.3% | 1 ●
| **Categorized as Respiratory** | 35-50 | 14.6% of All ED Visits | -2.7% | 2 ▼
| Pediatric Urgent Care Data³: |
| **Complaint Defined as ILI** |
| **Categorized as Respiratory** |

**NOTE:** Due to technical changes, this data source is temporarily unavailable.

**Categorized as Respiratory**

**Medication Data:**

| OTC Cough & Cold Sales | 35-50 | 14,560 Total Sales | -21.2% | 1 ▼
| Therometer | 35-50 | 96 Total Sales | -38.9% | 1 ▼

**Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations**

| 35-50 | 0 Admitted (13 Since wk. 35, 2015) | -100% | 1 ▼

**Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Dec 22, 2015, 10:00 AM)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015 YTD</th>
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<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza Associated Hospitalizations (IAH) Reported by Admission Year²</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>939</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IAH comparison by Season (October 1st through May 31st)**

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>284</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>512</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>1,017</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 Flu or 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 50 of 2015, 4.1% of all Columbus and Franklin County deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza. Updated National week 50 P&I mortality data was not available at the time of this report. Nationally in week 49, 6.0% of deaths reported were attributed to pneumonia and influenza. This national percentage was below the national epidemic threshold of 6.7% for week 49.

Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports
In week 50, the preliminary local influenza and influenza-like-illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (1.9 per 1,000 visits) decreased slightly compared to the previous week and is close to its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 50 percentage of Emergency Department (ED) visits for ILI was stable compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is slightly higher than the historic baseline for the week.

Updated week 50 US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) figures were not available at the time of this report. Nationally, during week 49 of 2015, 1.9% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). The percentage is below the national baseline of 2.1% for week 49.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 50 of 2015, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 1,014 specimens, with 11 (1.1%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2014 through week 50 of 2015 is 11,694 with 91 (0.78%) positives (63 type A, 24 type B, 4 both A and B, 0 type unknown).

Updated week 50 National lab figures were not available at the time of this report. Nationally in week 49 of 2015, clinical laboratories reported 12,525 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 208 (1.7%) of which were positive (117 type A, 91 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 786 specimens, 41 of which were positive (30 type A – of which 17 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 11 were A/H3, and 2 were not subtyped; 11 type B – of which 4 were Yamagata lineage, 0 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 7,960 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (1) A(H1N1)pdm09; (1) A/H3N2; (14) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (8) Flu B (through 12/19/15). ODH Public Health Lab reported 78 specimens tested for influenza from various submitters this season thus far. Positive results include: (2) A(H1N1)pdm09; (1) A/H3N2; (1) Influenza B (through 12/19/15). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 50th week of 2015, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory decreased slightly compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is slightly lower than its historic baseline for the week (Figure 5).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales
In week 50 of 2015, trends for all local over-the-counter medication sales being tracked decreased (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:
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 50, 2015 (12/13/2015-12/19/2015)

**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