



MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT - Week 06 (February 8 to 14, 2009)

Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Programs | Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

- Influenza activity in Maryland is now **"WIDESPREAD"** with respiratory outbreaks and an increased proportion of visits to providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) in three of our five surveillance regions..
- 2.7% of respondents to the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey reported ILI symptoms | The median percent of ILI visits to sentinel providers was 4.7%
- One outbreak of pneumonia and one outbreak of ILI were reported to DHMH
- Reported confirmed cases continue to increase.

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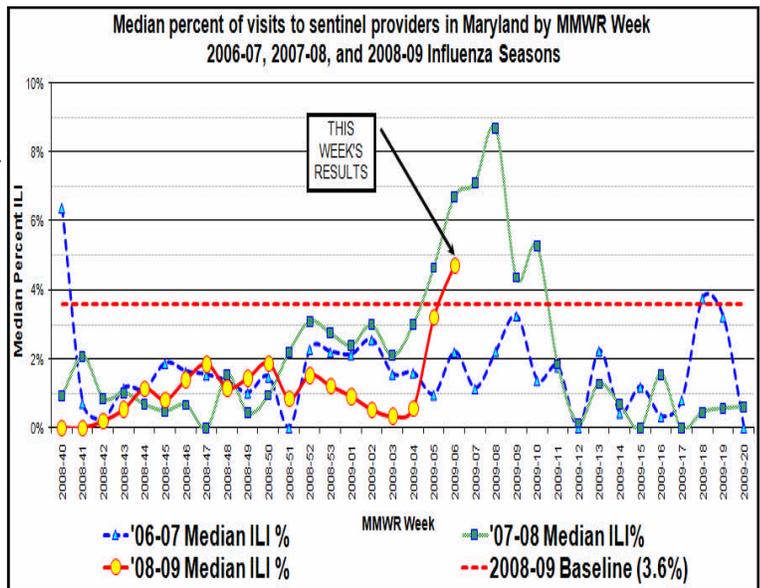
OUTPATIENT INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

This week, a total of 202 visits for ILI were reported by 10 providers. The median percent of ILI visits in Maryland was 4.7%. This is **above** the state baseline of 3.6%.

ability in reported ILI proportions among providers each week, the median ILI is used instead of the average. Half of the ILI reports were below the median and half were above.

Sentinel providers are health care providers who report to us the proportion of patient visits for influenza like illness. Because of the great vari-

If you are interested in becoming a sentinel provider, please feel free to contact us at flu@dnhm.state.md or by phone at 410-767-6700.

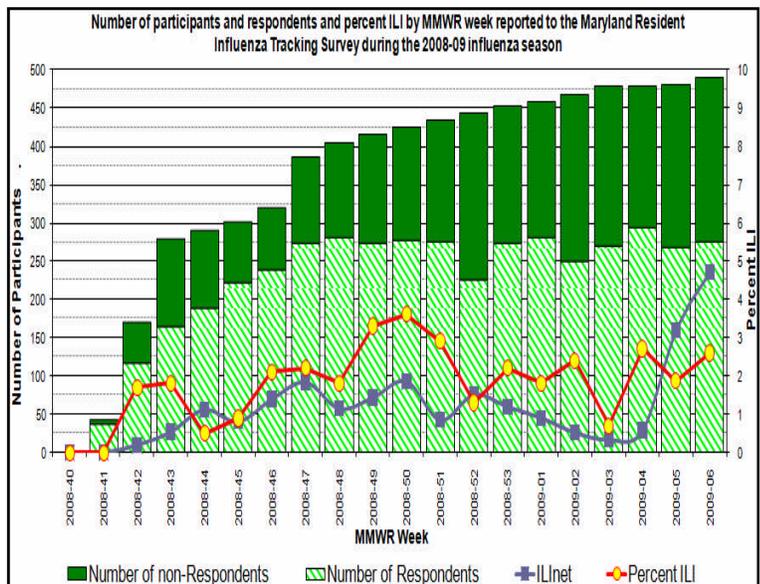


MARYLAND RESIDENT INFLUENZA TRACKING SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 490 participants signed up at <http://tinyurl.com/flu-enroll> by the end of week one. Of the 490 residents who received the weekly survey, 274 (56%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 7 (2.6%) reported flu-like symptoms.

the results. We continue to recruit participants. Please enroll at the link above or pass on the link to anyone interested.

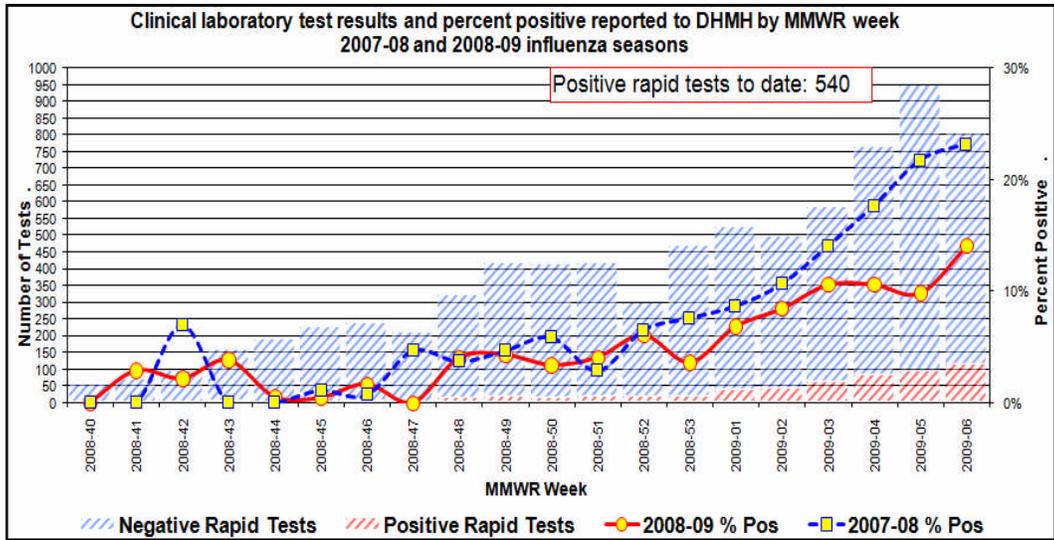
Because there is no baseline to compare these results, and the sample size is small (compared to the population), caution must be taken when interpreting



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MARYLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

During week 6, a total of 804 rapid influenza tests were reported by 15 reporting clinical laboratories. Of these, **113 tests (14%) were positive.**



Rapid Test Result	No.	%
Type A	424	79%
Type B	99	18%
Type A or B	17	3%
TOTAL	540	100%

Number of positive rapid influenza tests by virus type result, 2008-09 influenza season.

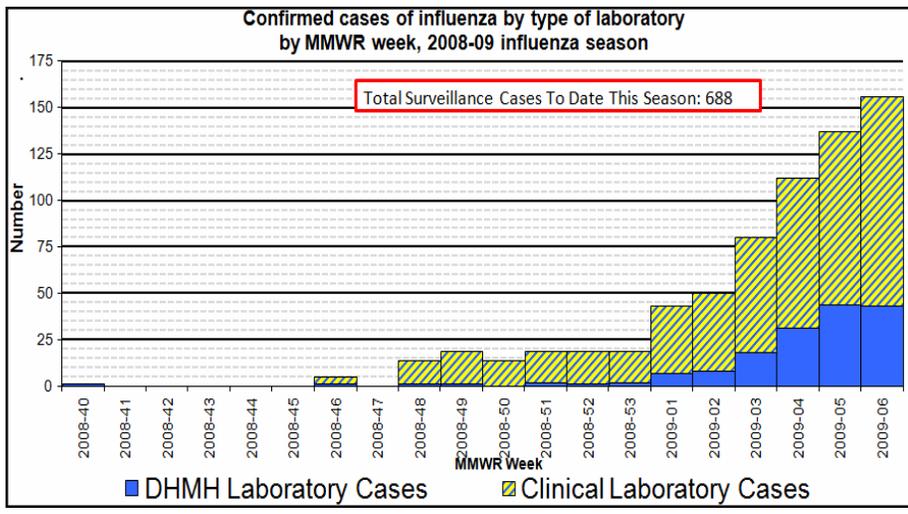
MARYLAND DHMH LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

During week 6, a total of 71 specimens were submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Forty-three (61%) were positive for influenza Type A (27, 38%) and Type B (16, 23%). This season, a total of 476 specimens have been submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Of these, 160 (34%) have been positive by PCR and/or viral culture.

CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES (688) AND STRAIN TYPING

For the purpose of influenza surveillance, cases are counted as “confirmed” when they are based on more reliable reference test methods (PCR or culture) performed by the DHMH lab, or are based on other techniques such as rapid test for the detection of influenza antigen AFTER the DHMH lab has confirmed its first case of the season.

This is done because the sensitivity and specificity of rapid flu tests vary with the prevalence of influenza in the population*, and are less reliable when prevalence is low. This season, all positive clinical laboratory results from week 46 onward (528) are counted as confirmed cases, and of course, all of the positive DHMH lab results (160).



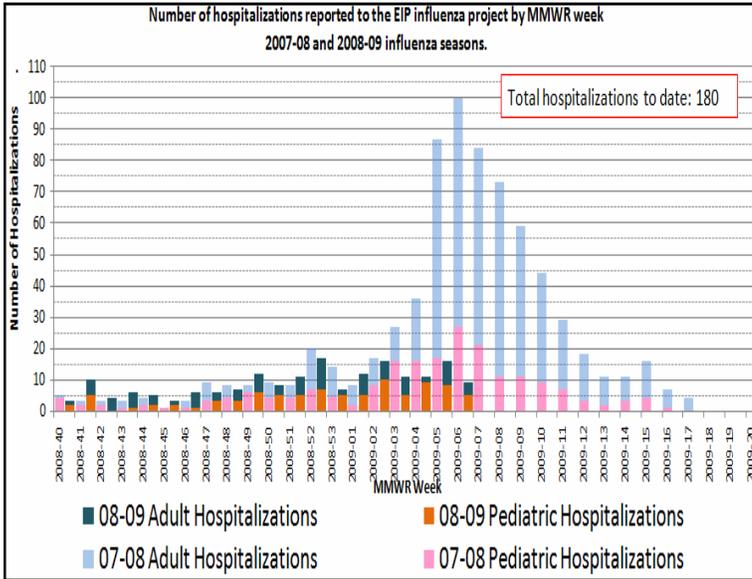
Influenza Type	No.	%
Type A	3	2%
Type A (H1)	87	54%
Type A (H3)	5	3%
Type B	64	40%
Types A & B	1	<1%
TOTAL	160	100%

Number of positive influenza tests performed by the DHMH laboratory by virus type result, 2008-09 Influenza Season.

* For more information, please read: “Rapid Diagnostic Testing for Influenza”, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://tinyurl.com/cdcrapid>
 For more information on the different types of influenza viruses, please read: <http://tinyurl.com/cdcfluvirus>

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EMERGING INFECTIONS PROGRAM (EIP) INFLUENZA PROJECT



Nine hospitalizations, 5 children and 4 adults, were reported to EIP during week 6.

EIP collects the number of hospitalizations associated with influenza on a weekly basis from 21 hospitals in the Baltimore Metro Region .

To date, there have been 180 (91, 51% adult, and 89, 49% pediatric) hospitalizations for influenza reported to DHMH.

Last season, 715 (516, 72% adult, and 199, 28% pediatric) hospitalizations were reported.

DIVISION OF OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION REPORTS

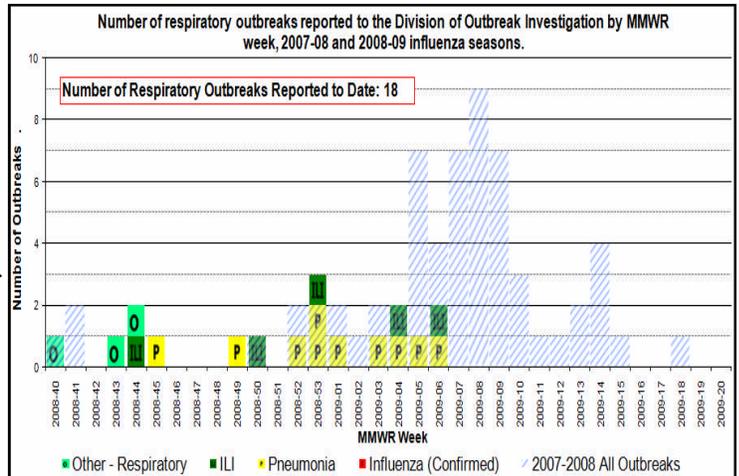
During week 6, one outbreak of pneumonia and one outbreak of ILI were reported to the Division of Outbreak Investigation. To date, there have been 18 respiratory outbreaks reported this flu season.

breaks in general are reportable to DHMH. Please contact your local health department to report an outbreak.

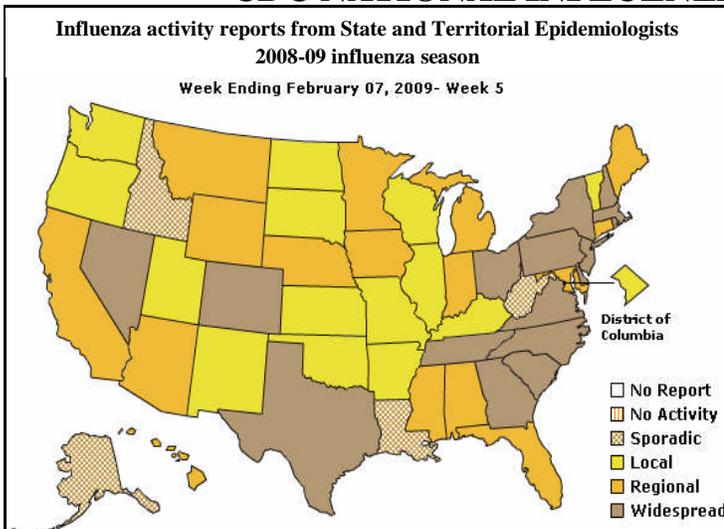
For more information, please visit the Division of Outbreak Investigations web page at:

<http://tinyurl.com/edcpoutb>

Although influenza is not a reportable condition in Maryland, disease out-



CDC NATIONAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT



According to CDC, “during week 5, influenza activity continued to increase in the United States.”

“local” activity. All other states reported at least “sporadic” activity.

- Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are above baseline nationally.
- 20.6% of specimens tested by national laboratories were positive for influenza.
- 16 States reported “widespread” influenza activity. Sixteen states reported “regional” flu activity, and 14 states and DC reported
- One pediatric death due to influenza was reported from Tennessee.

For more information, visit: <http://cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

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HEALTHY PEOPLE HEALTY COMMUNITIES

All information submitted to DHMH through the surveillance systems is voluntary. This information is used to estimate the geographic extent of flu activity, and not the virulence or pathogenicity of circulating viruses. This information is not intended for individual diagnoses.

ALL INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MORE DATA IS SUBMITTED AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THIS REPORT

If you have any questions about influenza surveillance in Maryland, or you would like to join our Influenza Sentinel Provider Network, please contact Rene F. Najera, MPH, Epidemiologist at the Division of Communicable Disease Surveillance in the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Programs.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!

WWW.EDCP.ORG

FLU IN THE NEWS

- **The Baltimore Sun** reported that “Md. flu outbreak is on the upswing” (2/17/09 - www.tinyurl.com/cvfrnx). Indeed, influenza activity has picked up over the last few weeks, but you already knew that from reading this report.
- **WCVB-TV in Boston** is reporting on the death from influenza of a 12-year-old boy (2/17/09 - www.tinyurl.com/bos12flu). The child’s parents report that he was not vaccinated against influenza this season. So far this season, seven pediatric deaths associated with influenza have been reported to CDC; there have been no pediatric deaths associated with influenza reported in Maryland.
- **The Washington Post** reported that “flu season is off to slow start, but for Va.” (2/1/09 - www.tinyurl.com/vaflufeb). Virginia was the first state to report “widespread” flu activity to CDC.
- **WBOY-TV** in West Virginia reported on an air sampling study being conducted at the West Virginia University Urgent Care clinic in Morgantown (2/11/09 - www.tinyurl.com/wvaairflu). The study, a collaborative effort between the West Virginia University Dept. of Emergency Medicine and the National Institutes for Occupational Safety and Health, is aimed at studying the patterns of viral transmission in the air.
- **The Fraunhofer Center for Molecular Biotechnology** has received \$8.7 million in grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for continued research and development of a plant-based flu-vaccine. Currently, flu vaccines are grown in chicken eggs, a costly and slow process. The hope is that plants can be genetically engineered to produce flu virus-like antigens that can replace those grown on eggs. (www.tinyurl.com/plantflu)

WEEK	ACTIVITY
2008-53	Regional
2009-01	Local
2009-02	Local
2009-03	Local
2009-04	Regional
2009-05	Regional
2009-06	Widespread

Influenza activity in Maryland according to DHMH

