



MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT - Week 08 (February 22 to 28, 2009)

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

- Influenza activity in Maryland is **"WIDESPREAD"** with an increased proportion of visits to providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) and reported influenza and ILI outbreaks in three of our five surveillance regions.
- 3.1% of respondents to the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey reported ILI symptoms | The median percent of ILI visits to sentinel providers was 2.5%
- Reported confirmed cases continue to increase. *****Additional clinical laboratory sites have joined, so the increase in the number of cases since week 6 may be attributed to the additional reporting sites.*****

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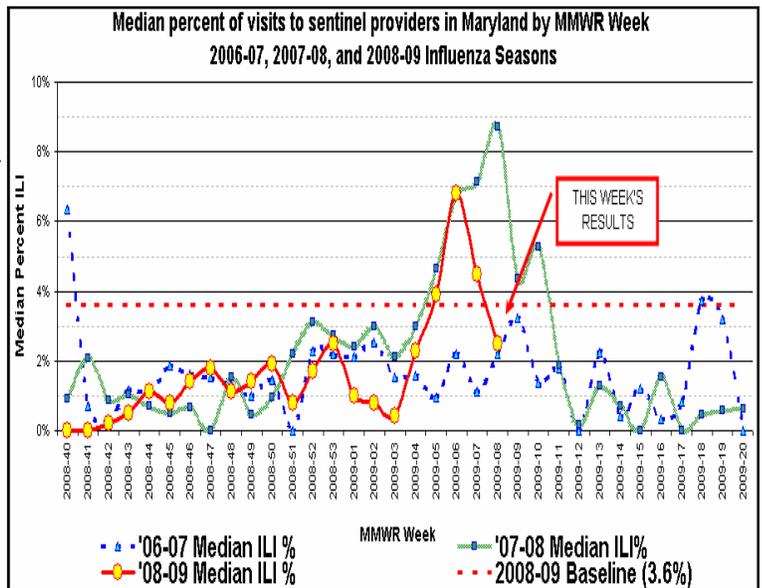
OUTPATIENT INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

This week, a total of 132 visits for ILI were reported by 10 providers. The median percent of ILI visits in Maryland was 2.5%. This is **below** 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@dhmh.state.md or by phone at 410-767-6700.

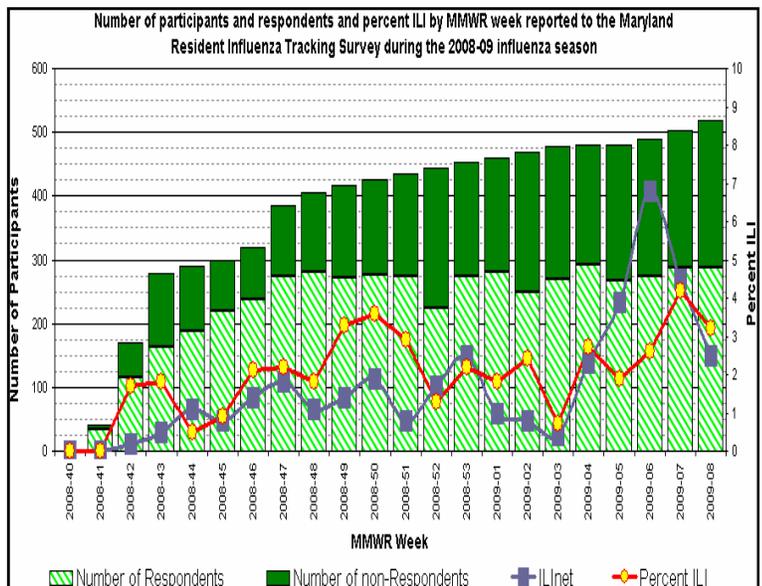


MARYLAND RESIDENT INFLUENZA TRACKING SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 518 participants signed up at www.tinyurl.com/flu-enroll by the end of week one. Of the 518 residents who received the weekly survey, 289 (56%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 9 (3.1%) 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.

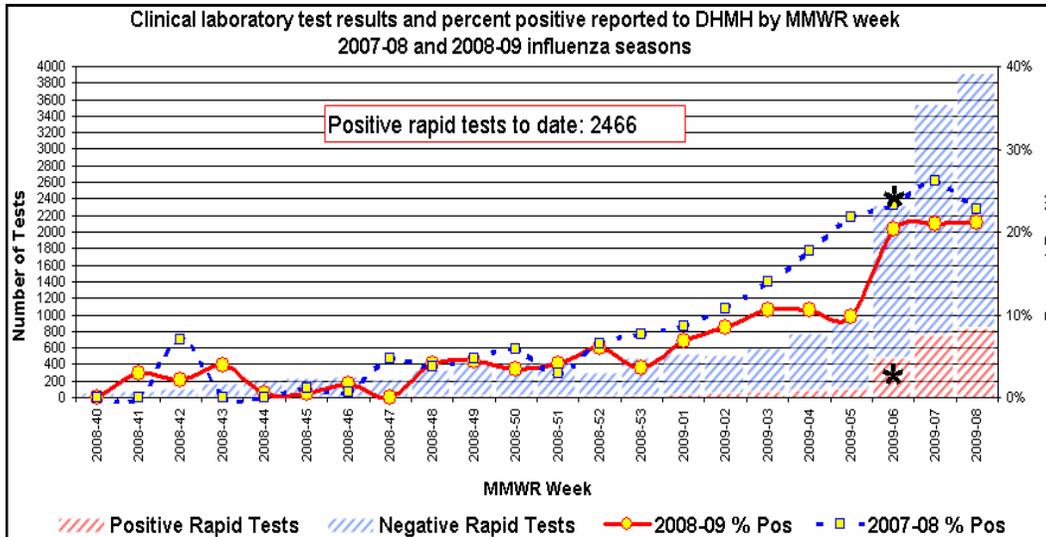
Because there is no baseline to compare these results, and the sample size is small (compared to the population), caution must be taken when interpreting



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MARYLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

During week 8, a total of 3,904 rapid influenza tests were reported by 25 reporting clinical laboratories. Of these, **828 tests (21%) were positive**. **NOTE:** We have added 10 additional clinical labs to our network during week 6 (*).



Rapid Test Result	No.	%
Type A	639	26%
Type B	256	10%
Type A or B	1,571	64%
TOTAL	2,466	100%

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

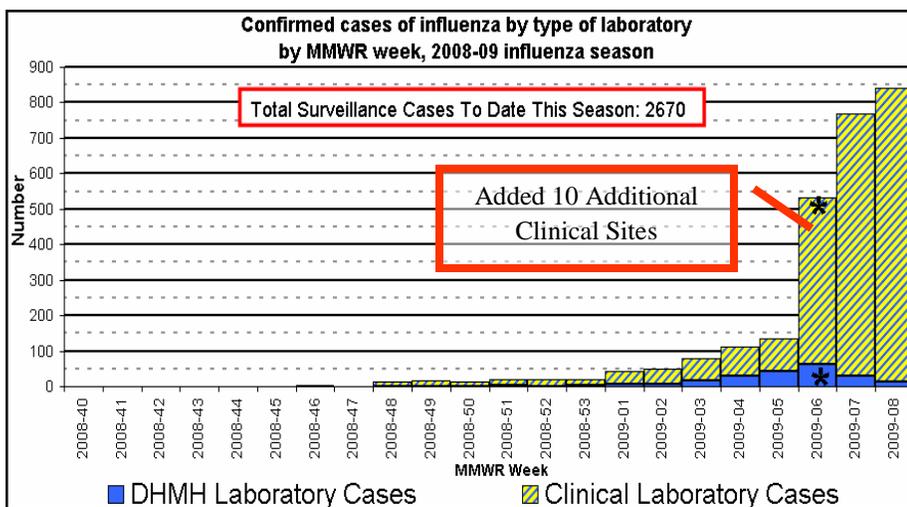
MARYLAND DHMH LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

During week 8, a total of 30 specimens were submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Twelve (40%) were positive for influenza: Type A (3, 10%) and Type B (9, 30%). This season, a total of 621 specimens have been submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Of these, 216 (35%) have been positive by PCR and/or viral culture.

CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES (2,670) 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 population¹, and are less reliable when prevalence is low. This season, all positive clinical laboratory results from week 46 onward (2,454) are counted as confirmed cases, and of course, all of the positive DHMH lab results (216).



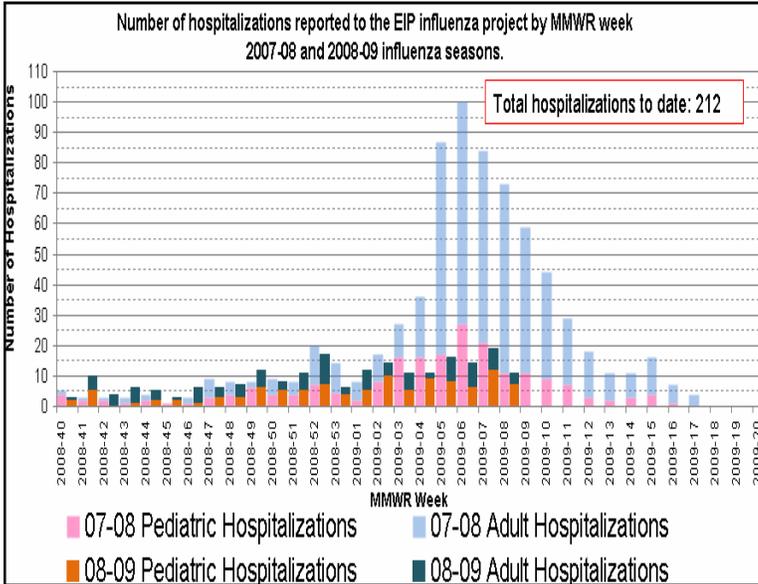
Influenza Type	No.	%
Type A	1	<1%
Type A (H1)	117	54%
Type A (H3)	4	2%
Type B	93	43%
Types A & B	1	<1%
TOTAL	216	100%

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

1-For more information, please read: “Rapid Diagnostic Testing for Influenza”, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://tinyurl.com/cdcrapids>
 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



Eleven hospitalizations, 7 children and 4 adults, were reported to EIP during week 8.

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 213 (108, 51% adult, and 105, 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

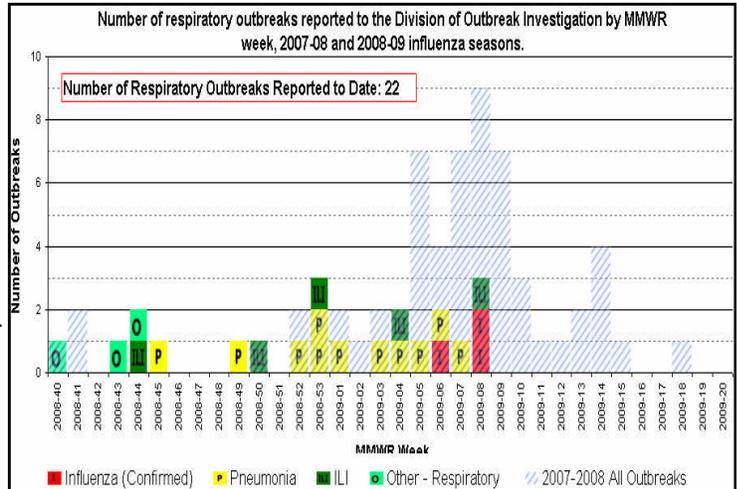
During week 8, one outbreak of influenza-like illness and two outbreaks of influenza were reported to the Division of Outbreak Investigation. To date, there have been 22 respiratory outbreaks reported this flu season.

Maryland, disease outbreaks in general are reportable to DHMH. Please contact your local health department to report an outbreak.

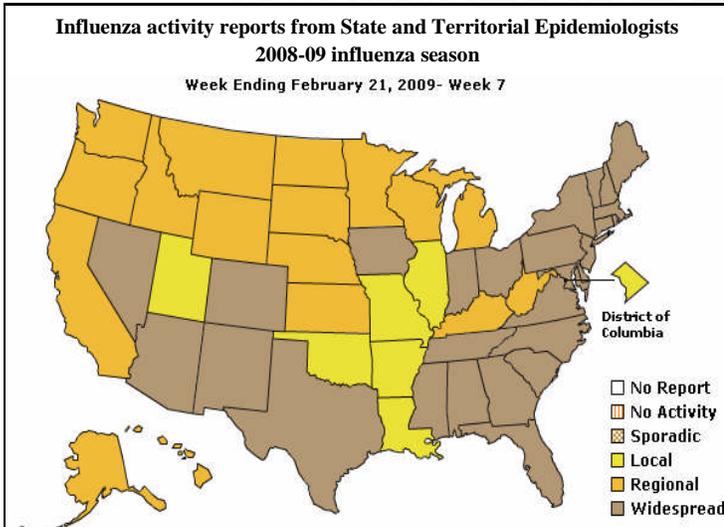
For more information, please visit the Division of Outbreak Investigations web page at:

Although influenza is not a reportable condition in

<http://tinyurl.com/edcpoutb>



CDC NATIONAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT



According to CDC, “during week 7, influenza activity increased slightly in the United States.”

- Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are above baseline nationally.
- **27 States** reported “widespread” influenza activity. 17 states reported “regional” flu activity, and 6 states and DC reported

“local” activity.

- 24.6% of specimens tested by national laboratories were positive for influenza.
- Eight pediatric deaths due to influenza were reported to CDC.

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

“Why The Flu Thrives in Winter” (NY TIMES) - According to a study at Oregon State University, humidity in the air has a lot to do with why flu is more common in the Winter.
(www.tinyurl.com/dgdpcj)

“Scientists Take Steps in Search of ‘Universal’ Flu Vaccine” (VOICE OF AMERICA) - With the news that Type A (H1) viruses in circulation are resistant to oseltamivir, scientist around the world are focusing their efforts on other ways to combat the flu.
(www.tinyurl.com/d6s982)

“In Adults, Shots Are Best for Flu” (NY TIMES) - A review of medical records from over a million army members who received the flu vaccine has yielded results that point to the injected vaccine being better than the nasal vaccine.
(www.tinyurl.com/cwnzwd)

“Flu is Serious and Preventable, Health Officials Say” (FREDERICK NEWS POST) - Officials with the Frederick County (Maryland) Department of Health held a seminar to better inform the community about the flu. (www.tinyurl.com/bsedr5)

“Time to Take Anti-Flu Step” (FAIRFAX MEDIA, NEW ZEALAND) Flu vaccine campaigns have begun in the Southern Hemisphere. They will use the same vaccine that we will receive next Fall/Winter; the circulating virus strains they see will likely forecast what circulating strains we will observe next season (2009-10).
(www.tinyurl.com/ahnxc4)



WEEK	ACTIVITY
2009-02	Local
2009-03	Local
2009-04	Regional
2009-05	Regional
2009-06	Widespread
2009-07	Widespread
2009-08	Widespread

Influenza activity in Maryland according to DHMH

