



MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT - Week 12 (March 22 to 28, 2009)

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

- Influenza activity in Maryland is "LOCAL" with an increased proportion of visits to providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) in one of five surveillance regions in Maryland.
- 2% of respondents to the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey reported ILI symptoms | The median percent of ILI visits to sentinel providers was 0.3%
- Reported confirmed cases continued to decrease for the third week in a row.
- Based on previous flu seasons' observations, flu activity should continue to decrease through April and end in early May.

INSIDE:

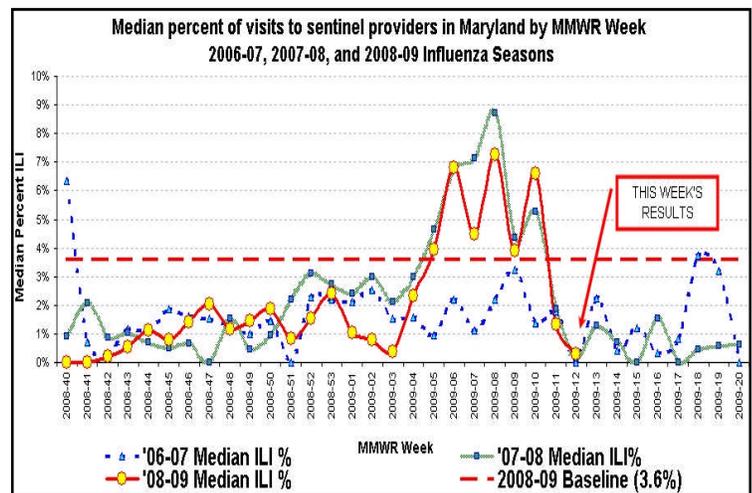
Laboratory Reports	2
Viral Typing Results	2
EIP & CDC Reports	3
Outbreak Reports	3
Tokelau Flu... And More!	4

OUTPATIENT INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

This week, a total of 49 ability in reported ILI visits for ILI were reported by 8 providers. The median percent of ILI visits in Maryland was 0.3%. This is **below** the state baseline of 3.6%.

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

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.

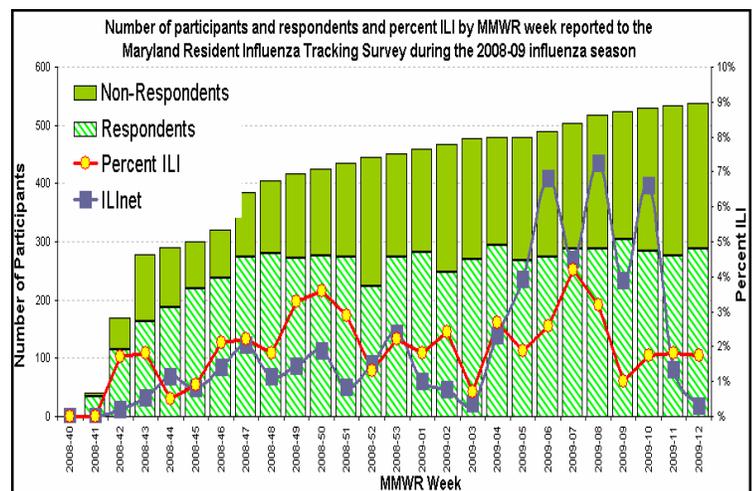


MARYLAND RESIDENT INFLUENZA TRACKING SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 538 participants signed up at www.tinyurl.com/flu-enroll by the end of week 12. Of the 538 residents who received the weekly survey, 287 (53%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 5 (2%) reported flu-like symptoms.

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

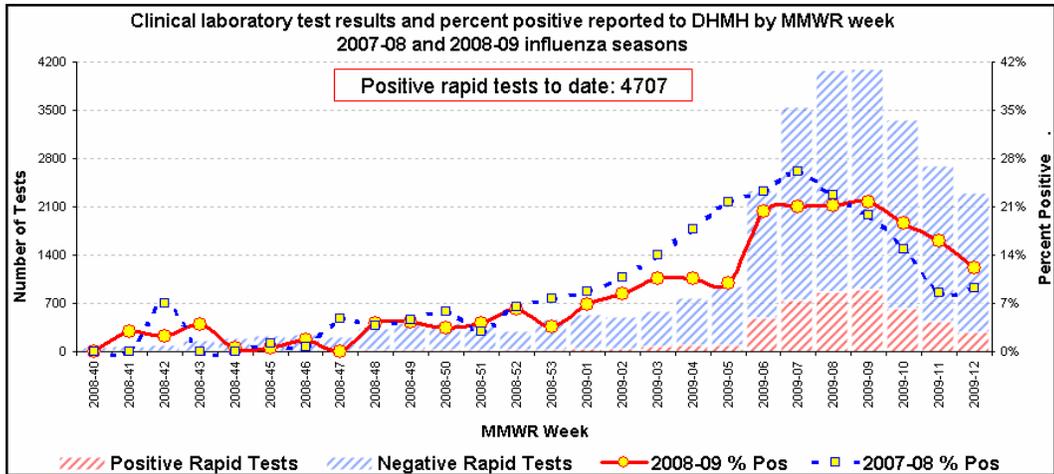
the results. We continue to recruit participants. Please enroll at the link above or pass on the link to anyone interested.



MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT - Week 12 (March 22 to 28, 2009)

MARYLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

During week 12, a total of 2,285 rapid influenza tests were reported by 22 reporting clinical laboratories. Of these, **278 tests (12%) were positive**. **NOTE:** We have added 10 new clinical labs to our network starting on week 6.



Rapid Test Result	No.	%
Type A	855	18%
Type B	552	12%
Type A or B	3,300	70%
TOTAL	4,707	100%

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

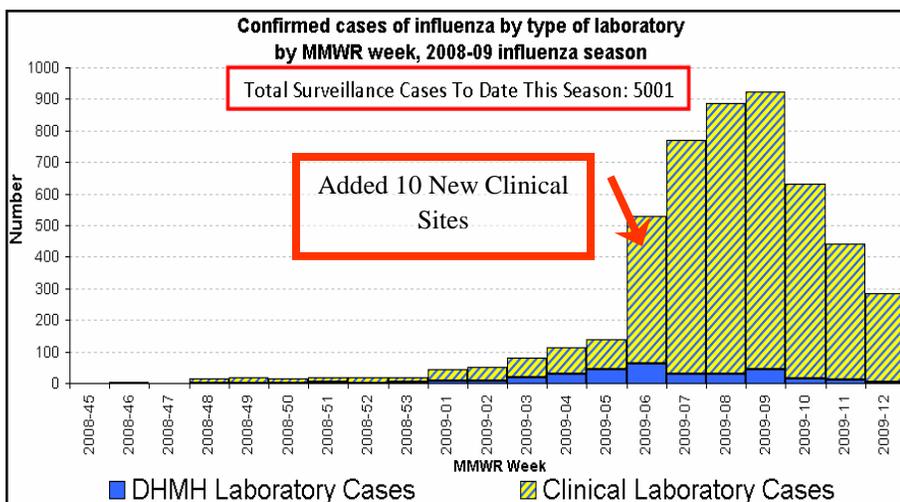
MARYLAND DHMH LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

During week 12, a total of 7 specimens were submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Five (71%) were positive for influenza: Type A (0, 0%) and Type B (5, 71%). This season, a total of 788 specimens have been submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Of these, 306 (39%) have been positive by PCR and/or viral culture.

CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES (5,001) 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 (4,695) are counted as confirmed cases, and of course, all of the positive DHMH lab results (306).



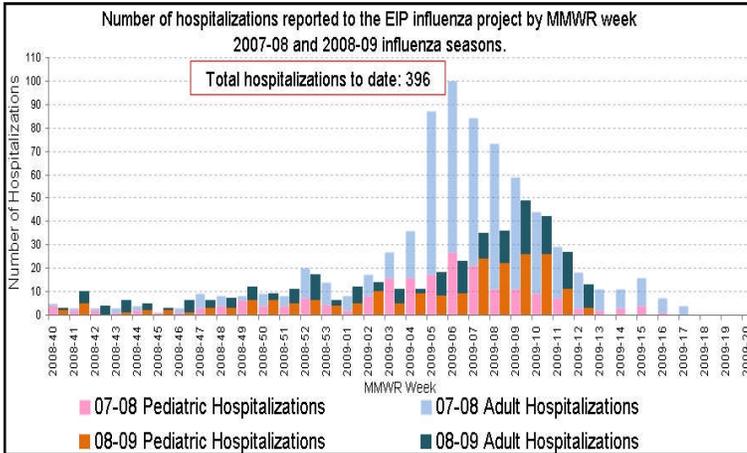
Influenza Type	No.	%
Type A	2	<1%
Type A (H1)	144	47%
Type A (H3)	6	2%
Type B	153	50%
Types A & B	1	<1%
TOTAL	306	100%

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/cdcrapidis>
 For more information on the different types of influenza viruses, please read: <http://tinyurl.com/cdcfluvirus>

MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT - Week 12 (March 22 to 28, 2009)

EMERGING INFECTIONS PROGRAM (EIP) INFLUENZA PROJECT



Twenty-one hospitals in the Baltimore Metro Region provide information to EIP on the number of hospitalizations associated with influenza on a weekly basis during the flu season.

396 (192, 48% adult, and 204, 52% pediatric) hospitalizations for influenza reported to DHMH.

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

During week 12, 13 hospitalizations, 3 children and 10 adults, were reported to EIP.

To date, there have been

DIVISION OF OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION REPORTS

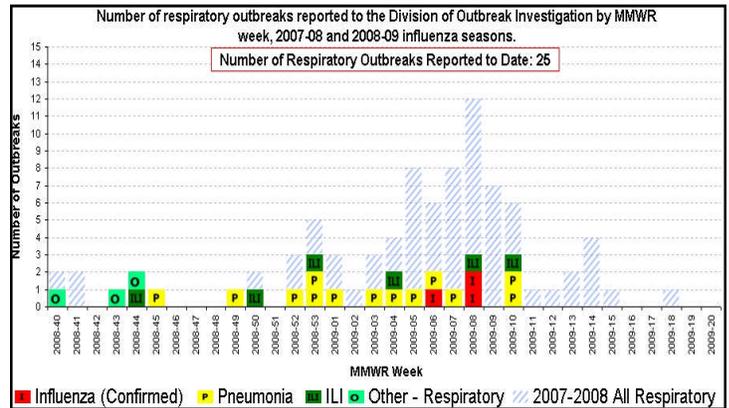
During week 12, no outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to the Division of Outbreak Investigation. To date, there have been 25 respiratory outbreaks reported this flu season.

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

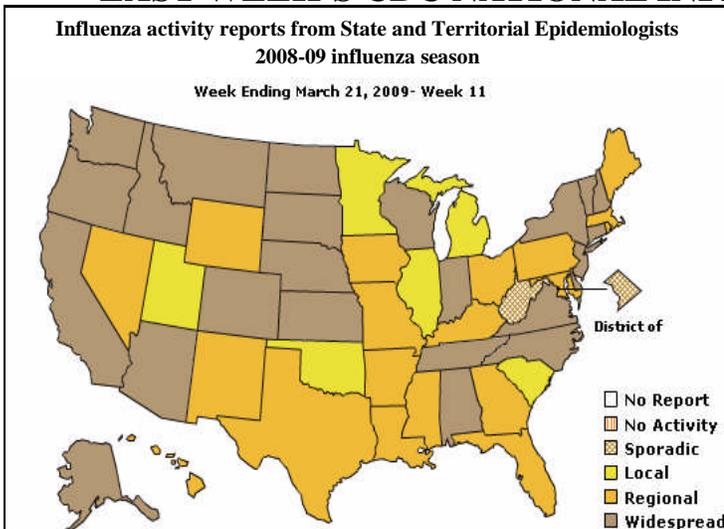
For more information, please visit the Division of Outbreak Investigations web page at:

<http://tinyurl.com/edcpoutb>

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



LAST WEEK'S CDC NATIONAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT



According to CDC, “during week 11, influenza activity decreased continued to decrease in the United States.”

- Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are above baseline nationally.
- **24 States** reported “widespread” influenza activity; 19 states reported “regional” flu activity; 6 states reported “local” activity.

- 21.4% of specimens tested by national laboratories were positive for influenza.
- Three pediatric deaths due to influenza were reported to CDC. The total now stands at 35 reported cases this season.

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

**Division of Communicable
Disease Surveillance
Office of Epidemiology and
Disease Control Programs
Maryland Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene**

201 West Preston Street
3rd Floor, Unit #26
Baltimore, MD 21201

Phone: 410-767-6700
Fax: 410-696-4215
E-mail: flu@dhmh.state.md.us

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 News Roundup

- The BBC is reporting on an outbreak of influenza in three small islands in the South Pacific (tinyurl.com/tokala). According to reports, 10% of the population of 1,500 is sick with the flu. Located midway between Hawaii and New Zealand, **Tokelau** is made up of three coral atolls, covering less than 5 square miles. Due to their isolation from the rest of the world, the level of immunity against influenza is low. Responding to the current outbreak, medical supplies from New Zealand are being shipped in. The islands have no roads or airports.
- An Egyptian toddler is the 61st case of Avian Flu (H5N1) in Egypt since the virus was first detected there in 2006. (<http://tinyurl.com/egyflu>)
- Marcell Jansen, a midfield soccer player for the German National Soccer team will miss tonight's World Cup qualifier due to the flu. German soccer fans need not worry... Wales has not gone to the World Cup since 1958, while Germany has not missed one since 1950. (<http://tinyurl.com/gersocflu>)
- There is yet another outbreak of Salmonella in the nation, this time in pistachios. Should you worry? According to CDC, 36,000 die each year from the flu and its complications while about 400 die from Salmonella infection. (<http://tinyurl.com/chrubw>)
- Derrick Williams, wide-receiver from Penn State University, decided to participate in the NFL combine despite feeling sick from the flu. He did not do very well and is now having to work very hard to find a team that will pick him up for the 2009 season. (<http://tinyurl.com/wrflu>)
- The flu peak has passed in Maryland, based on declining numbers of confirmed cases and visits to sentinel providers for flu-like illness. (<http://tinyurl.com/cn7z8t>)

WEEK	ACTIVITY
2009-06	Widespread
2009-07	Widespread
2009-08	Widespread
2009-09	Regional
2009-10	Regional
2009-11	Regional
2009-12	Local

Influenza activity in Maryland according to DHMH

