



MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT - Week 15 (April 12 to April 18, 2009)

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

- Influenza activity in Maryland is “**SPORADIC**” with the proportion of visits to providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) below baseline in all surveillance regions and isolated lab-confirmed cases.
- 1% of respondents to the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey reported ILI symptoms | The median percent of ILI visits to sentinel providers was 0%
- Reported confirmed cases continued to decrease for the sixth week in a row.
- While influenza activity is decreasing overall in the United States, the flu virus is still around... Check out our flu news roundup.

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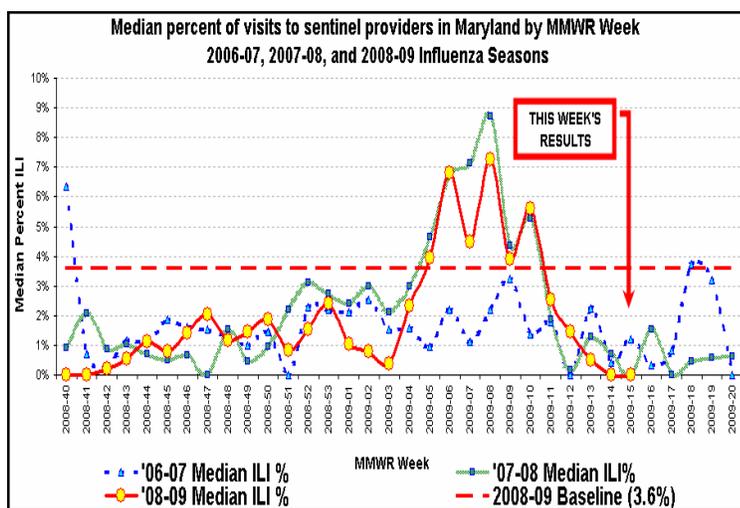
OUTPATIENT INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

This week, a total of 35 ability in reported ILI visits for ILI were reported by 7 providers. The **median** percent of ILI visits in Maryland was 0%. This is **below** the state baseline of 3.6%.

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-

ety in becoming a sentinel provider, please feel free to contact us at flu@dhmh.state.md or by phone at 410-767-6700.

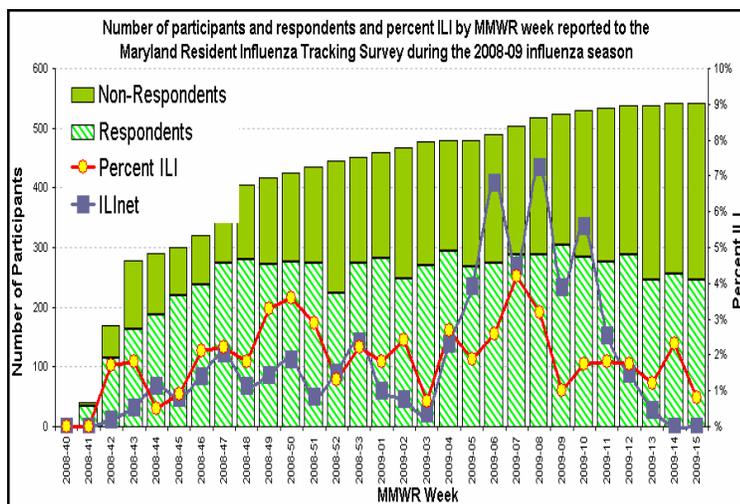


MARYLAND RESIDENT INFLUENZA TRACKING SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 542 participants signed up at www.tinyurl.com/flu-enroll by the end of week 15. Of the 538 residents who received the weekly survey, 264 (45%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 2 (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.

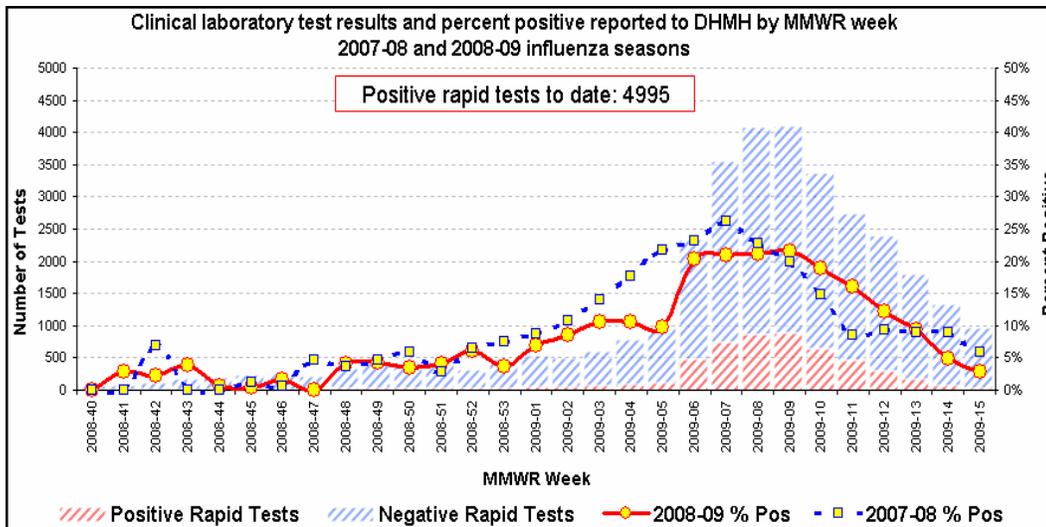
Because there is no baseline to compare these results, and the sample size is small (compared to the population), caution must be taken when interpreting



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MARYLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

During week 15, a total of 954 rapid influenza tests were reported by 21 reporting clinical laboratories. Of these, **27 tests (3%) were positive**. **NOTE:** We have added 10 new clinical labs to our network starting on week 6.



Rapid Test Result	No.	%
Type A	893	18%
Type B	591	12%
Type A or B	3,511	70%
TOTAL	4,995	100%

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

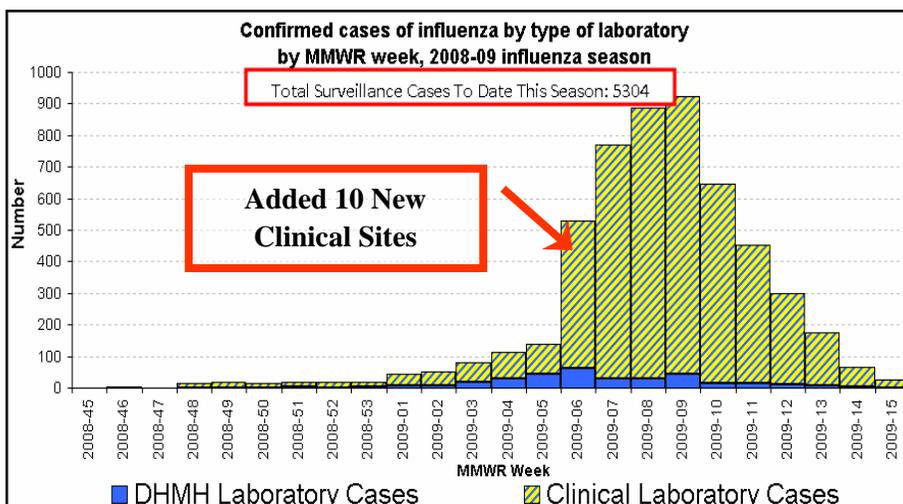
MARYLAND DHMH LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

During week 15, a total of 2 specimens were submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Neither of these submitted samples tested positive for influenza by PCR technique. This season, a total of 818 specimens have been submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Of these, 321 (39%) have been positive by PCR and/or viral culture.

CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES (5,304) 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 (4,983) are counted as confirmed cases, and of course, all of the positive DHMH lab results (321).



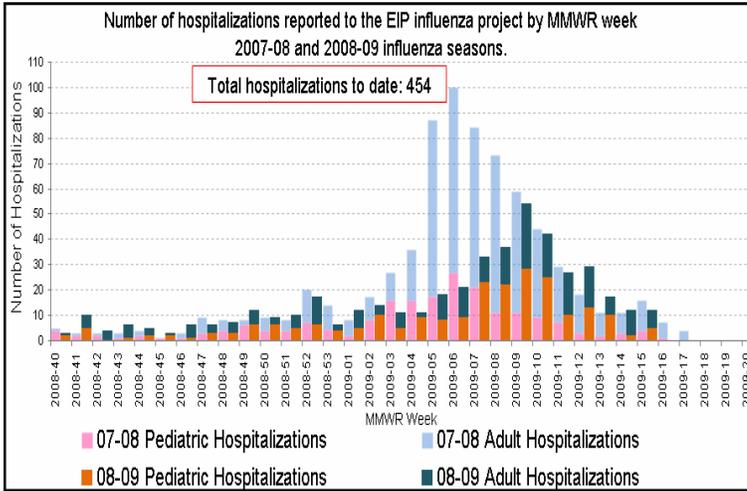
Influenza Type	No.	%
Type A	2	<1%
Type A (H1)	151	47%
Type A (H3)	6	2%
Type B	161	50%
Types A & B	1	<1%
TOTAL	321	100%

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



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.

454 (224, 49% adult, and 230, 51% pediatric) hospitalizations for influenza reported to DHMH.

During week 15, 12 hospitalizations, 5 children and 7 adults, were reported to EIP.

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

For more information on the program, please contact Maya Monroe, MPH, EIP Epidemiologist at 410-767-6700.

DIVISION OF OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION REPORTS

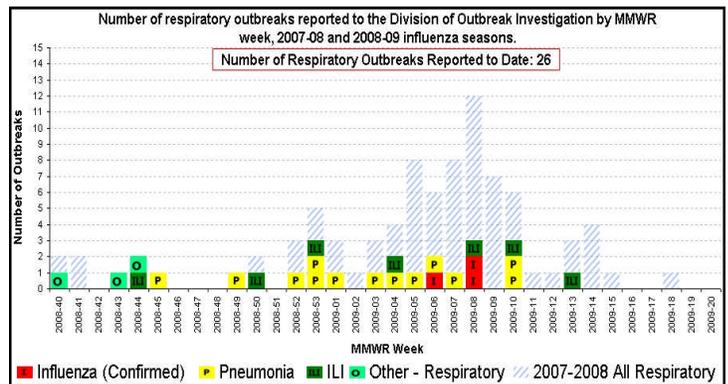
During week 15, no outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness were reported to the Division of Outbreak Investigation. To date, there have been 26 respiratory outbreaks reported this flu season.

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

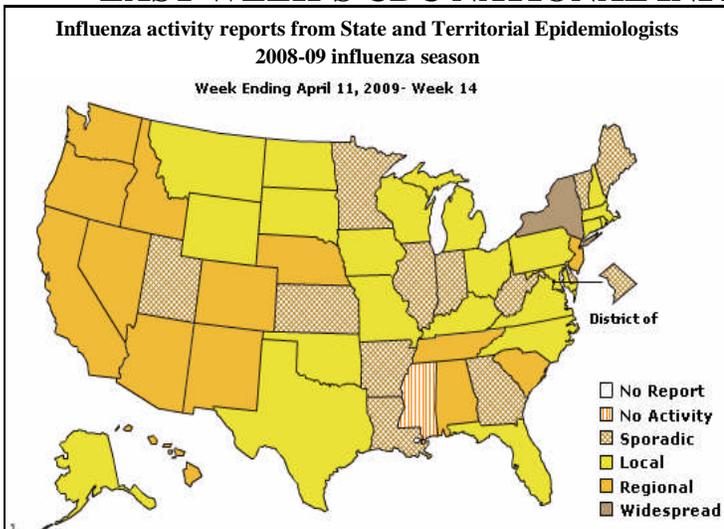
For more information, please visit the Division of Outbreak Investigations web page at:

<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 14, influenza activity continued to decrease in the United States.”

- Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are below baseline nationally.
- **One State** reported “widespread” influenza activity; 14 states reported “regional” flu activity; 22 states reported “local” activity.

- 9% of specimens tested by national laboratories were positive for influenza.
- Eight pediatric deaths due to influenza were reported to CDC. The total now stands at 53 reported cases this season.

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

Even More Flu News

- The Washington Post is reporting on two cases of “novel” influenza in California. (<http://tinyurl.com/washpostflu>) The strain of influenza in these two pediatric cases was identified as swine flu, strains usually observed in pigs. Public Health authorities at all levels of government are investigating.
- The Merced Sun-Star (Merced, CA) has an article on the death of Caleb McKee, age 4, who died in February of influenza type A. (<http://tinyurl.com/calebflu>) This story serves as a reminder that influenza kills, and it places a face on one of the reported pediatric flu cases in the United States.
- The Dominion Post (New Zealand) is reporting a follow-up to the flu outbreak in the island atoll of Tokelau in the South Pacific. (<http://tinyurl.com/nzislandflu>) The island chain is very isolated, and has very little in the way of transportation infrastructure. A team of epidemiologists, nurses, and medical technologists (lab techs) assisted the island’s authorities in delivering health supplies, containing the outbreak, and testing the population for influenza and other co-infections. The exact cause of the outbreak of influenza-like illness continues to be investigated.
- The Hawaii Department of Health will launch a new website (<http://www.coralcross.org>) to teach the general public about pandemic flu preparedness in a novel way. The site will serve as the headquarters on-line of an alternate reality game (ARG). The game will supply participants with scenarios to which the participants will have to respond. It is set in a fictional future in the year 2011, but the game will go live in May of 2009.

WEEK	ACTIVITY
2009-09	Regional
2009-10	Regional
2009-11	Regional
2009-12	Local
2009-13	Local
2009-14	Local
2009-15	Sporadic

Influenza activity in Maryland according to DHMH

