



# MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT - Week 16 (April 19 to April 25, 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.
- 2% of respondents to the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey reported ILI symptoms | The median percent of ILI visits to sentinel providers was 1%
- Seasonal influenza cases continued to decline for a seventh week.
- **Swine Flu situation information sources are listed on PAGE 4**

**INSIDE:**

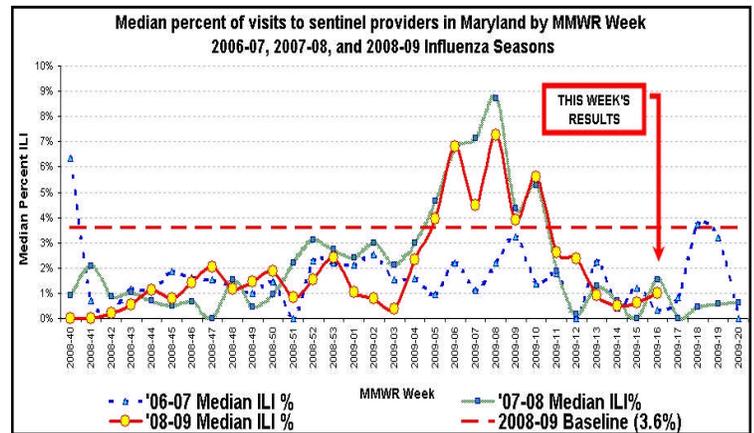
<b>Laboratory Reports</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Viral Typing Results</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>EIP &amp; CDC Reports</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Outbreak Reports</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Swine Flu Info Sources</b>	<b>4</b>

## OUTPATIENT INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

During week 16, a total ability in reported ILI of 103 visits for ILI were proportions among providers reported by 10 providers. The **median** percent of median ILI is used instead of the average. Half of ILI visits in Maryland was 1%. This is **below** of the ILI reports were the state baseline of 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 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](mailto:flu@dhmh.state.md) or by phone at 410-767-6700.

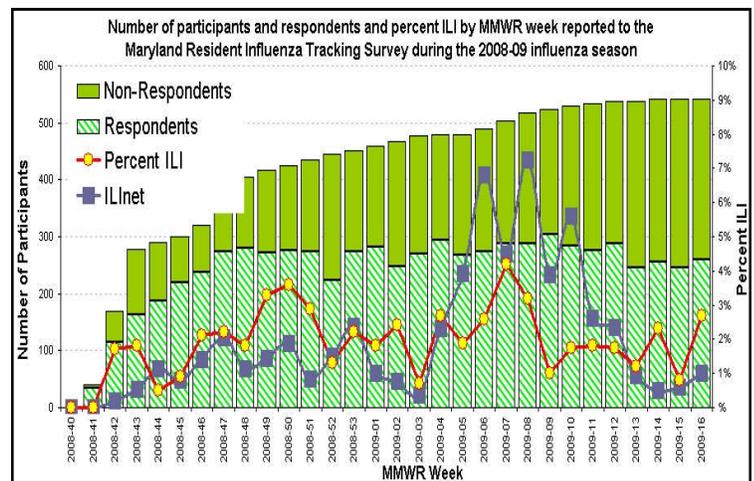


## MARYLAND RESIDENT INFLUENZA TRACKING SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 542 participants signed up at [www.tinyurl.com/flu-enroll](http://www.tinyurl.com/flu-enroll) by the end of week 16. Of the 542 residents who received the weekly survey, 259 (48%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 7 (3%) 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.

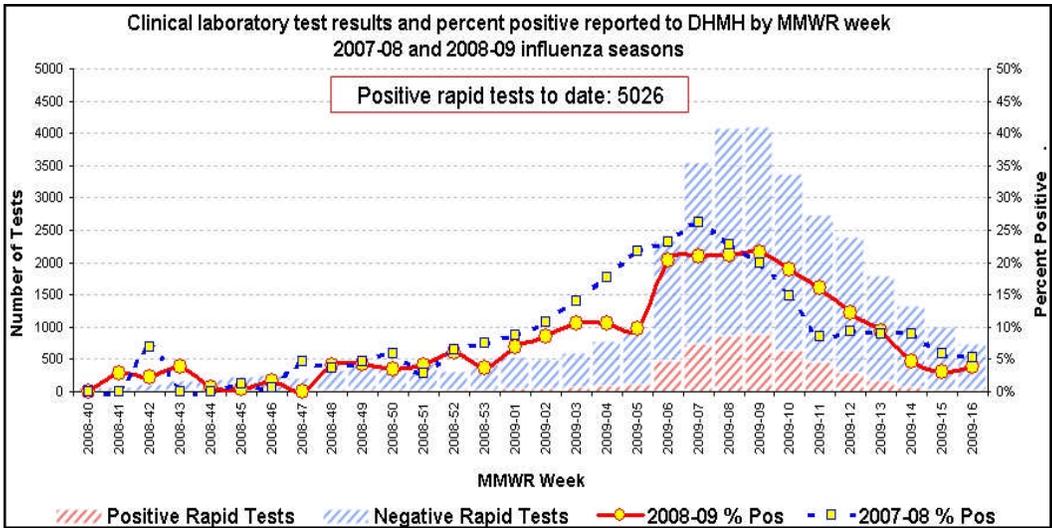
Because there is no baseline to compare these results, and the sample size is small (compared to the population), caution must be taken when interpreting



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**MARYLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE**

During week 16, a total of 734 rapid influenza tests were reported by 26 reporting clinical laboratories. Of these, **28 tests (4%) were positive**. **NOTE:** We have added 10 new clinical labs to our network starting on week 6.



Rapid Test Result	No.	%
Type A	902	18%
Type B	597	12%
Type A or B	3,511	70%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,026</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

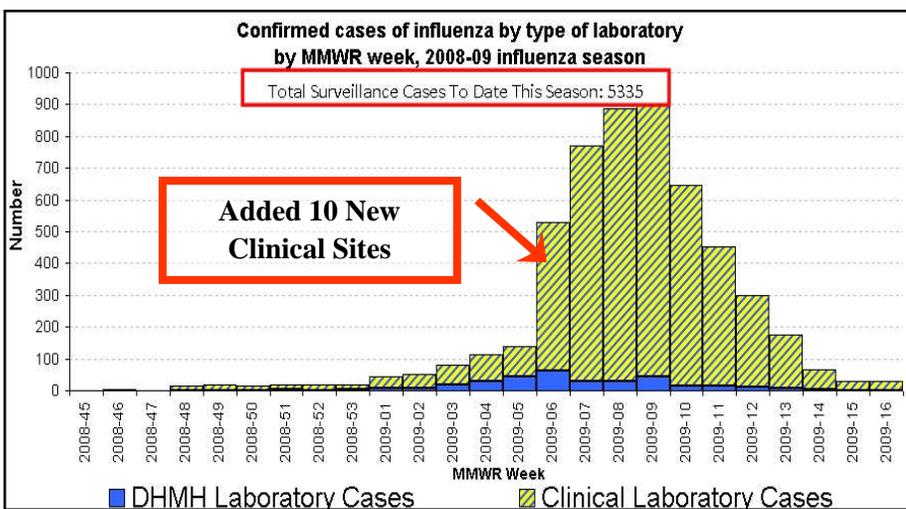
**MARYLAND DHMH LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

During week 16, a total of 10 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 828 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 (5,335) 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<sup>1</sup>, and are less reliable when prevalence is low. This season, all positive clinical laboratory results from week 46 onward (5,014) are counted as confirmed cases, and of course, all of the positive DHMH lab results (321).



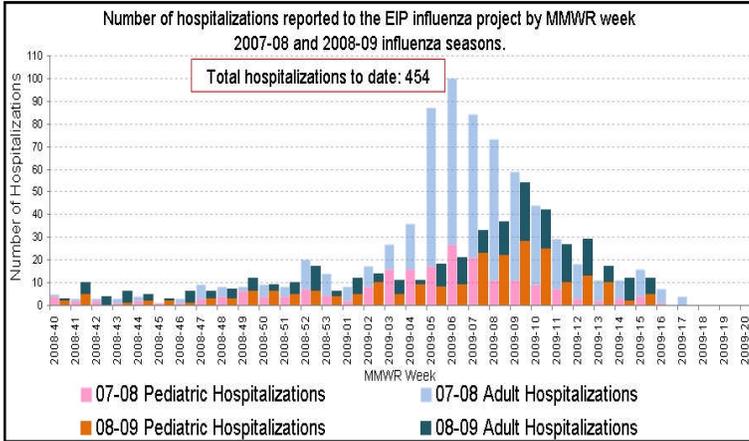
Influenza Type	No.	%
Type A	2	<1%
Type A (H1)	151	47%
Type A (H3)	6	2%
Type B	161	50%
Types A & B	1	<1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

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

**There was no report on the number of hospitalizations as of the publishing time of this report.**

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

To date, there have been

**DIVISION OF OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION REPORTS**

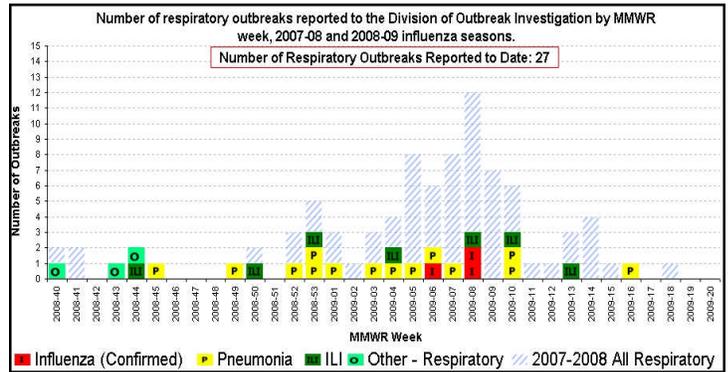
During week 16, one outbreak of pneumonia was reported to the Division of Outbreak Investigation. To date, there have been 27 respiratory outbreaks reported this flu season.

able to DHMH. Please contact your local health department to report an outbreak.

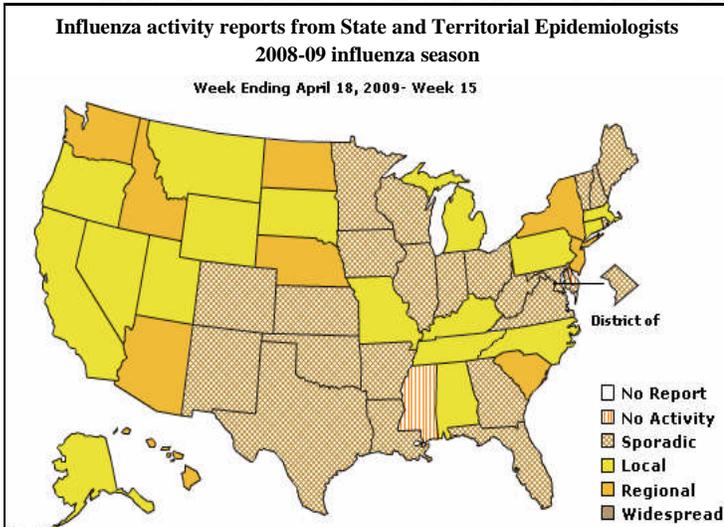
For more information, please visit the Division of Outbreak Investigations web page at:

<http://tinyurl.com/edcpoutb>

Although influenza is not a reportable condition in Maryland, disease outbreaks in general are report-



**LAST WEEK'S CDC NATIONAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT**



According to CDC, “during week 15, influenza activity continued to decrease in the United States.”

were positive for influenza.

- Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are below baseline nationally.
- **Nine States** reported “regional” flu activity; 17 states reported “local” activity.
- 6% of specimens tested by national laboratories

- Two pediatric deaths due to influenza were reported to CDC. The total now stands at 55 reported cases this season.

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

**Division of Communicable  
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Maryland Department of  
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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](http://WWW.EDCP.ORG)

**Swine Flu Information Sources**

The Swine Flu situation is changing all the time as more information is received and analyzed at all levels of government. Here are some helpful sources of information to keep up with the latest:

**FEDERAL**

**Centers for Disease Control:**

- <http://cdc.gov/swineflu>
- <http://twitter.com/cdcemergency>
- <http://cdc.gov/flu>

**Homeland Security:**

<http://ready.gov>

**State Department:**

<http://tinyurl.com/travelwarn>

**Food and Drug Administration:**

<http://tinyurl.com/fdaflu>

**STATE**

**Maryland Department of Health:**

- <http://dhmh.state.md.us>
- <http://flu.maryland.gov>

**Office of the Governor, Maryland:**

<http://tinyurl.com/mdgovflu>

**Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Programs:**

<http://tinyurl.com/edcpflu>

**Maryland State Government:**

<http://www.maryland.gov>

**LOCAL**

**List of Local Health Departments in Maryland:**

<http://tinyurl.com/deqxhy>

WEEK	ACTIVITY
2009-10	Regional
2009-11	Regional
2009-12	Local
2009-13	Local
2009-14	Local
2009-15	Sporadic
2009-16	Sporadic

Influenza activity in Maryland according to DHMH

