



MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT Week 51 (December 14 to December 20, 2008)

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

- Influenza activity in Maryland remains “**SPORADIC**” with visits to providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) below baseline and only a few positive clinical laboratory influenza tests reported as positive.
- CDC has issued interim guidelines for antiviral use.** <http://tinyurl.com/cdcinterim>
- 2.9% of respondents to the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey reported ILI symptoms
- No outbreaks of influenza or ILI were reported during week 51

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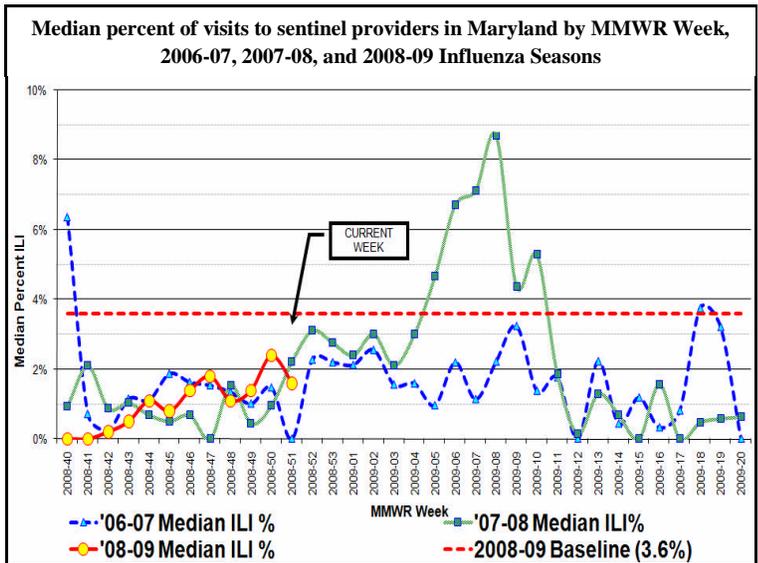
OUTPATIENT INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

This week, a total of 147 visits for ILI were reported by 10 providers. The median percent of ILI visits in Maryland was 1.6%. 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 vari-

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.

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.



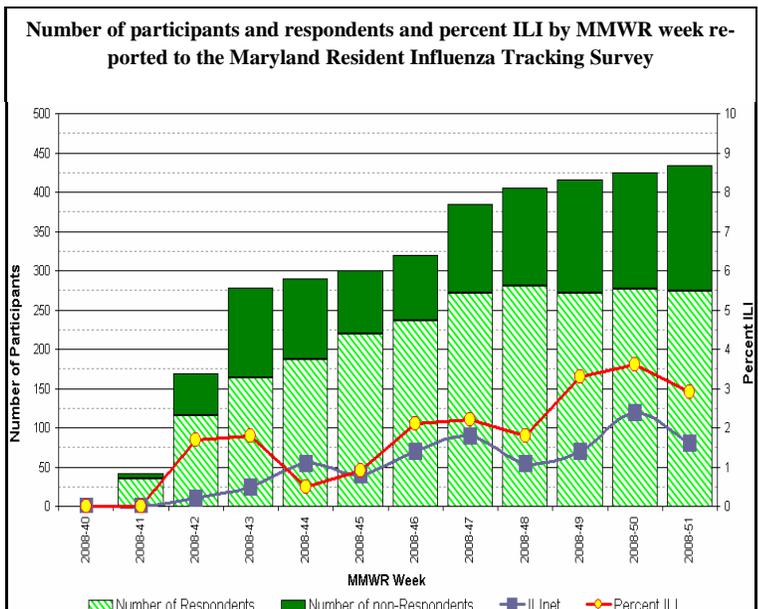
MARYLAND RESIDENT INFLUENZA TRACKING SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 434 participants signed up at <http://tinyurl.com/flu-enroll> by the end of week 51. Of the 434 residents who received the weekly survey, 274 (63%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 8 (2.9%) reported flu-like symptoms. **None of the respondents reported getting their flu vaccine this week.**

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.

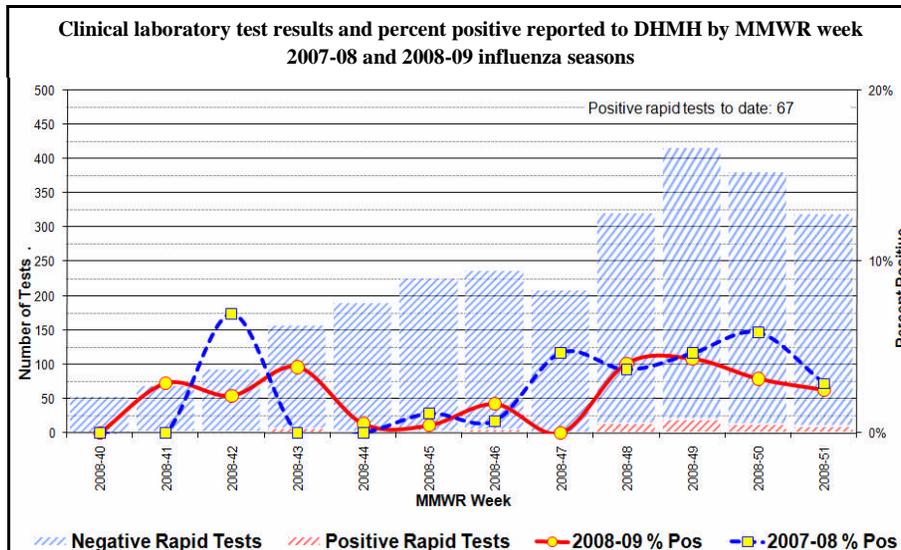
We continue to recruit participants. Please enroll at the link above or pass on the link to anyone interested.



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MARYLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

During week 51, a total of 319 rapid influenza tests were reported by 13 reporting clinical laboratories. Of these, **8 tests (2.5%) were positive.**



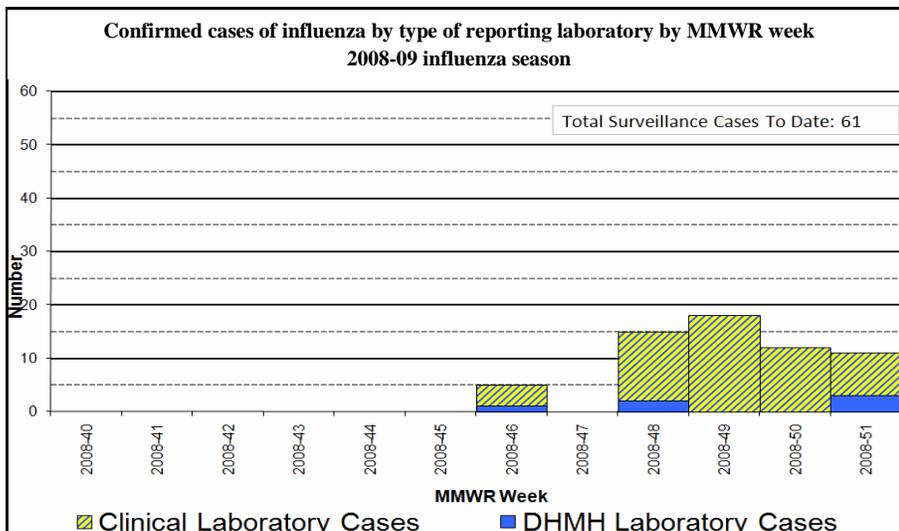
MARYLAND DHMH LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

During week 51, a total of 32 specimens were submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Three (9.4%) of these were positive for influenza. This season, a total of 113 specimens have been submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Of these, 6 (5.3%) have been positive by PCR. Four specimens (3.5%) were positive for influenza Type A, and two specimens (1.8%) were positive for influenza Type B.

CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES (61) 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.

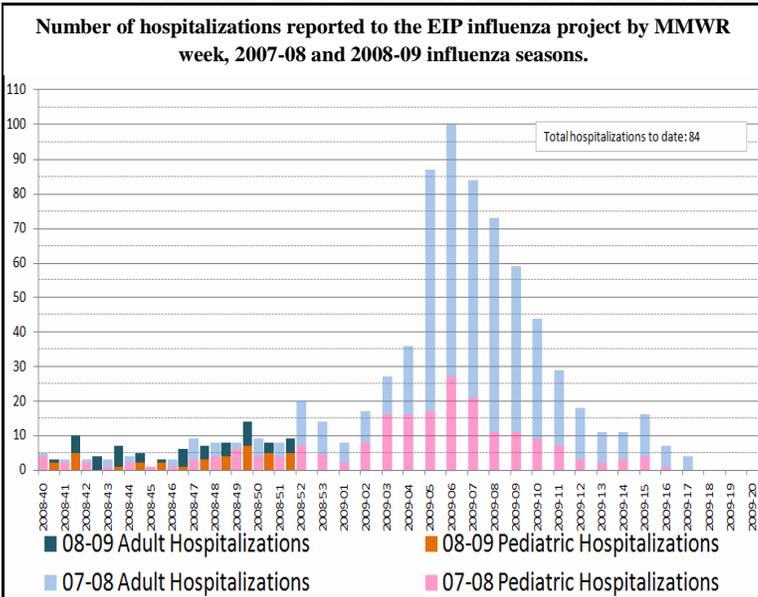
This is done because the sensitivity and specificity of rapid flu tests vary with the prevalence of influenza in the population*, and are less reliable when prevalence is low. This season, all positive clinical laboratory results from week 46 onward (55) are counted as confirmed cases, and of course, all the positive DHMH lab results (6).



The six positive specimens identified by the DHMH lab have been typed as influenza A (4, 67%) and influenza B (2, 33%). To date, the CDC laboratory has identified one as type A (H1N1) Brisbane-like and another as type B Florida-like. Both strains **are** components of this season’s influenza vaccine. The type A (H1N1) isolate was found to be resistant to Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) but sensitive to Adamantanes and Zanamivir. **Interim guidelines on the use of antivirals for influenza can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/cdcinterim>.**

* 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>

EMERGING INFECTIONS PROGRAM (EIP) INFLUENZA PROJECT



This week, a total of 9 hospitalizations were reported to DHMH. Of these, 4 (44%) were adults (over 18 years of age) and 5 (56%) were children.

To date, there have been 84 (47, 56% adult, and 37, 44% pediatric) hospitalizations for influenza reported to DHMH. Last season, 715 (516, 72% adult, and 199, 28% pediatric) hospitalizations

were reported.

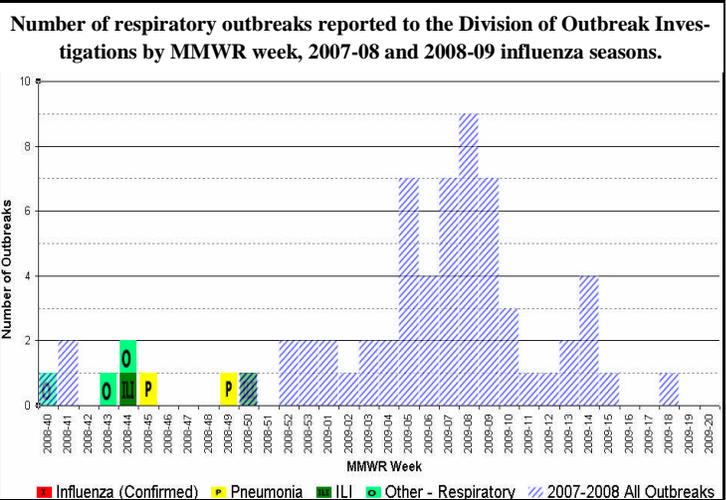
EIP collects the number of hospitalizations associated with influenza on a weekly basis from 21 hospitals in the Baltimore Metro Region .

DIVISION OF OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION REPORTS

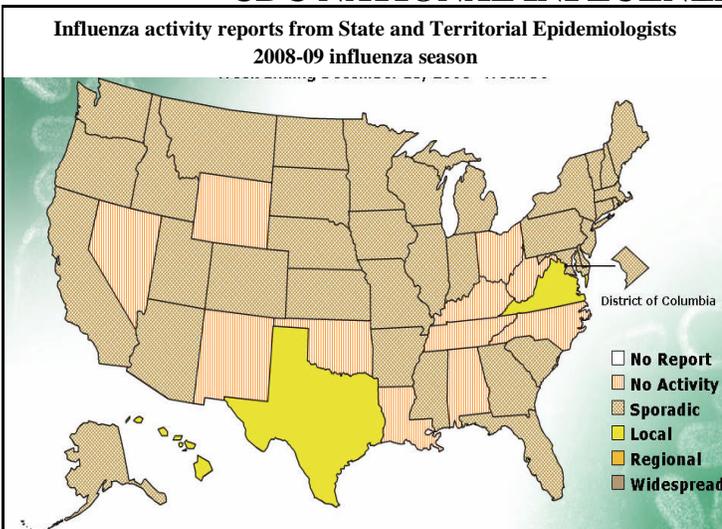
No outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness were reported to the Division of Outbreak Investigation this week.

Although influenza is not a reportable condition in Maryland, disease outbreaks in general are reportable to DHMH. Please contact your local health department to report an out-

break. For more information, please visit the Division of Outbreak Investigations web page at: <http://tinyurl.com/edcpoutb>



CDC NATIONAL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT



According to CDC, “during week 50, a low level of influenza activity was reported in the United States.”

- Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are below baseline.
- Three states reported “local” flu activity.
- 36 states (including Maryland), DC, and Puerto Rico reported

“sporadic” influenza activity (the other states reported “no activity”).

- About 3.5% of specimens tested were positive for influenza.
- **One pediatric death due to influenza was reported during week 50, the first in the season.**

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

HEALTHY PEOPLE HEALTY COMMUNITIES

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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

Interim Guidance on Antiviral Use - CDC has issued interim guidelines on the use of antiviral medications. This was because a high proportion of Type A (H1) influenza viruses have shown resistance to Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®) in laboratory testing. CDC is recommending that the predominant strain of influenza in the community be taken into consideration when choosing how to treat influenza. (A table with this information can be downloaded at: <http://tinyurl.com/flutable>.)

Hawaii Screens Incoming Travelers for Flu - The Hawaii Health Department, in collaboration with federal authorities and private airlines, started a pilot project to screen travelers arriving by air for influenza-like illness. Passengers were given a questionnaire to screen their recent travel and illness history. (<http://tinyurl.com/fluahawaii>)

Give the Gift of Vaccination - The Cecil County Health Department (Maryland) is offering gift

certificates for flu vaccines. For \$20 (\$30 for the inhaled vaccine), you can buy your loved one the gift of no flu this Winter. (<http://tinyurl.com/flugift>)

Half of Adults in U.S. Won't Get Flu Shots - A Rand Corp. survey of 4,000 adults showed that 53% have no intention of getting the flu vaccine this season. Still, about 17% of them do plan on getting it. (There goes herd immunity.) (<http://tinyurl.com/fluadults>)

WEEK	ACTIVITY
2008-44	No Activity
2008-45	No Activity
2008-46	Sporadic
2008-47	Sporadic
2008-48	Sporadic
2008-49	Sporadic
2008-50	Sporadic
2008-51	Sporadic

Influenza activity in Maryland has been SPORADIC over the last six weeks.

