



# MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT

## Week 52 (December 21 to December 27, 2008)

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

- Influenza activity in Maryland is now “**LOCAL**” with visits to providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) above baseline in one surveillance region and recent laboratory evidence of influenza in that same region.
- 1.3% of respondents to the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking Survey reported ILI symptoms | 1.5% of visits to sentinel providers were for ILI
- One pneumonia outbreak was reported to DHMH during week 52

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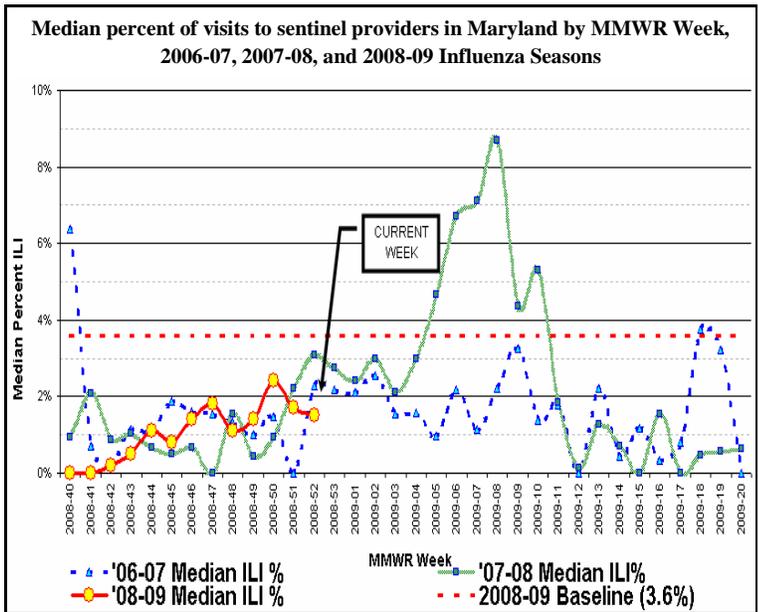
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## OUTPATIENT INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE NETWORK

This week, a total of 59 visits for ILI were reported by 7 providers. The median percent of ILI visits in Maryland was 1.5%. 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@dnhm.state.md](mailto:flu@dnhm.state.md) or by phone at 410-767-6700.

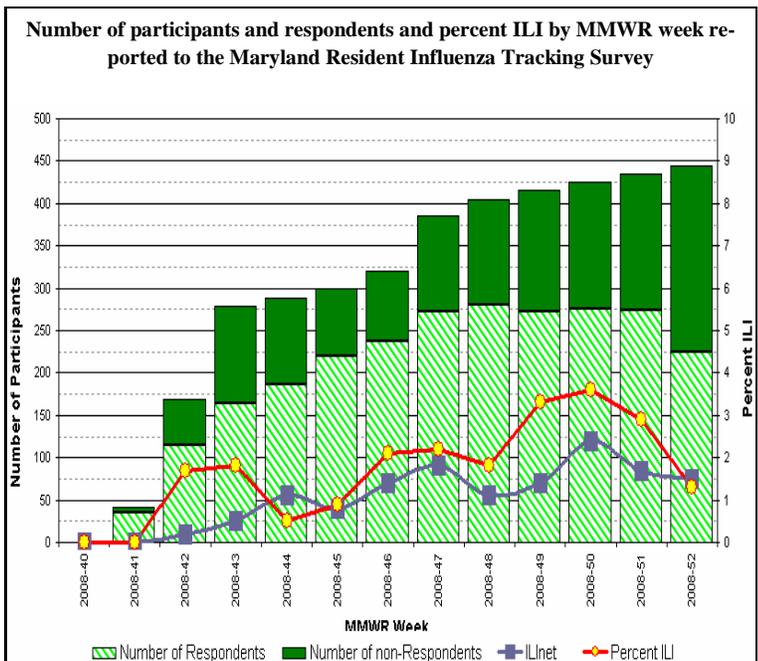


## MARYLAND RESIDENT INFLUENZA TRACKING SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 444 participants signed up at <http://tinyurl.com/flu-enroll> by the end of week 52. Of the 444 residents who received the weekly survey, 224 (50%) responded to it. Among the respondents, 3 (1.3%) reported flu-like symptoms. **One of the respondents reported getting his or her flu vaccine this week.** Because there is no baseline to compare these results, and the sample size is small (compared to the

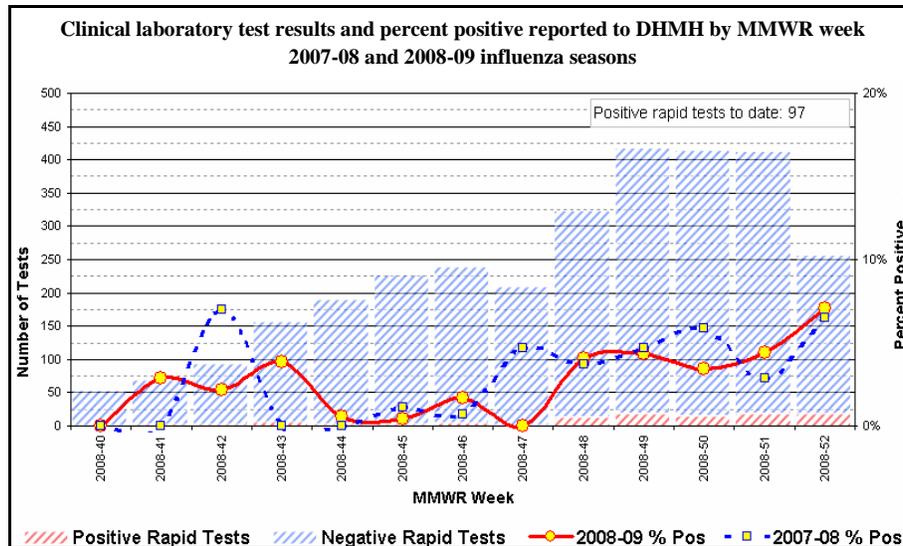
population), caution must be taken when interpreting the results.

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



## MARYLAND CLINICAL LABORATORY INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

During week 52, a total of 255 rapid influenza tests were reported by 9 reporting clinical laboratories. Of these, **18 tests (7.1%) were positive**.



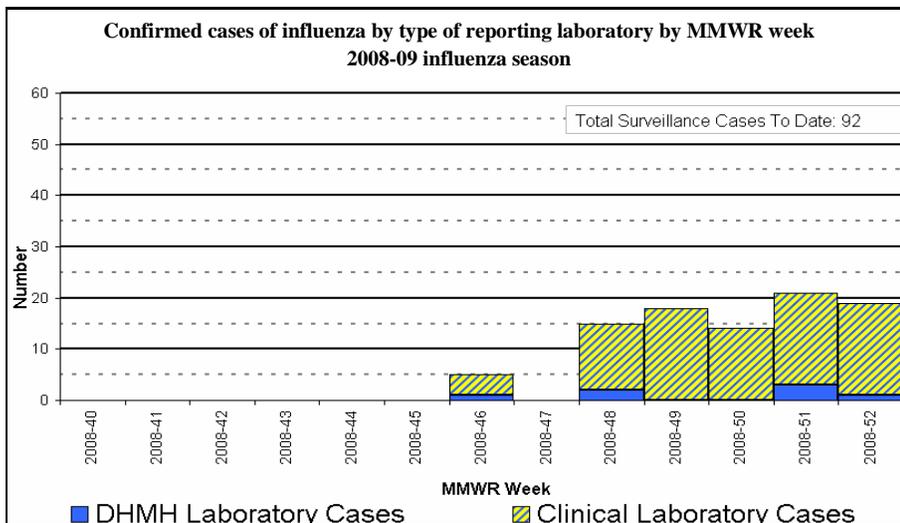
## MARYLAND DHMH LABORATORIES ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

During week 52, a total of 19 specimens were submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. One (5.3%) of these were positive for influenza. This season, a total of 130 specimens have been submitted for testing at the DHMH laboratory. Of these, 7 (5.4%) have been positive by PCR. Four specimens (3.1%) were positive for influenza Type A, and three specimens (2.3%) were positive for influenza Type B.

## CONFIRMED INFLUENZA CASES (92) 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 (85) are counted as confirmed cases, and of course, all the positive DHMH lab results (7).

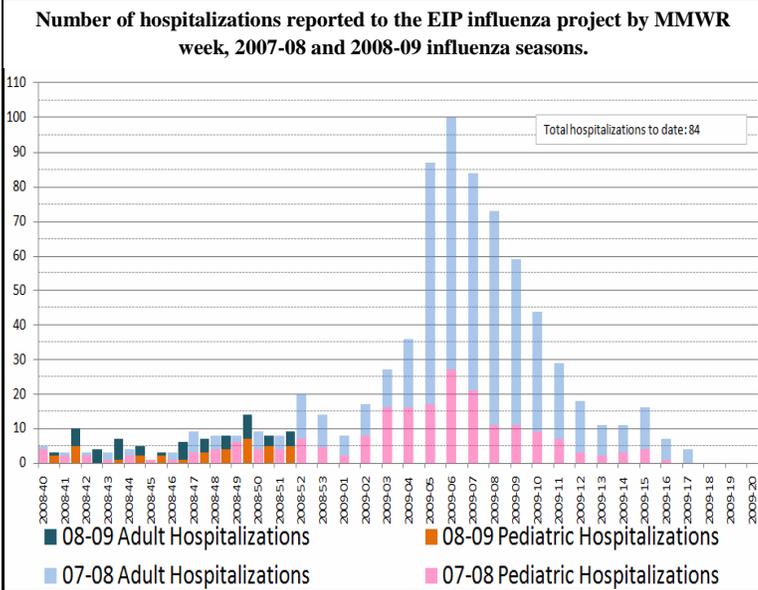


The seven positive specimens identified by the DHMH lab have been typed as influenza A (4, 57%) and influenza B (3, 43%). To date, the CDC laboratory has identified two as type A (H1N1) Brisbane-like and another as type B Florida-like. Both strains **are** components of this season’s influenza vaccine. 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>

MARYLAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE REPORT Week 52 (December 21 to December 27, 2008)

**EMERGING INFECTIONS PROGRAM (EIP) INFLUENZA PROJECT**



There was no report from EIP this week. weekly basis from 21 hospitals in the Baltimore Metro Region .

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.

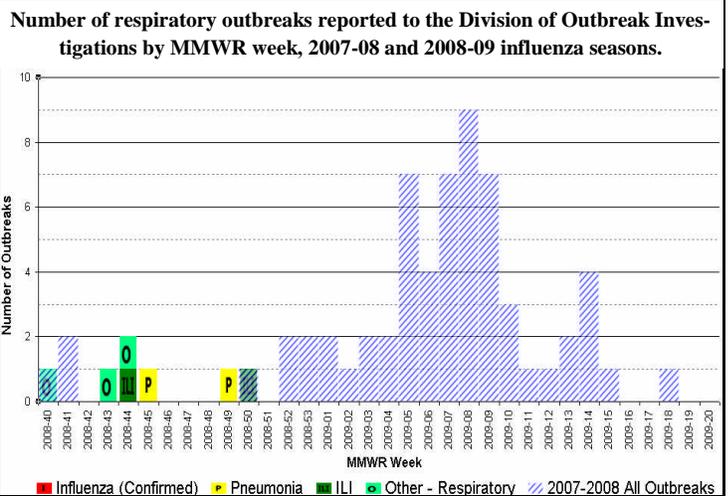
EIP collects the number of hospitalizations associated with influenza on a

**DIVISION OF OUTBREAK INVESTIGATION REPORTS**

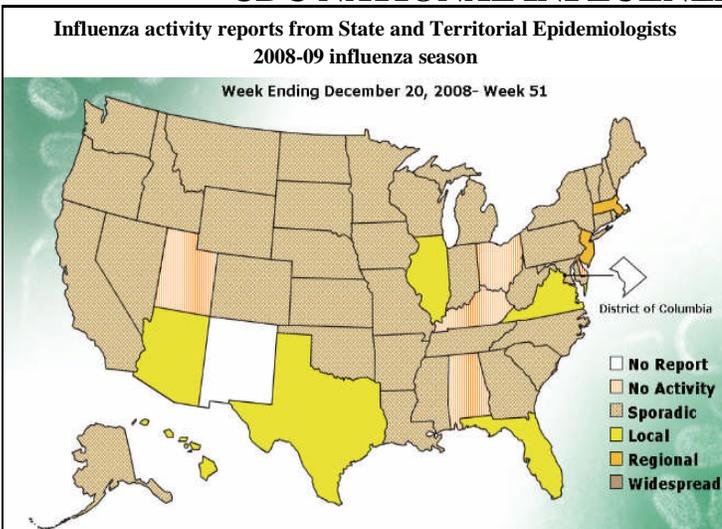
No outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness were reported to the Division of Outbreak Investigation this week.

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 51, a low level of influenza activity was reported in the United States.”

- Visits to sentinel providers for ILI are below baseline.
- Two states reported “regional” flu activity. Six states reported “local” activity.
- 36 states (including

Maryland), DC, and Puerto Rico reported “sporadic” influenza activity (the other states reported “no activity”).

- About 3.4% of specimens tested were positive for influenza.
- No pediatric deaths due to influenza were reported this week..

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](http://WWW.EDCP.ORG)

**FLU YEAR IN REVIEW**

**January:** A “small number” of flu viruses in Europe are found to be resistant against Oseltamivir (Tamiflu®). “It’s an unexpected finding and a signal worth watching,” said Fred Hayden, a flu expert at the World Health Organization.”

[www.tinyurl.com/flujan](http://www.tinyurl.com/flujan)

**February:** Circulating strains at the peak of the season are found to be an imperfect match to the seasonal vaccine. [www.tinyurl.com/flufeb](http://www.tinyurl.com/flufeb)

**March:** More than half a million students in Hong Kong are ordered to stay home amid a large flu outbreak.

[www.tinyurl.com/flumar](http://www.tinyurl.com/flumar)

**May:** Most intense flu season in the

U.S. in 4 years ends. Flu season begins in the Southern Hemisphere.

New vaccine strains are chosen.

[www.tinyurl.com/0708summ](http://www.tinyurl.com/0708summ)

**July:** Pilgrims attending World Youth Day, a gathering of Catholic Youth in Sydney, Australia, come down with what is later termed “Papal Flu”.

[www.tinyurl.com/papalflu](http://www.tinyurl.com/papalflu)

**August:** Flu vaccine begins shipping in Northern Hemisphere. Plenty to go around. [www.tinyurl.com/fluaug](http://www.tinyurl.com/fluaug)

**October:** Flu season begins in U.S. WHO announces that 100% of A (H1) viruses in South Africa were resistant to Oseltamivir.

[www.tinyurl.com/whorep](http://www.tinyurl.com/whorep)

**November:** First lab-confirmed case of influenza in Maryland for ‘08-’09 season.

**December:** CDC announces interim guidelines on the use of antivirals due to the observed increase in A (H1) viruses’ resistance to Oseltamivir.

[www.tinyurl.com/fludec](http://www.tinyurl.com/fludec)

But these news don’t compare to 90 years ago in 1918...

Three members of one family died of influenza in St. Vincent’s Hospital, West New Brighton, S. I., early yesterday morning. Their deaths made four out of five in the family within a week. Mrs. Amelia Dench, 55, and her daughter, Charlotte, and a son, Richard, died in the hospital yesterday. They had contracted the disease while nursing the youngest son of the family, Adolph, 21 years. The family lived at 11 Marion Street, Stapleton. The father, Richard, is the only survivor.

[www.tinyurl.com/panflu18](http://www.tinyurl.com/panflu18)

WEEK	ACTIVITY
2008-45	No Activity
2008-46	Sporadic
2008-47	Sporadic
2008-48	Sporadic
2008-49	Sporadic
2008-50	Sporadic
2008-51	Sporadic
2008-52	Local

Influenza activity in Maryland is now “LOCAL”

