

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 20, 2012

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending October 20, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic spread of influenza. Influenza type A (H3N2) was the predominant strain, according to laboratory testing. Influenza activity indicators were below expected levels overall.

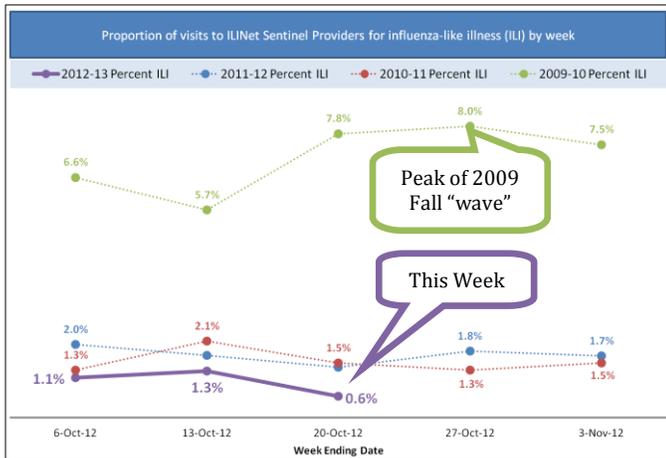
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

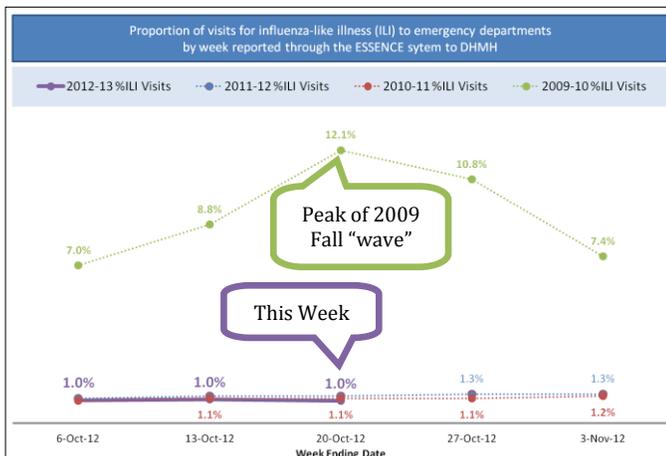
Eleven sentinel providers reported a total of 9,502 visits last week. Of those, 56 (0.6%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.9%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	13 (23%)	39 (33%)	78 (28%)
Age 5-24	32 (57%)	40 (34%)	117 (42%)
Age 25-49	8 (14%)	32 (27%)	63 (23%)
Age 50-64	2 (4%)	4 (3%)	15 (5%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (2%)	2 (2%)	4 (1%)
Total ILI Visits	56 (100%)	117 (100%)	277 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 47,394 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those visits, 471 (1.0%) were visits for ILI.



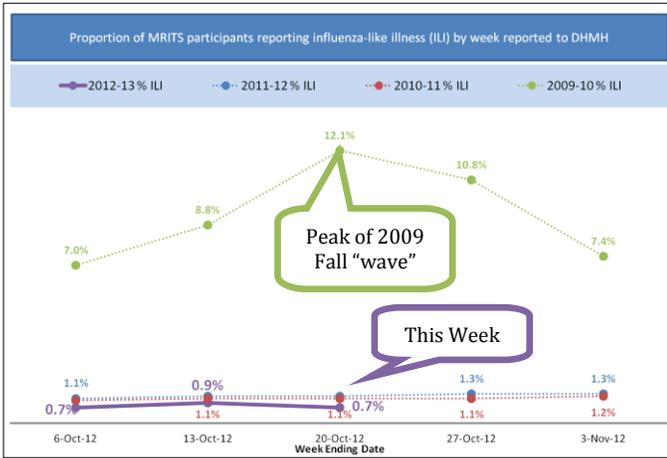
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	138 (29%)	124 (27%)	385 (28%)
Age 5-24	148 (31%)	149 (33%)	430 (31%)
Age 25-49	140 (30%)	126 (28%)	404 (29%)
Age 50-64	27 (6%)	38 (8%)	113 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	18 (4%)	16 (4%)	50 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	471 (100%)	453 (100%)	1,382 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
 District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
 Pennsylvania [http://portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
 Virginia <http://vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza>
 West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

Maryland Residents Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS)

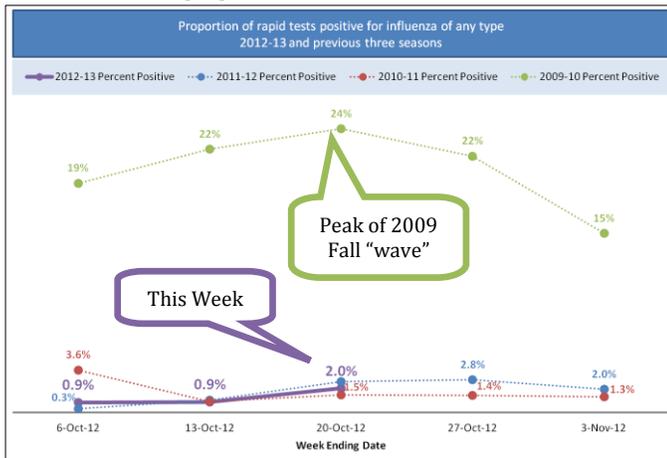
A total of 585 Maryland residents responded to the [weekly flu survey](#) this week. Of those, 4 (0.7%) reported having an influenza-like illness and missing a collective 6 days of regular daily activities.



Reports of ILI by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	1 (7%)
Age 5-24	2 (50%)	1 (17%)	4 (31%)
Age 25-49	1 (25%)	3 (50%)	4 (31%)
Age 50-64	1 (25%)	2 (33%)	4 (31%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--	--
Total	4 (100%)	6 (100%)	13 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

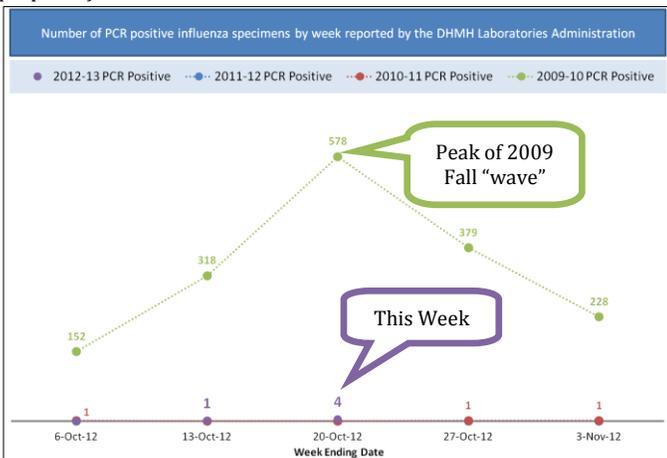
Twenty-seven clinical laboratories reported 343 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 7 (2%) were positive. Two were positive for influenza type A, and five were positive for type B. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests, now that the State Laboratories Administration has reported positive PCR tests for influenza, rapid positive tests are counted as lab-confirmed cases for surveillance purposes.)



Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	2 (29%)	--	4 (31%)
Type B	5 (71%)	3 (100%)	9 (69%)
Total	7 (100%)	3 (100%)	13 (100%)

State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

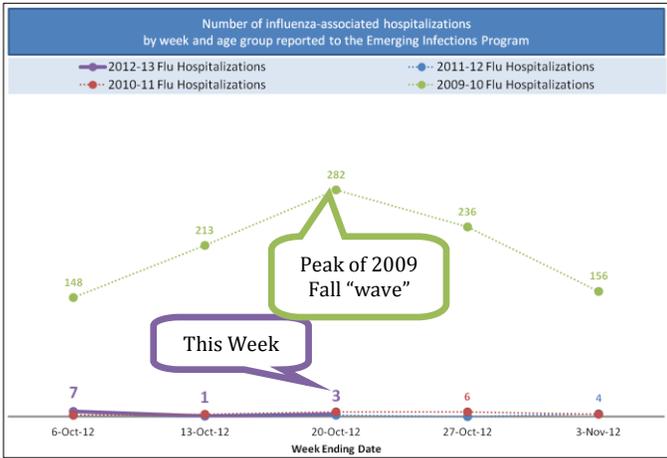
The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 15 PCR tests for influenza. Of those, 4 were positive: 3 were positive for type A (H3N2) and 1 for type A (H1N1). (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)



Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (25%)	--	1 (20%)
Type A (H3)	3 (75%)	--	3 (60%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	1 (100%)	1 (20%)
Total	4 (100%)	1 (100%)	5 (100%)

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

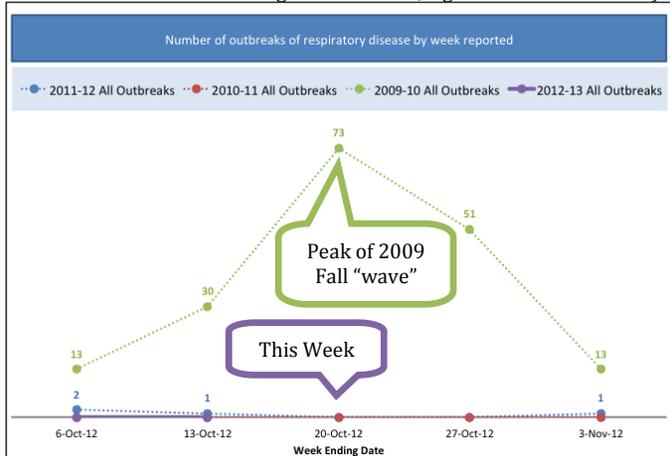
Hospitals in Maryland reported 3 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	2 (18%)
Age 5-17	1 (33%)	1 (100%)	3 (27%)
Age 18-24	--	--	1 (9%)
Age 25-49	1 (33%)	--	2 (18%)
Age 50-64	1 (33%)	--	2 (18%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--	1 (9%)
Total	3 (100%)	1 (100%)	11 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

No outbreaks of respiratory disease were reported to DHMH. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	--
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	--	--

There have been no outbreaks of respiratory disease reported to DHMH since September 30, 2012.

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending October 20, 2012, influenza activity remained low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 2,891 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 42, 178 (6.2%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.2%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. All 50 states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in three states was reported as local; the District of Columbia and 34 states reported sporadic activity; Guam and 13 states reported no influenza activity, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

