



# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending November 28, 2015

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

*The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.*

## SUMMARY

During the week ending November 28, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported both by Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments increased. There was also an increase in the proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI. The proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories was unchanged from last week. No specimens tested positive at the DHMH lab. A total of 5 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. One respiratory outbreak was reported. Nationally, influenza activity was on the rise.

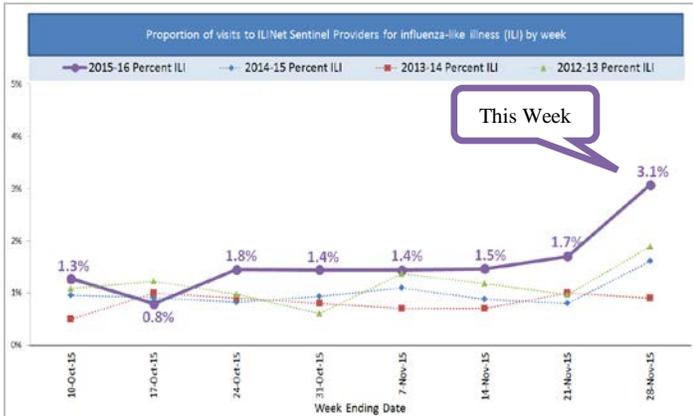
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

Twenty-seven sentinel providers reported a total of 4,372 visits this week. Of those, 134 (3.1%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of **1.8%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	31 (23%)	25 (19%)	211 (24%)
Age 5-24	49 (37%)	55 (42%)	356 (40%)
Age 25-49	34 (25%)	27 (20%)	181 (21%)
Age 50-64	12 (9%)	16 (12%)	86 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	8 (6%)	9 (7%)	46 (5%)
Total	134 (100%)	132 (100%)	880 (100%)

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 44,966 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 863 (1.9%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	278 (32%)	277 (31%)	1751 (29%)
Age 5-24	245 (28%)	259 (29%)	1905 (32%)
Age 25-49	211 (24%)	224 (25%)	1505 (25%)
Age 50-64	78 (9%)	71 (8%)	551 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	51 (6%)	53 (6%)	329 (5%)
Unknown	--	--	--
Total	863 (100%)	884 (100%)	6041 (100%)

## Neighboring states' influenza information:

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

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## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

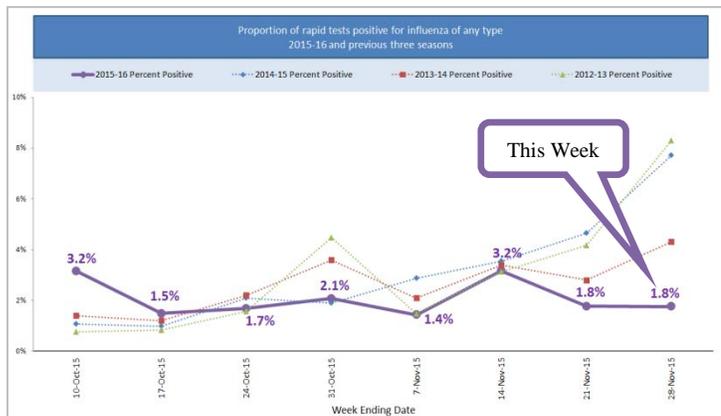
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 633 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 8 (1.3%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 16 days of regular daily activities.



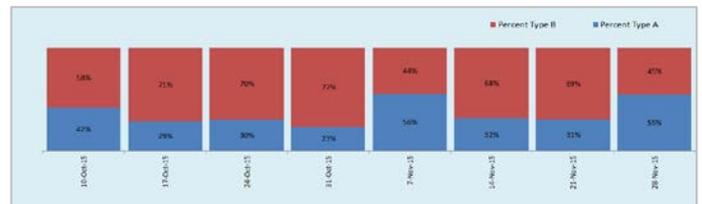
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	2 (4%)
Age 5-24	3 (38%)	2 (50%)	12 (23%)
Age 25-49	4 (50%)	--	13 (25%)
Age 50-64	--	2 (50%)	14 (27%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (13%)	--	11 (21%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 (100%)</b>	<b>4 (100%)</b>	<b>52 (100%)</b>

## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Forty-five clinical laboratories reported performing 625 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 11 (1.8%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 6 (54.5%) were influenza Type A and 5 (45.5%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.



Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	6 (55%)	4 (31%)	34 (36%)
Type B	5 (45%)	9 (69%)	60 (64%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11 (100%)</b>	<b>13 (100%)</b>	<b>94 (100%)</b>



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 59 PCR tests for influenza and no specimens tested positive. PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	2 (29%)
Type A (H3)	--	--	5 (71%)
Type B (Victoria)	--	--	--
Type B (Yamagata)	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 (100%)</b>

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

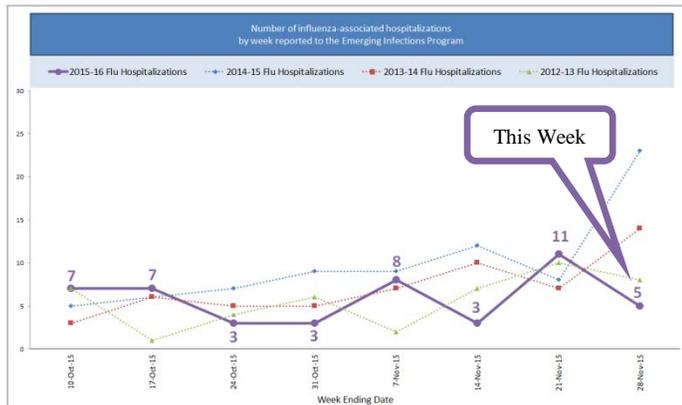
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2015-16 influenza season? Go to <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

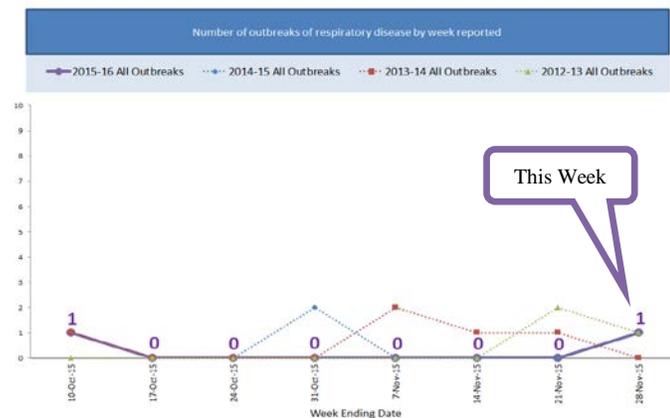
A total of 5 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (20%)	1 (9%)	7 (15%)
Age 5-17	1 (20%)	1 (9%)	4 (9%)
Age 18-24	--	--	1 (2%)
Age 25-49	1 (20%)	2 (18%)	7 (15%)
Age 50-64	--	1 (9%)	8 (17%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (40%)	6 (55%)	20 (43%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 (100%)</b>	<b>11 (100%)</b>	<b>47 (100%)</b>

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was one respiratory outbreak reported to DHMH this week. (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	1 (100%)	--	2 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2 (100%)</b>

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 47 (November 22-28, 2015), influenza activity increased slightly in the United States but remained low overall.

- Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories during week 47 was influenza A viruses, with influenza A (H3) viruses predominating. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories was low.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below their system-specific epidemic threshold in both the NCHS Mortality Surveillance System and the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System.
- 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 1.9%, which is below the national baseline of 2.1%. Three of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico and two states experienced moderate ILI activity; four states experienced low ILI activity; New York City and 44 states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam was reported as widespread; Puerto Rico reported regional activity; seven states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 38 states reported sporadic activity; and five states reported no influenza activity.

