Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 26, 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 December 26, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **LOW** and there was **REGIONAL** geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported both by Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments increased substantially. There was also an increase in the proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI. The proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories increased but remained low. One specimen tested positive for influenza Type A (H1) at the DHMH lab. No influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. One respiratory outbreak was reported.

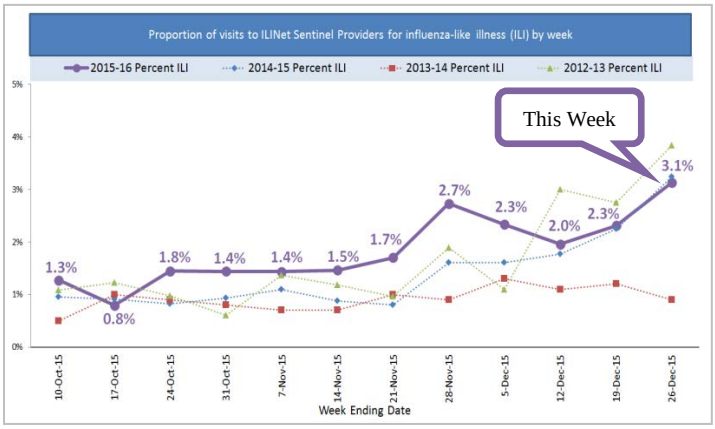
Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page

ILI Intensity Levels
Minimal
✔ **Low**
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
Local
✔ **Regional**
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

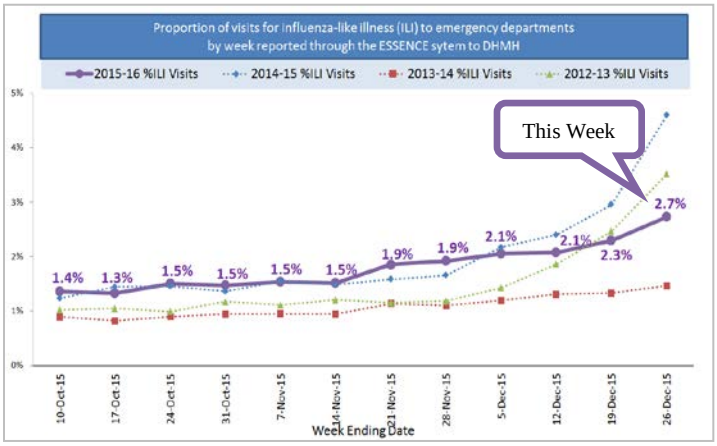
Twenty-eight sentinel providers reported a total of 4,631 visits this week. Of those, 145 (3.1%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of **1.8%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	32 (22%)	38 (23%)	347 (23%)
Age 5-24	54 (37%)	60 (36%)	577 (39%)
Age 25-49	29 (20%)	44 (27%)	330 (22%)
Age 50-64	19 (13%)	18 (11%)	161 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	11 (8%)	6 (4%)	79 (5%)
Total	145 (100%)	166 (100%)	1494 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 47,508 visits this week through the ESSENCE surveillance system. Of those, 1,297 (2.7%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	536 (41%)	409 (36%)	3385 (32%)
Age 5-24	365 (28%)	350 (31%)	3277 (31%)
Age 25-49	201 (15%)	241 (21%)	2405 (23%)
Age 50-64	114 (9%)	65 (6%)	875 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	81 (6%)	60 (5%)	569 (5%)
Unknown	--	--	--
Total	1297 (100%)	1125 (100%)	10511(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
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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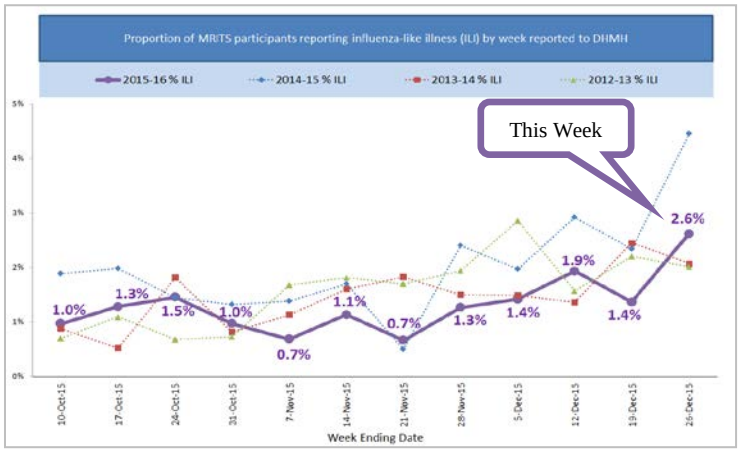
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

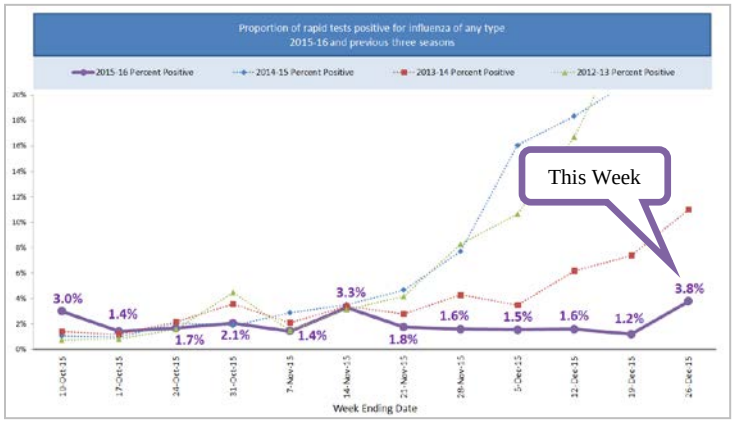
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 573 residents responded to the MRITS survey this week. Of those, 15 (2.6%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 38 days of regular daily activities.



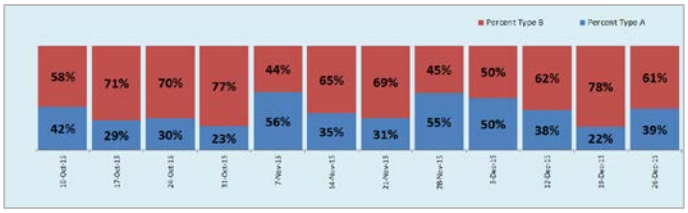
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (7%)	2 (25%)	5 (5%)
Age 5-24	2 (13%)	1 (13%)	27 (28%)
Age 25-49	4 (27%)	1 (13%)	23 (24%)
Age 50-64	6 (40%)	4 (50%)	26 (27%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (13%)	--	15 (16%)
Total	15 (100%)	8 (100%)	96 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Forty-one clinical laboratories reported performing 739 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 28 (3.8%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 11 (39.3%) were influenza Type A and 17 (60.7%) 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.

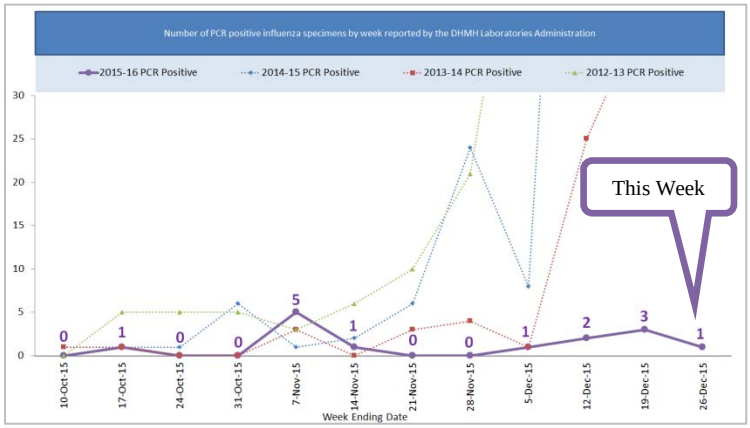


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	11 (39%)	2 (22%)	59 (38%)
Type B	17 (61%)	7 (78%)	98 (62%)
Total	28 (100%)	9 (100%)	157 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 91 PCR tests for influenza and 1 (1.1%) specimen tested positive for influenza Type A (H1). 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)	1 (100%)	2 (67%)	7 (50%)
Type A (H3)	--	--	5 (36%)
Type B (Victoria)	--	--	1 (7%)
Type B (Yamagata)	--	1 (33%)	1 (7%)
Total	1 (100%)	3 (100%)	14 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2015-16 influenza season? Go to http://dhmh.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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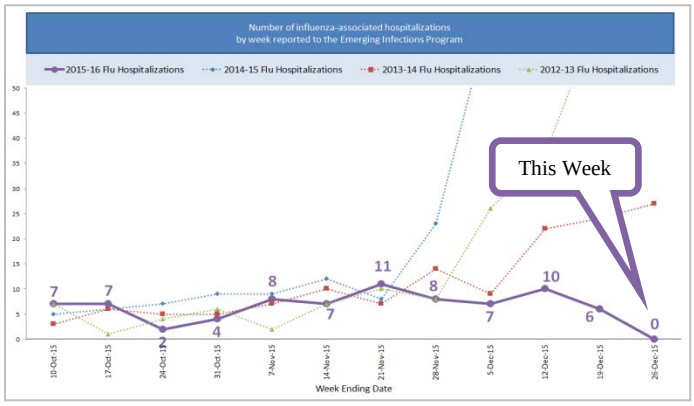
Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

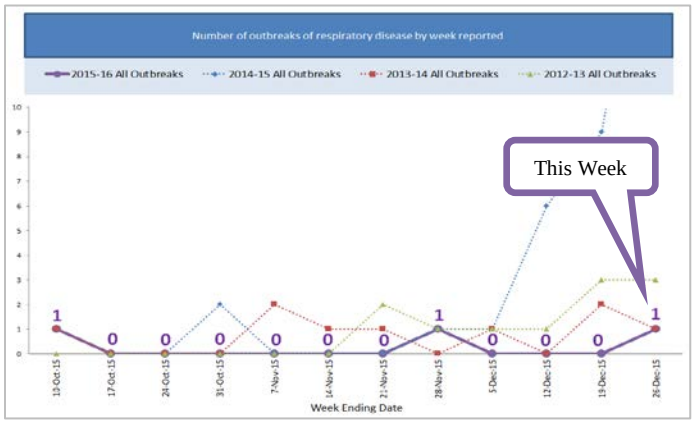
No influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported to DHMH at the time this report was published. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	2 (33%)	16 (21%)
Age 5-17	--	1 (17%)	9 (12%)
Age 18-24	--	--	1 (1%)
Age 25-49	--	--	9 (12%)
Age 50-64	--	1 (17%)	14 (18%)
Age ≥ 65	--	2 (33%)	28 (36%)
Total	--	6 (100%)	77 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was 1 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%)	--	3 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	--	3 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

The national influenza surveillance update for MMWR week 51 was not available at the time this report was published. The national update will be posted to CDC's FluView web page (http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/) on Monday, January 4, 2016.