



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 29, 2016

Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
 Infectious Disease 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 October 29, 2016, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers decreased slightly, while the proportion reported by Maryland Emergency Departments was unchanged. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI dropped. Clinical laboratories reported a low proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza, with a majority of positives being influenza Type B. One specimen tested positive for influenza Type A (H3) at the DHMH lab. Five influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. One outbreak of pneumonia was reported to DHMH. Nationally, influenza activity remains low.

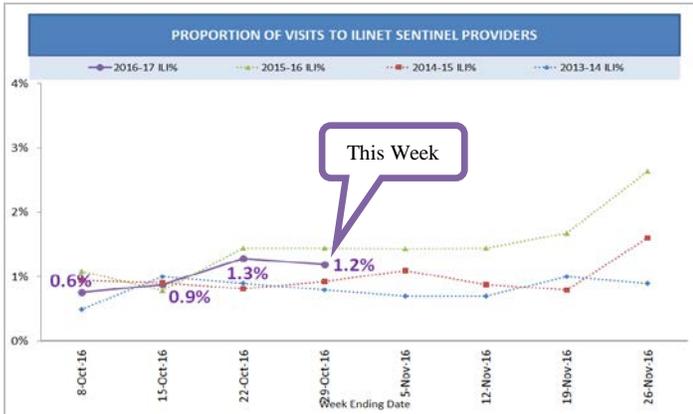
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Activity
No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

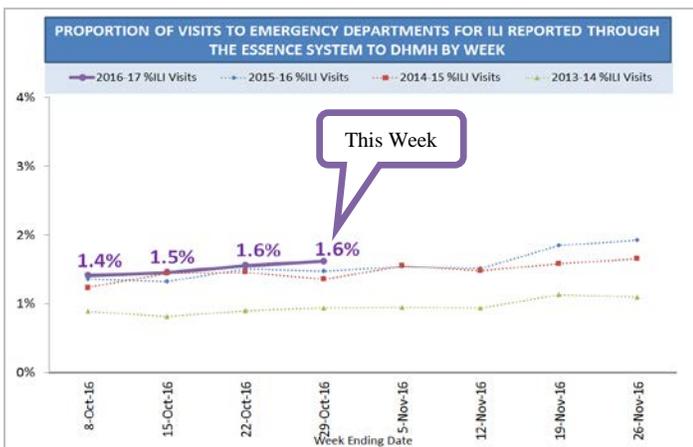
Thirty-three sentinel providers reported a total of 6,616 visits this week. Of those, 79 (1.2%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.2%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	27 (34%)	28 (30%)	86 (29%)
Age 5-24	29 (37%)	40 (43%)	124 (42%)
Age 25-49	15 (19%)	14 (15%)	52 (18%)
Age 50-64	6 (8%)	7 (8%)	19 (6%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (3%)	3 (3%)	13 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	79 (100%)	92 (100%)	294 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 46,007 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 745 (1.6%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	239 (32%)	221 (30%)	819 (29%)
Age 5-24	209 (28%)	229 (31%)	825 (30%)
Age 25-49	177 (24%)	163 (22%)	693 (25%)
Age 50-64	74 (10%)	72 (10%)	273 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	46 (6%)	47 (6%)	174 (6%)
Unknown	--	--	--
Total ILI Visits	745 (100%)	732 (100%)	2784 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

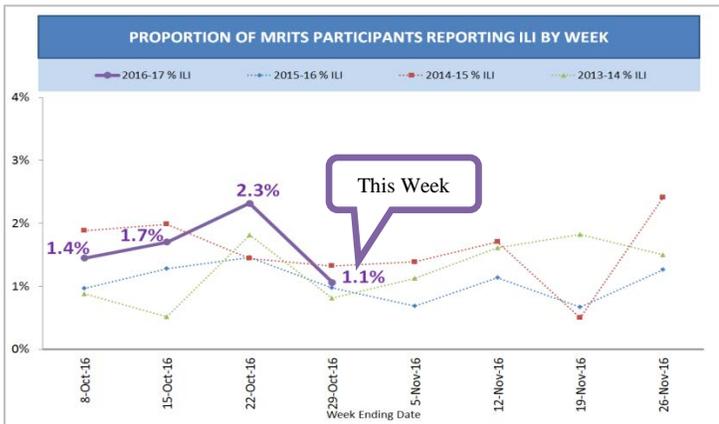
- Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
- District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
- Pennsylvania <http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/I-L/Pages/Influenza.aspx#.V-LtaPkjJD8>
- Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/influenza-surveillance/>
- West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

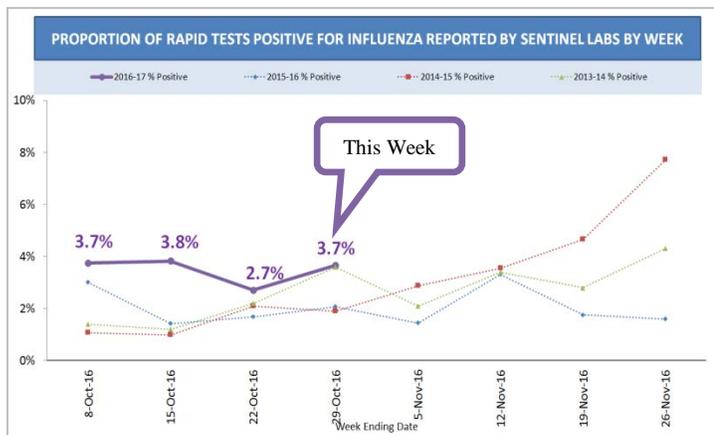
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 564 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 6 (1.1%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 7 days of regular daily activities.



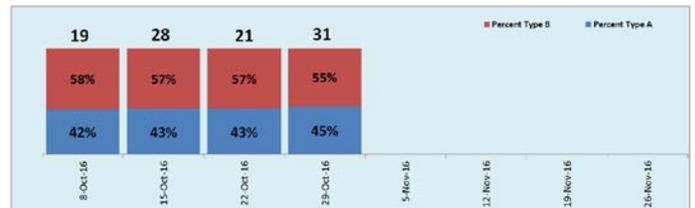
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	1 (8%)	2 (5%)
Age 5-24	3 (50%)	6 (46%)	15 (41%)
Age 25-49	2 (33%)	3 (23%)	10 (27%)
Age 50-64	1 (17%)	3 (23%)	5 (14%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--	5 (14%)
Unknown	6 (100%)	13 (100%)	37 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-seven clinical laboratories reported performing 845 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 31 (3.7%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 14 (45.2%) were influenza Type A and 17 (54.8%) 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.

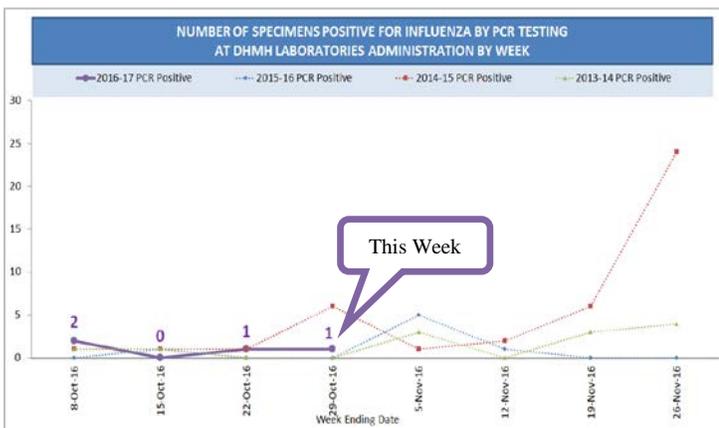


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	14 (45%)	9 (43%)	43 (43%)
Type B	17 (55%)	12 (57%)	56 (57%)
Total	31 (100%)	21 (100%)	99 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 70 PCR tests for influenza and 1 (1.4%) specimen tested positive for influenza Type A (H3). 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 (50%)
Type A (H3)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	2 (50%)
Type B	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	4 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

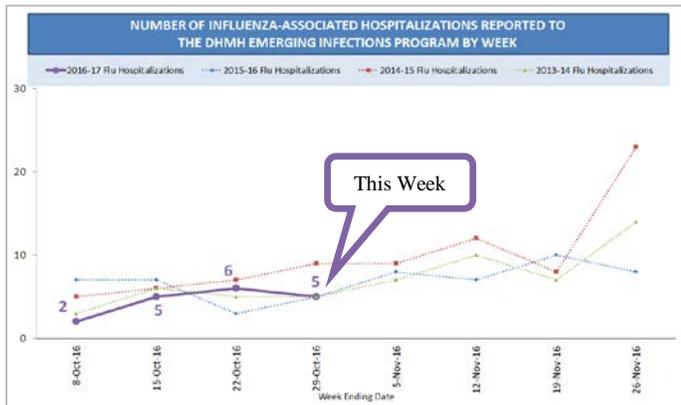
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2016-17 influenza season? Go to <http://phpa.dhmm.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

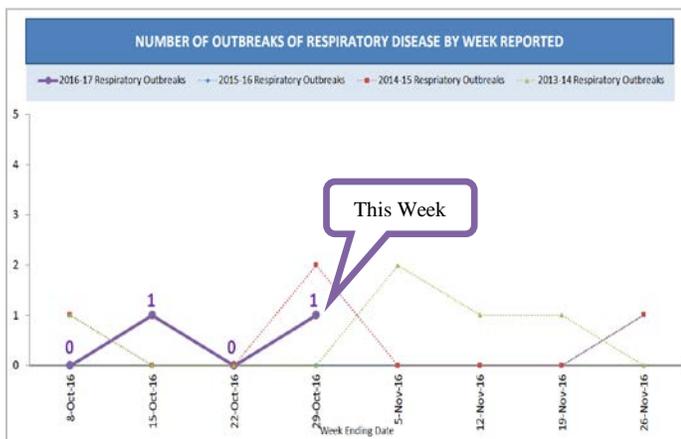
There were 5 influenza-associated hospitalization reported this week. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	--
Age 5-17	--	--	2 (11%)
Age 18-24	1 (20%)	--	1 (6%)
Age 25-49	--	1 (17%)	2 (11%)
Age 50-64	3 (60%)	2 (33%)	5 (28%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (20%)	3 (50%)	8 (44%)
Total	5 (100%)	6 (100%)	18 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of pneumonia was 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	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	--	2 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 43 (October 23-29, 2016), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus subtype reported by public health laboratories during week 43 was influenza A (H3). 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 the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported that occurred during the 2015-2016 season.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.3%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico experienced high ILI activity, New York City and all 50 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; three states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 39 states reported sporadic activity; and eight states reported no activity.

