



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 21, 2013

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
 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 come in.

SUMMARY

During the week ending December 21, 2013, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic spread of influenza. Twenty-three influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. Eighty-two specimens tested positive for influenza by PCR at the DHMH Laboratories Administration. One outbreak of respiratory disease was reported. Overall, ILI indicators have remained relatively steady over the past few weeks, while the proportions of specimens testing positive at the state lab and sentinel labs continue to increase. Nationwide, influenza activity remains low, but more states are reporting increased influenza activity.

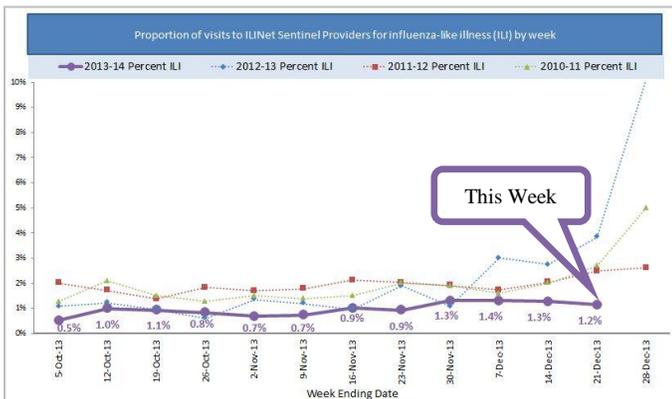
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

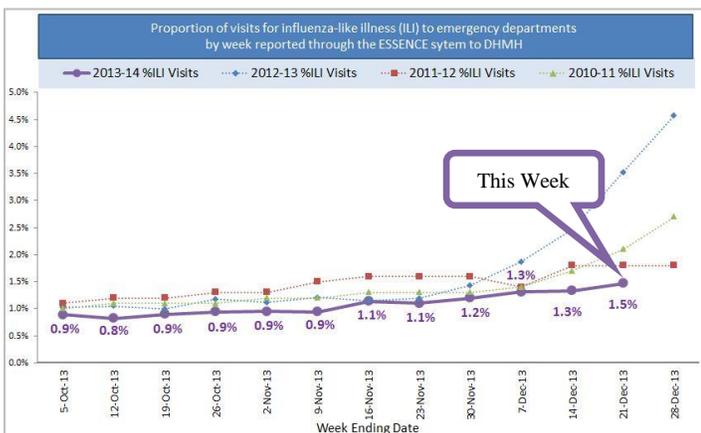
Fourteen sentinel providers reported a total of 3,297 visits this week. Of those, 38 (1.2%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	12 (32%)	24 (24%)	299 (26%)
Age 5-24	15 (39%)	42 (42%)	494 (44%)
Age 25-49	10 (26%)	25 (25%)	256 (23%)
Age 50-64	0 (0%)	8 (8%)	62 (5%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	21 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	38 (100%)	99 (100%)	1132 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 40,529 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 595 (1.5%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	191 (32%)	196 (37%)	1807 (32%)
Age 5-24	152 (26%)	128 (24%)	1580 (28%)
Age 25-49	173 (29%)	143 (27%)	1460 (26%)
Age 50-64	53 (9%)	49 (9%)	504 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	26 (4%)	18 (3%)	226 (4%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	595 (100%)	534 (100%)	5587 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

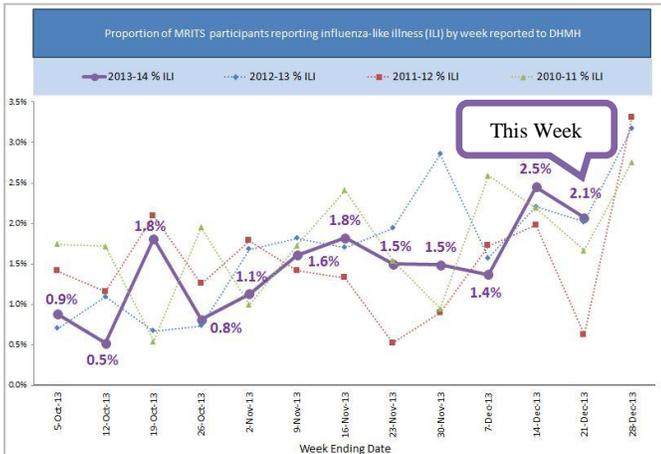
- Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
- District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
- Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)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

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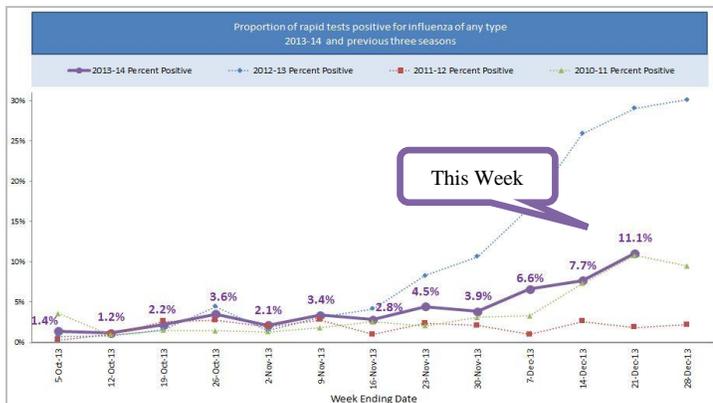
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 579 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 12 (2.1%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 18 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "low" in Maryland.



Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-eight clinical laboratories reported performing 1,678 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDT). Of those, 186 (11.1%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 165 (88.7%) were influenza type A and 21 (11.3%) were influenza type B. The [reliability of RIDT](#) 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.

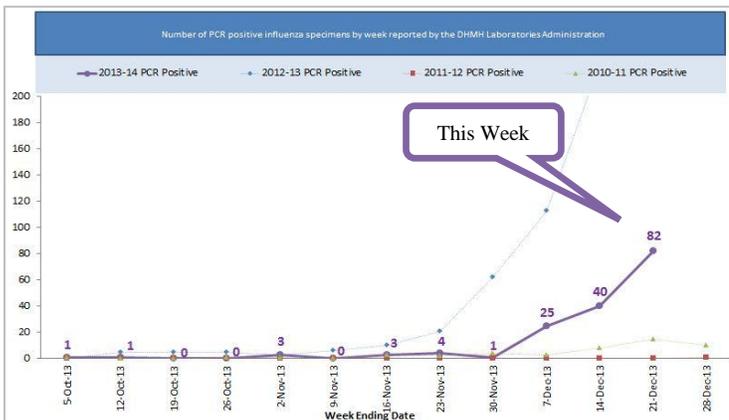


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	165 (89%)	92 (82%)	418 (79%)
Type B	21 (11%)	20 (18%)	114 (21%)
Total	186 (100%)	112 (100%)	532 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 168 PCR tests for influenza. Eighty-two (48.8%) specimens tested positive. Of those, 78 (95.1%) were Type A (H1N1), two (2.4%) were Type A (H3N2), and two (2.4%) were Type B. 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)	78 (95%)	39 (98%)	146 (91%)
Type A (H3)	2 (2%)	1 (3%)	9 (6%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	2 (2%)	--	5 (3%)
Total	82 (100%)	40 (100%)	160 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

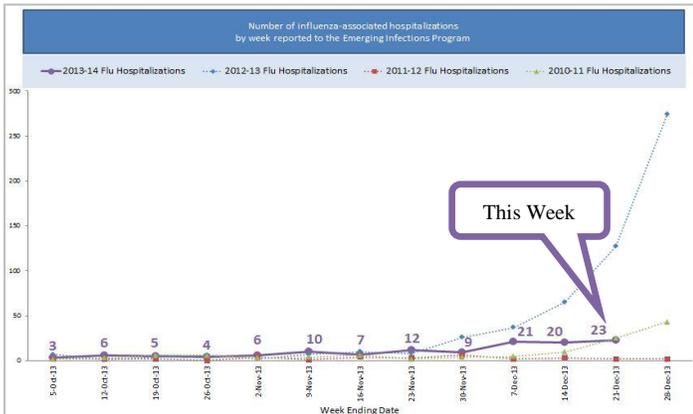
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

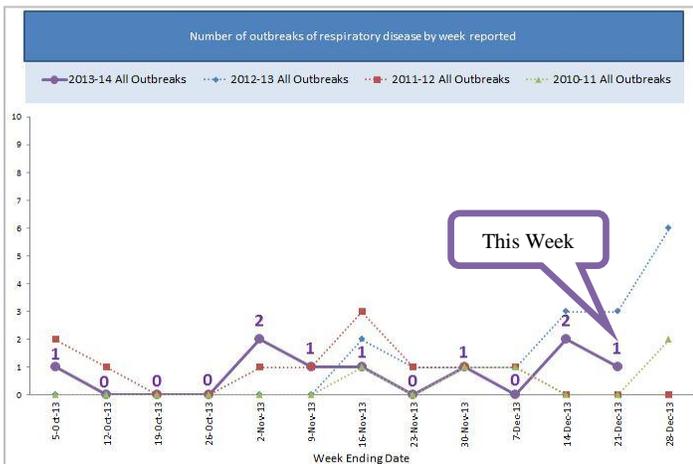
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported 23 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (4%)	3 (15%)	20 (16%)
Age 5-17	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	5 (4%)
Age 18-24	6 (26%)	6 (30%)	17 (13%)
Age 25-49	9 (39%)	5 (25%)	30 (24%)
Age 50-64	0 (0%)	1 (5%)	20 (16%)
Age ≥ 65	7 (30%)	5 (25%)	34 (27%)
Total	23 (100%)	20 (100%)	126 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of respiratory disease 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	--	1 (50%)	2 (22%)
Influenza-like Illness	1 (100%)	--	4 (44%)
Pneumonia	--	1 (50%)	3 (33%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	2 (100%)	9 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 6,813 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 51, 1,639 (24.1%) 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:** One influenza-associated pediatric death that occurred during the 2012-2013 season was reported.
- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 4.3 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.0%, above the national baseline of 2.0%. Eight regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Six states experienced high ILI activity; eight states experienced moderate ILI activity; six states experienced low ILI activity; 28 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia, New York City, and two states had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 10 states was reported as widespread; Guam and 23 states reported regional influenza activity; 12 states reported local influenza activity; the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and four states reported sporadic influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and one state did not report.

