



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending March 29, 2014

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 March 29, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **LOCAL** geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by our Sentinel Providers remained low and similar to last week. Outpatient visits for ILI in Maryland Emergency Departments also remained at the same low level. The number of specimens tested at our Sentinel Labs decreased significantly, but the percent of those specimens testing positive increased sharply from last week. Both the number of tests and percentage testing positive increased for the State Lab. Sixteen influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported, which is similar to the number reported at this point last week. There were no outbreaks of respiratory disease.

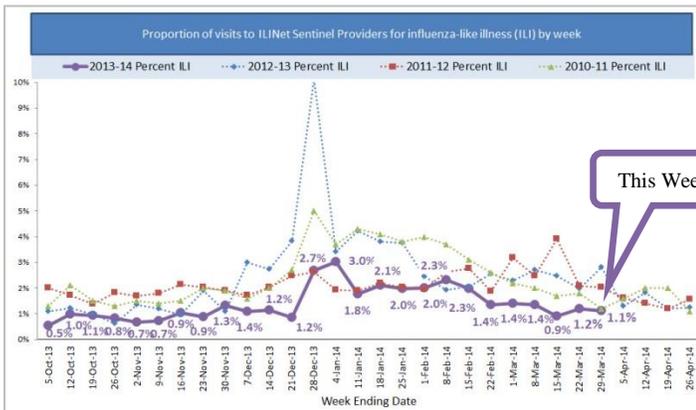
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

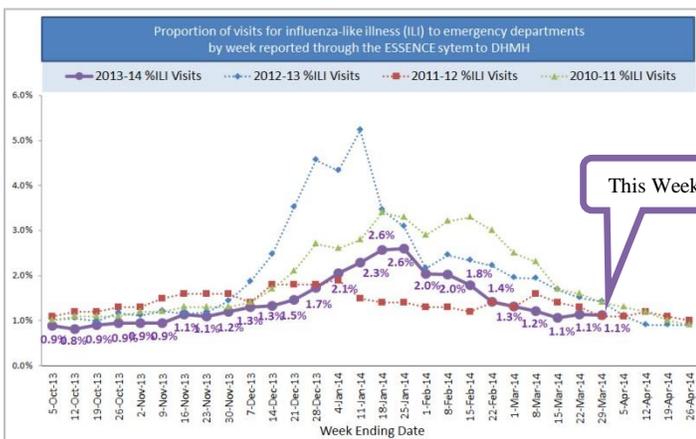
Twelve sentinel providers reported a total of 6,908 visits this week. Of those, 77 (1.1%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	8 (10%)	25 (24%)	873 (25%)
Age 5-24	34 (44%)	42 (40%)	1385 (39%)
Age 25-49	27 (35%)	29 (28%)	942 (27%)
Age 50-64	7 (9%)	7 (7%)	265 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	74 (2%)
Total ILI Visits	77 (100%)	104 (100%)	3539 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 43,498 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 489 (1.1%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	114 (23%)	121 (24%)	4019 (25%)
Age 5-24	159 (33%)	118 (24%)	4228 (26%)
Age 25-49	131 (27%)	166 (33%)	5314 (33%)
Age 50-64	59 (12%)	62 (12%)	1810 (11%)
Age ≥ 65	25 (5%)	32 (6%)	716 (4%)
Unknown	1 (<1%)	0 (0%)	32 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	489 (100%)	499 (100%)	16119 (100%)

Other states' influenza information:

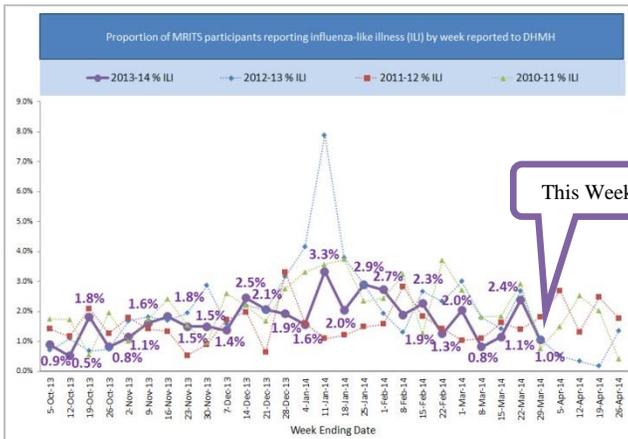
- Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
- District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
- Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
- 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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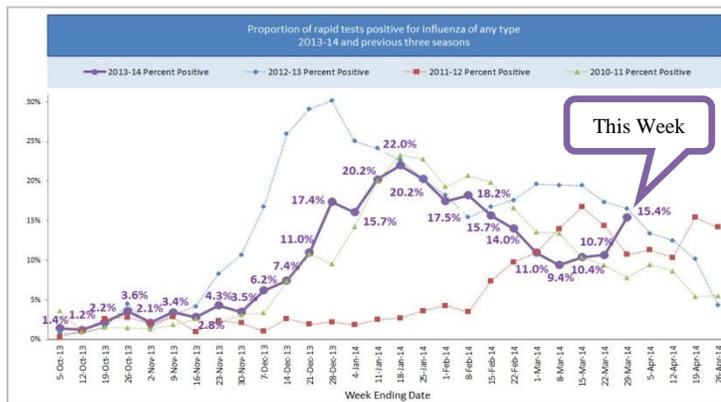
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 577 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 6 (1.0%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 24 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

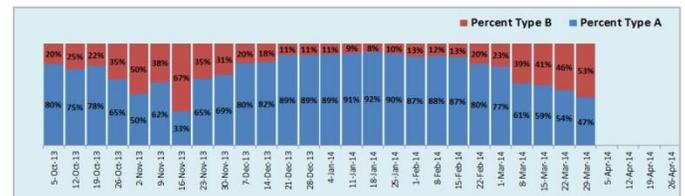


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-four clinical laboratories reported performing 1,367 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 211 (15.4%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 99 (46.9%) were influenza Type A and 112 (53.1%) 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.

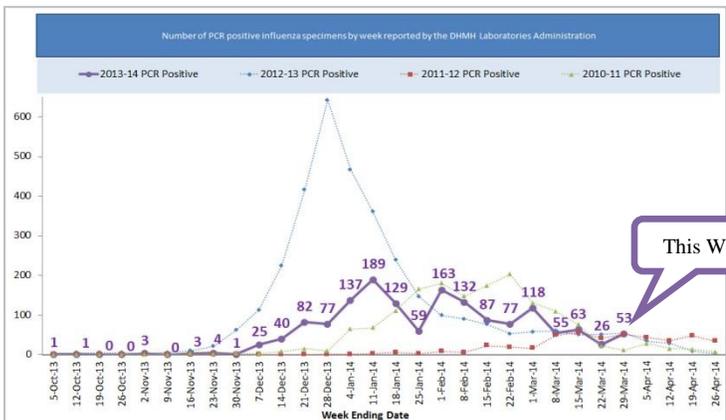


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	99 (47%)	128 (54%)	6559 (84%)
Type B	112 (53%)	110 (46%)	1295 (16%)
Total	211 (100%)	238 (100%)	7854 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 114 PCR tests for influenza and 53 (46.5%) specimens tested positive, one of which was a dual H1/H3 infection. Of those, 26 (48.1%) were Type A (H1N1), 12 (22.6%) were type A (H3N2), and 16 (29.6%) 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)	26 (48%)	15 (58%)	1399 (92%)
Type A (H3)	12 (22%)	--	76 (5%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	16 (30%)	11 (42%)	51 (3%)
Total	54 (100%)	26 (100%)	1526 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

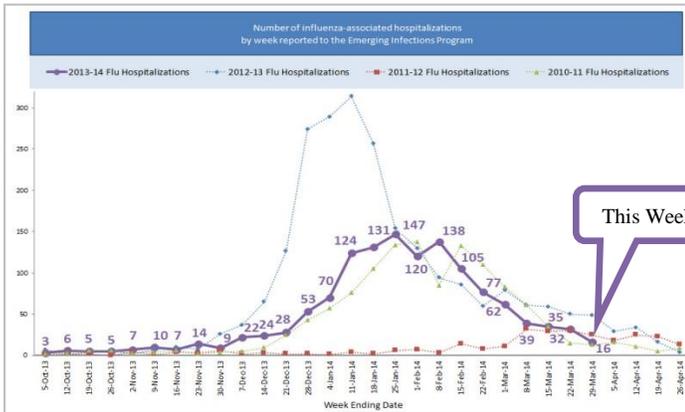
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2013-14 influenza season? Go to <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

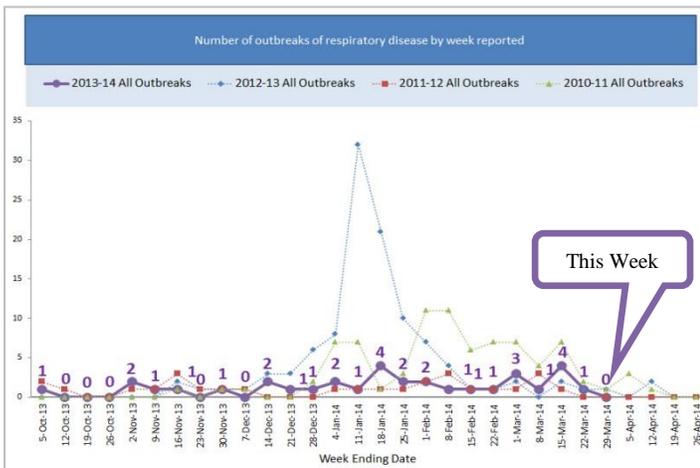
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported sixteen influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	123 (10%)
Age 5-17	2 (13%)	2 (6%)	57 (4%)
Age 18-24	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	43 (3%)
Age 25-49	4 (25%)	9 (28%)	335 (26%)
Age 50-64	4 (25%)	10 (31%)	391 (30%)
Age ≥ 65	6 (38%)	10 (31%)	340 (26%)
Total	16 (100%)	32 (100%)	1289 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were no outbreaks of respiratory disease 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 (100%)	18 (55%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	8 (24%)
Pneumonia	--	--	7 (21%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	1 (100%)	33 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 5,206 specimens tested and reported during week 13 by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories, 652 (12.5%) 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:** Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A season-cumulative rate of 31.7 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 1.6%, which is below the national baseline of 2.0%. Two of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. New York City experienced high ILI activity; two states experienced moderate ILI activity; three states experienced low ILI activity; 45 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in five states was reported as widespread; Guam and four states reported regional influenza activity; the District of Columbia and 17 states reported local influenza activity; Puerto Rico and 23 states reported sporadic influenza activity; one state reported no influenza activity, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

