



Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending January 3, 2015

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 January 3, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **HIGH** and there was **WIDESPREAD** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers rose, while the proportion reported by Maryland Emergency Departments remained similar to last week. The proportion of MRITS respondents experiencing ILI decreased, but remained high. The proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories fell. The proportion of specimens testing positive at the DHMH lab was similar to last week. There were 31 outbreaks of respiratory disease. Nationally, influenza activity remained high.

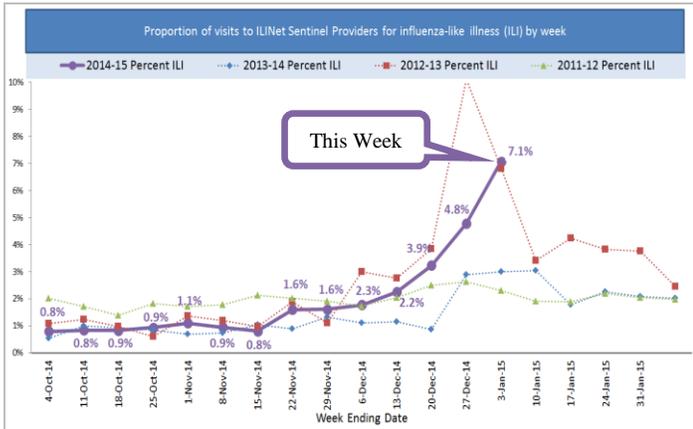
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
Minimal
Low
Moderate
✓ High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
✓ Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

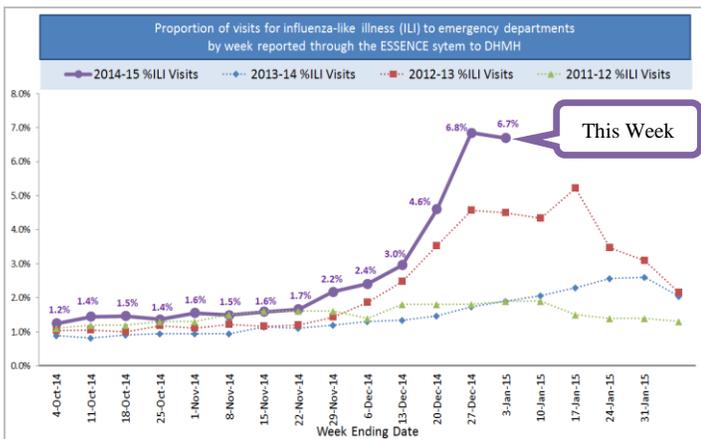
Fourteen sentinel providers reported a total of 6,297 visits this week. Of those, 445 (7.1%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of 2.0%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	90 (20%)	82 (25%)	714 (26%)
Age 5-24	107(24%)	117(36%)	1127 (41%)
Age 25-49	132 (30%)	79 (25%)	576 (21%)
Age 50-64	69 (16%)	23 (7%)	233 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	47 (11%)	21 (7%)	117 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	445 (100%)	322 (100%)	2767 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 50,751 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 3,394 (6.7%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	775 (23%)	731 (21%)	4618 (26%)
Age 5-24	767 (23%)	1172 (33%)	5939 (33%)
Age 25-49	985 (29%)	901 (25%)	4360 (24%)
Age 50-64	450 (13%)	386 (11%)	1708 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	417 (12%)	348 (10%)	1282 (7%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (<1%)
Total ILI Visits	3394 (100%)	3538 (100%)	17910(100%)

Other states' influenza information:

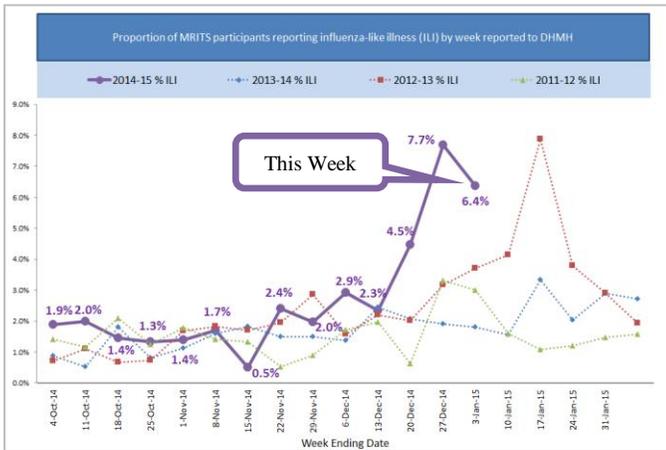
- Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
- District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
- Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)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

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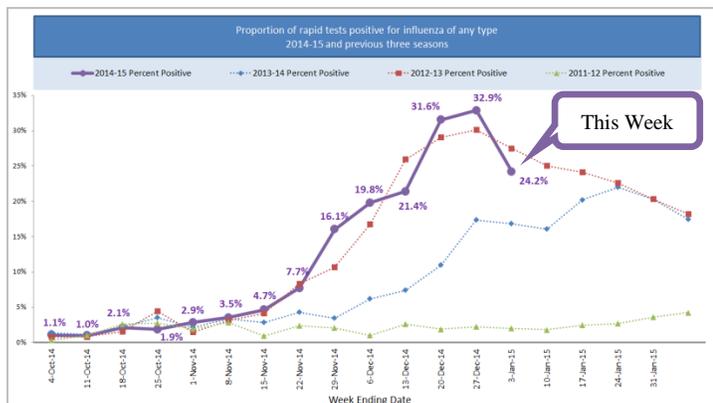
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 738 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 47 (6.4%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 129 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "High" in Maryland.

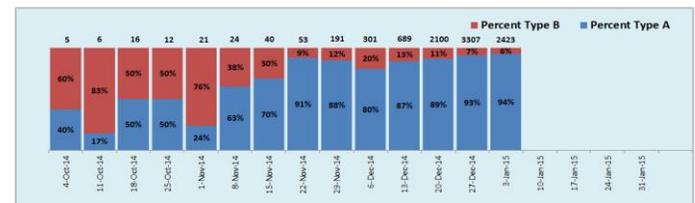


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-six clinical laboratories reported performing 10,002 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 2,423 (24.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 2,289 (94.5%) were influenza Type A and 134 (5.5%) 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.

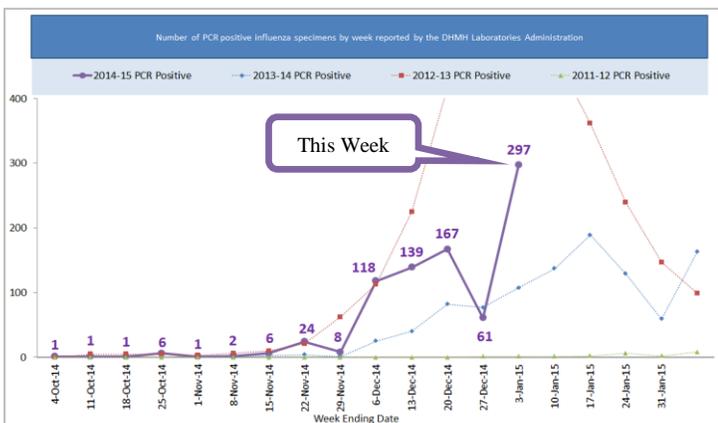


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	2289 (95%)	3074 (93%)	8360 (91%)
Type B	134 (6%)	233 (7%)	828 (9%)
Total	2423 (100%)	3307 (100%)	9188 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 427 PCR tests for influenza. Of those, 297 (69.6%) specimens tested positive. All were Type A (H3N2). 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)	--	--	--
Type A (H3)	297 (100%)	60 (98%)	822 (99%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	1 (2%)	10 (1%)
Total	297 (100%)	61 (100%)	832 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

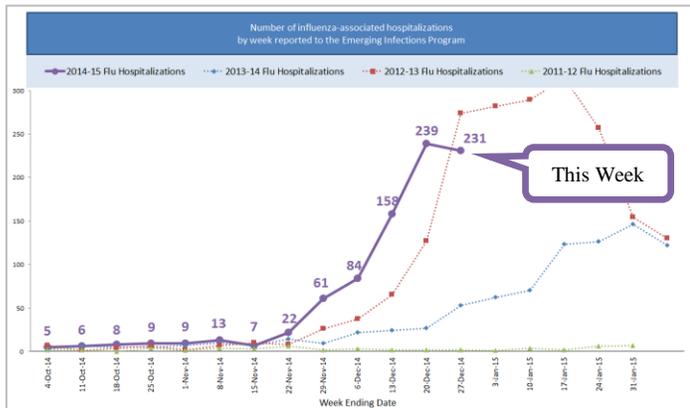
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

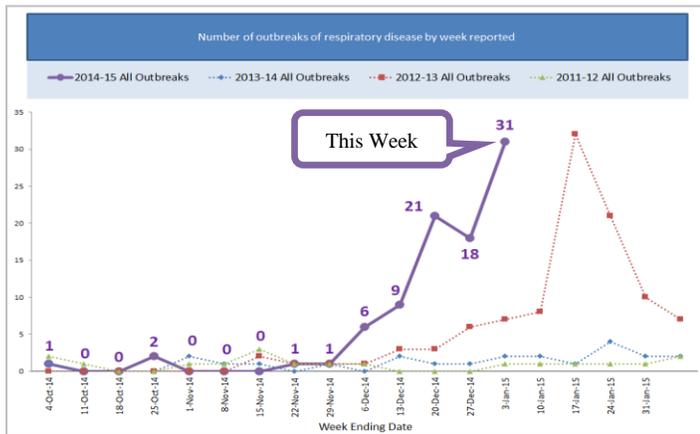
Hospitalization reports for the week ending January 3, 2015 were unavailable at the time this report was published. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	N/A	5 (2%)	53 (6%)
Age 5-17	N/A	1 (<1%)	28 (3%)
Age 18-24	N/A	3 (1%)	26 (3%)
Age 25-49	N/A	14 (6%)	84 (10%)
Age 50-64	N/A	33 (14%)	145 (17%)
Age ≥ 65	N/A	175 (76%)	516 (61%)
Total	N/A	231 (100%)	852 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were 31 respiratory outbreaks 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	22 (71%)	13 (72%)	50 (56%)
Influenza-like Illness	6 (19%)	5 (28%)	28 (31%)
Pneumonia	3 (10%)	--	12 (13%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	31 (100%)	18 (100%)	90 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 53 (December 28, 2014-January 3, 2015), influenza activity continued at elevated levels in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 30,469 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 53, 7,515 (24.7%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** Five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 20.1 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 5.6%, above the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico and 26 states experienced high ILI activity; New York City and eight states experienced moderate ILI activity; seven states experienced low ILI activity; eight states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia and one state had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam and 46 states was reported as widespread; Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and three states reported regional activity; and the District of Columbia and one state reported local activity.

