



# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 31, 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 October 31, 2015, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **NO ACTIVITY** in terms of geographic spread. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI from both Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments remained unchanged from last week. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI decreased. Clinical laboratories reported an increase in the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza. No specimens tested positive at the DHMH lab. No influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. No respiratory outbreaks were reported. Nationally, influenza activity was low.

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

### ILI Intensity Levels

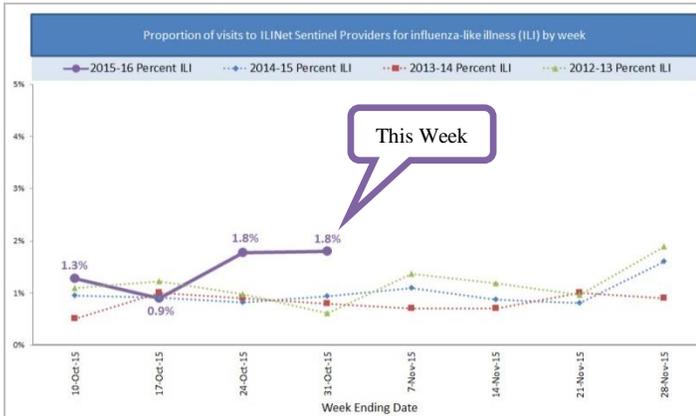
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

### Influenza Geographic Spread

✓ No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

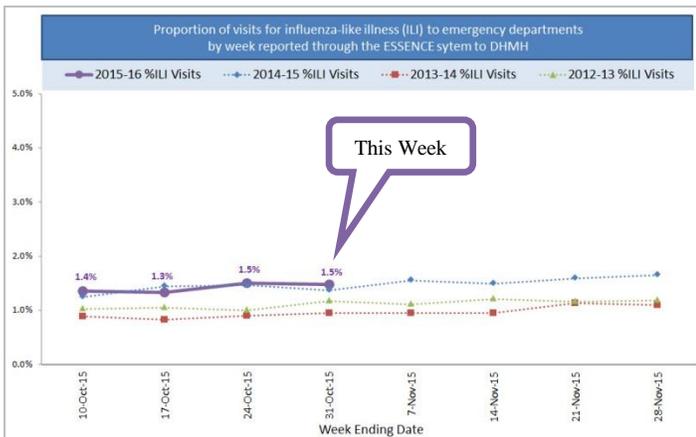
Thirty sentinel providers reported a total of 6,458 visits this week. Of those, 116 (1.8%) were visits for ILI. This is at the Maryland baseline of **1.8%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	29 (25%)	33 (30%)	104 (28%)
Age 5-24	40 (34%)	40 (36%)	149 (40%)
Age 25-49	26 (22%)	21 (19%)	66 (18%)
Age 50-64	14 (12%)	9 (8%)	32 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	7 (6%)	7 (6%)	19 (5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>116 (100%)</b>	<b>110 (100%)</b>	<b>370 (100%)</b>

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 48,345 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 714 (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	178 (25%)	208 (29%)	740 (26%)
Age 5-24	246 (34%)	232 (32%)	923 (33%)
Age 25-49	173 (24%)	189 (26%)	716 (26%)
Age 50-64	82 (11%)	65 (9%)	279 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	35 (5%)	35 (5%)	142 (5%)
Unknown	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>714 (100%)</b>	<b>729 (100%)</b>	<b>2800 (100%)</b>

### Neighboring states' influenza information:

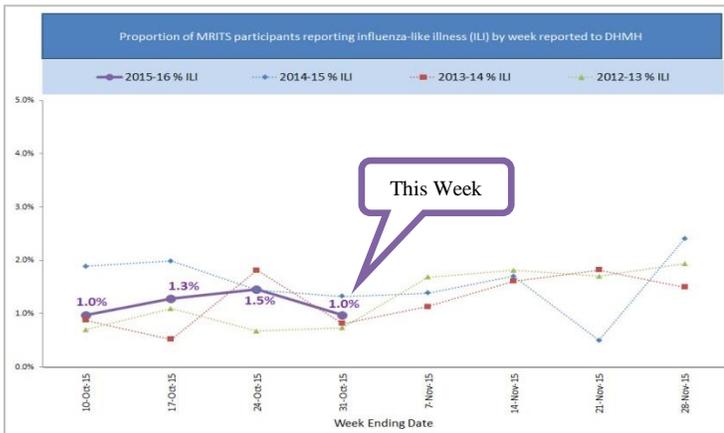
- Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
- District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
- Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza\\_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
- 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)

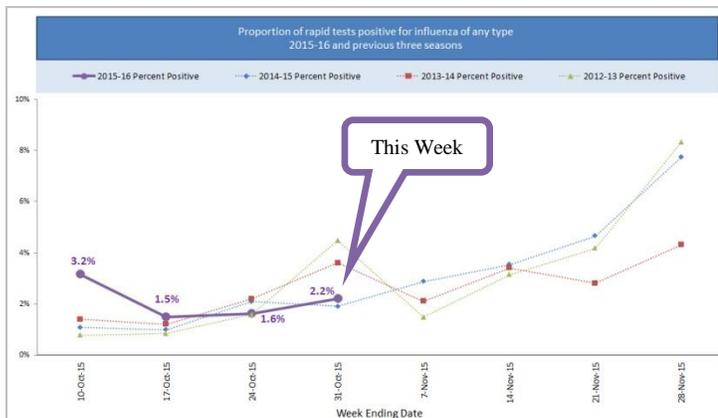
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 617 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 6 (1.0%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 13 days of regular daily activities.



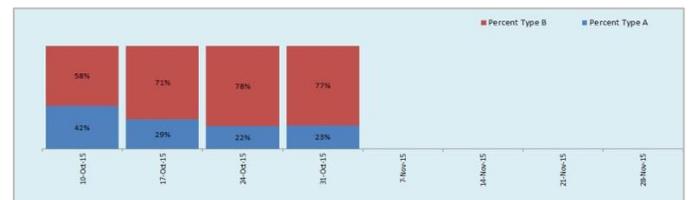
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	--
Age 5-24	2 (33%)	3 (33%)	6 (21%)
Age 25-49	2 (33%)	3 (33%)	8 (28%)
Age 50-64	1 (17%)	1 (11%)	8 (28%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (17%)	2 (22%)	7 (24%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 (100%)</b>	<b>9 (100%)</b>	<b>29 (100%)</b>

## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Forty-nine clinical laboratories reported performing 588 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 13 (2.2%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 3 (23.1%) were influenza Type A and 10 (76.9%) 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.

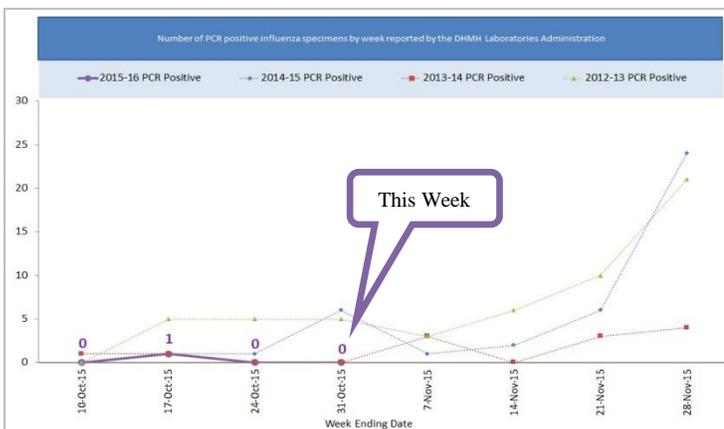


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	3 (23%)	2 (22%)	12 (29%)
Type B	10 (77%)	7 (78%)	29 (71%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>13 (100%)</b>	<b>9 (100%)</b>	<b>41 (100%)</b>



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 71 PCR tests for influenza and no specimens tested positive for influenza. 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)	--	--	1 (100%)
Type B	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

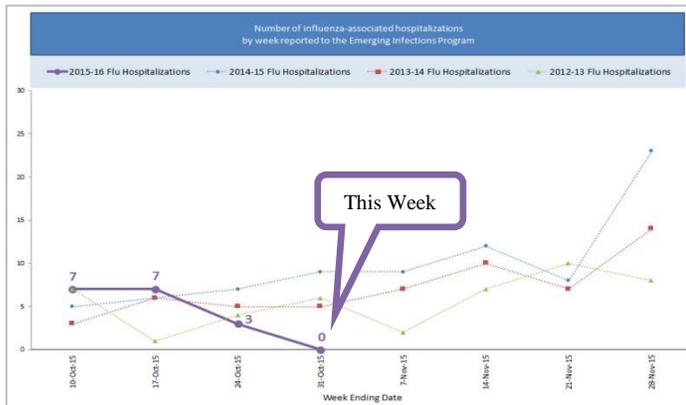
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2015-16 influenza season? Go to <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

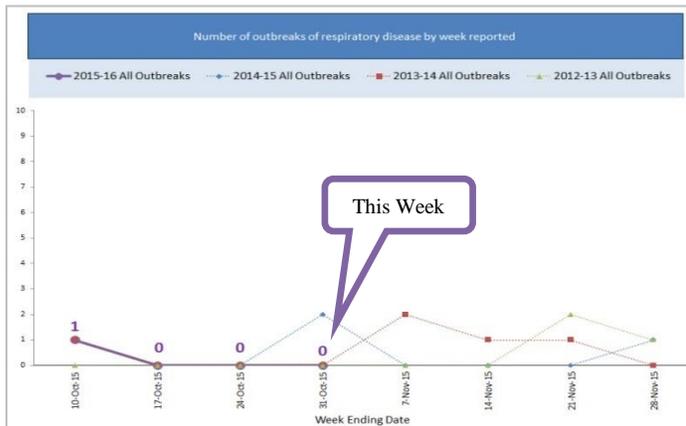
No influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	1 (33%)	2 (12%)
Age 5-17	--	--	1 (6%)
Age 18-24	--	--	--
Age 25-49	--	1 (33%)	3 (18%)
Age 50-64	--	--	4 (24%)
Age ≥ 65	--	1 (33%)	7 (41%)
Total	--	3 (100%)	17 (100%)

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were no 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	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	1 (100%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	--	1 (100%)

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 43 (October 25-31, 2015), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories in week 43 was influenza A viruses, with influenza A (H3) viruses predominating. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below their system-specific epidemic threshold in both the NCHS Mortality Surveillance System and the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.4%, which is below the national baseline of 2.1%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico experienced low ILI activity, New York City and 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 regional; two states reported local activity; Puerto Rico and 40 states reported sporadic activity; and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight states reported no influenza activity.

