

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 1, 2012

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending December 1, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** with **SPORADIC** geographic spread of influenza. Some influenza activity indicators are now trending upward.

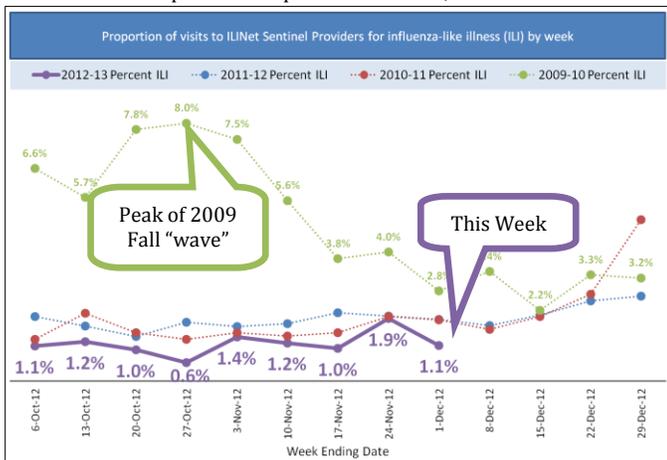
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

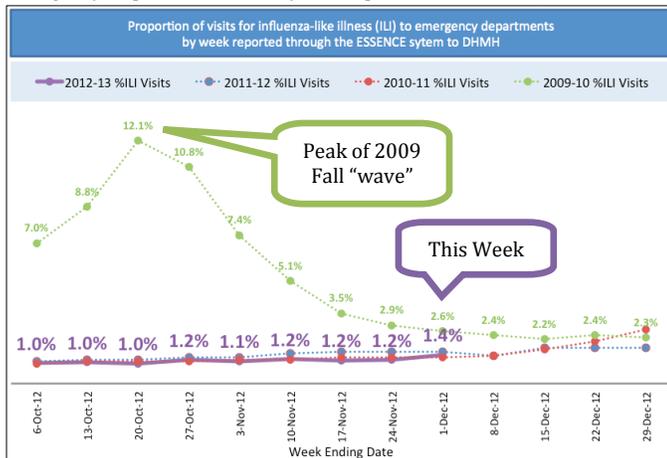
Fourteen sentinel providers reported a total of 9,916 visits last week. Of those, 110 (1.1%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	27 (25%)	44 (35%)	276 (29%)
Age 5-24	40 (36%)	45 (36%)	373 (39%)
Age 25-49	35 (32%)	23 (18%)	224 (24%)
Age 50-64	7 (6%)	10 (8%)	53 (6%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (1%)	4 (3%)	24 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	110 (100%)	126 (100%)	950 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 48,085 visits through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those visits, 688 (1.4%) were visits for ILI.



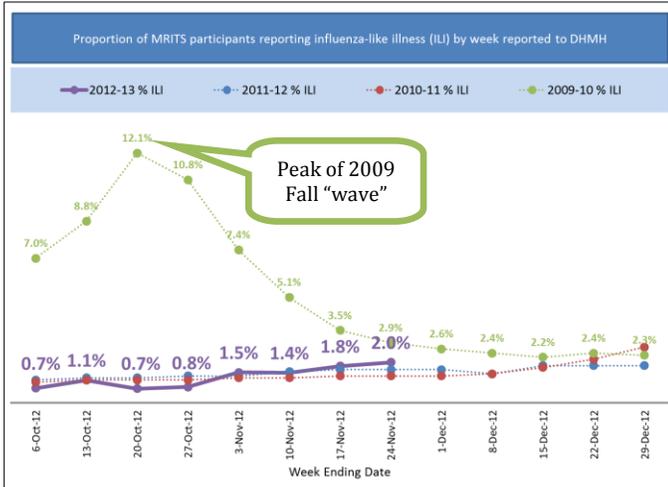
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	240 (35%)	200 (38%)	1,494 (32%)
Age 5-24	168 (24%)	144 (27%)	1,304 (28%)
Age 25-49	198 (29%)	128 (24%)	1,290 (28%)
Age 50-64	55 (8%)	42 (8%)	372 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	27 (4%)	14 (3%)	181 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	688 (100%)	528 (100%)	4,641 (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.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
- West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

Maryland Residents Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS)

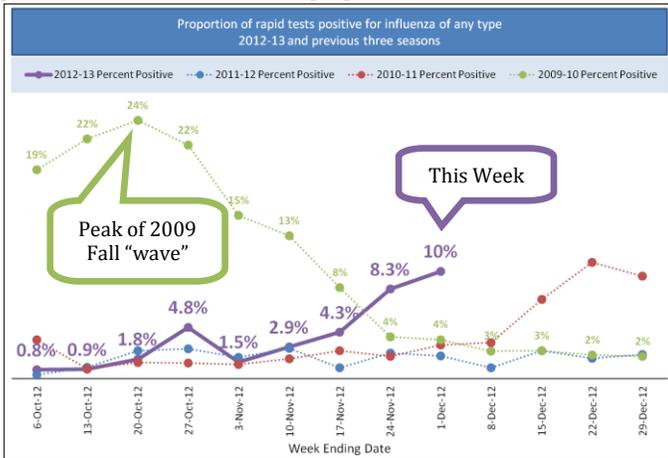
Data from the [weekly flu survey](#) was not available this week.



Reports of ILI by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	N/A	3 (27%)	6 (13%)
Age 5-24	N/A	2 (18%)	13 (28%)
Age 25-49	N/A	2 (18%)	12 (26%)
Age 50-64	N/A	4 (36%)	15 (32%)
Age ≥ 65	N/A	0 (0%)	1 (2%)
Total	N/A	11 (100%)	47 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

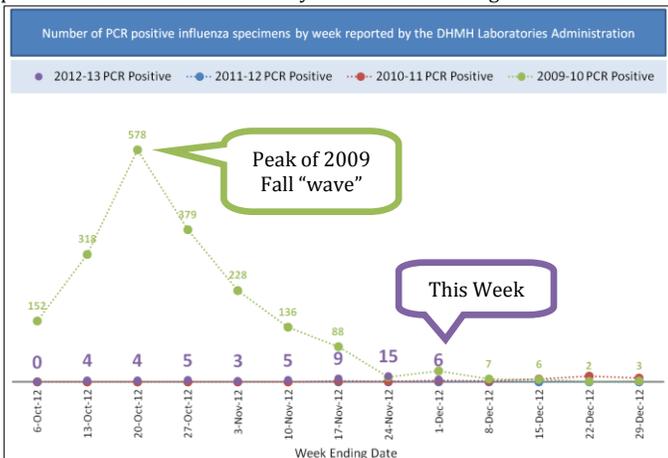
Twenty-eight clinical laboratories reported 812 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 81 (10%) were positive. Seventy-two were positive for influenza type A, and nine were positive for type B. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests. Now that the State Laboratories Administration has reported positive PCR tests for influenza, rapid positive tests are counted as lab-confirmed cases for surveillance purposes.)



Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	72 (89%)	42 (81%)	156 (72%)
Type B	9 (11%)	10 (19%)	61 (28%)
Total	81 (100%)	52 (100%)	217 (100%)

State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 32 PCR tests for influenza. Six of those were positive for influenza type A (H3N2). (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)

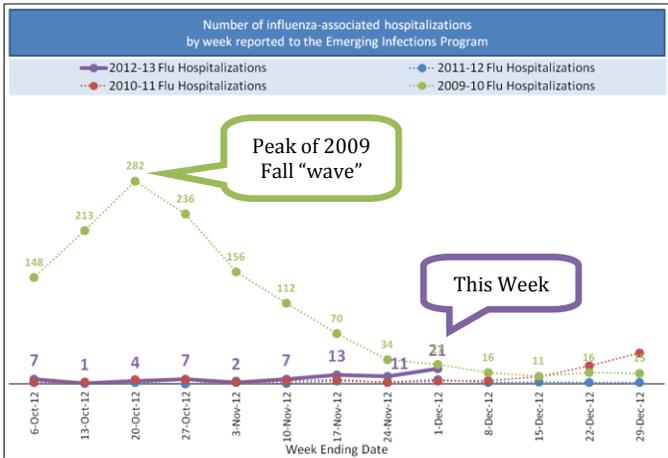


Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	--	3 (6%)
Type A (H3N2)	6 (100%)	13 (87%)	42 (82%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	2 (13%)	6 (12%)
Total	6 (100%)	15 (100%)	51 (100%)

Go to <http://dhhm.maryland.gov/flumnd/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.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

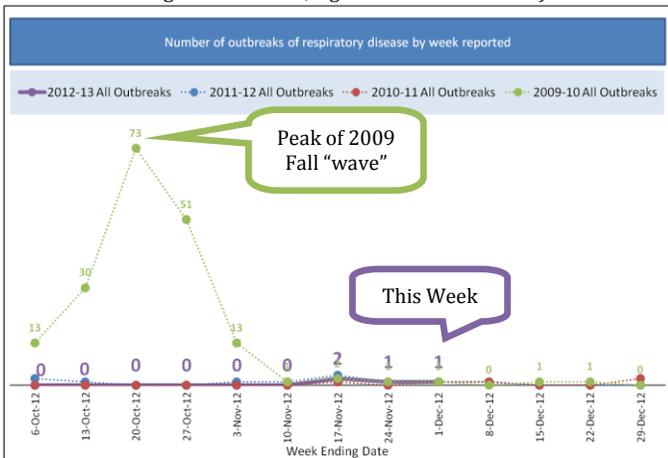
Hospitals in Maryland reported 21 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	5 (24%)	4 (36%)	18 (25%)
Age 5-17	--	2 (18%)	7 (10%)
Age 18-24	3 (14%)	--	6 (8%)
Age 25-49	6 (29%)	1 (9%)	15 (21%)
Age 50-64	3 (14%)	2 (18%)	14 (19%)
Age ≥ 65	4 (19%)	2 (18%)	13 (18%)
Total	21 (100%)	11 (100%)	73 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of pneumonia was reported to DHMH. (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 (25%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	1 (25%)
Pneumonia	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	2 (50%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	4 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending December 1, 2012, influenza activity increased in the U.S.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 5,511 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 48, 1,139 (20.7%) 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. One of these deaths was associated with an influenza B virus and two were associated with influenza A viruses for which the subtype was not determined.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.9%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. Three regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Four states experienced high ILI activity, three states experienced moderate ILI activity; 6 states experienced low ILI activity; New York City and 37 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 8 states was reported as widespread; 15 states reported regional activity; 15 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, Guam, and 12 states reported sporadic activity, and Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Island did not report.

