

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending October 27, 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 October 27, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic spread of influenza. Influenza type A (H3N2) was the predominant strain, according to laboratory testing. Influenza activity indicators were below expected levels.

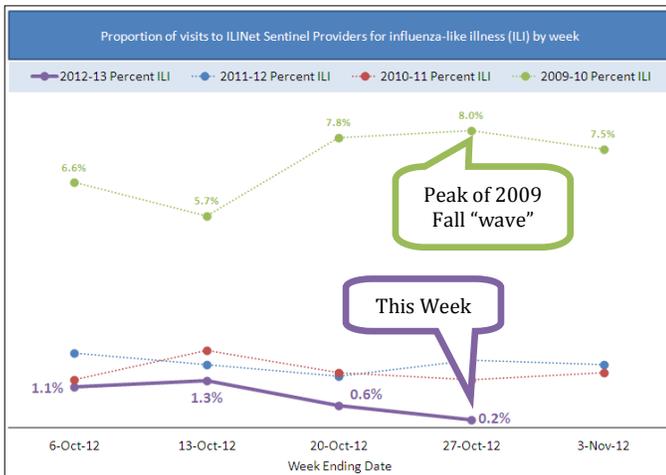
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
✓ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

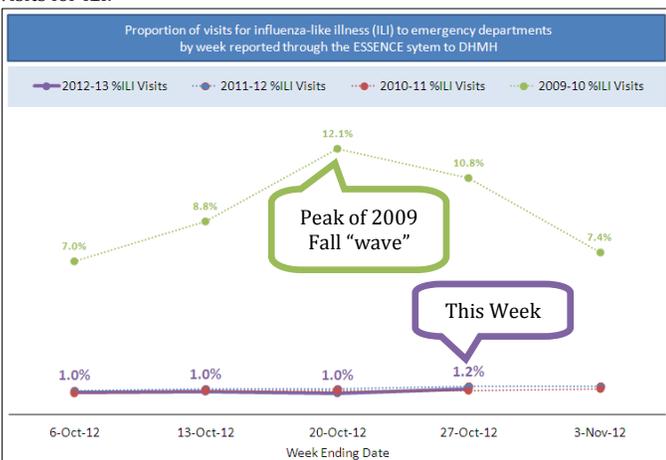
Ten sentinel providers reported a total of 11,366 visits last week. Of those, 25 (0.2%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.9%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	8 (32%)	13 (23%)	86 (28%)
Age 5-24	9 (36%)	33 (58%)	127 (42%)
Age 25-49	8 (32%)	8 (14%)	71 (23%)
Age 50-64	--	2 (4%)	15 (5%)
Age ≥ 65	--	1 (2%)	4 (1%)
Total ILI Visits	25 (100%)	57 (100%)	303 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 46,525 visits last week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those visits, 545 (1.2%) were visits for ILI.



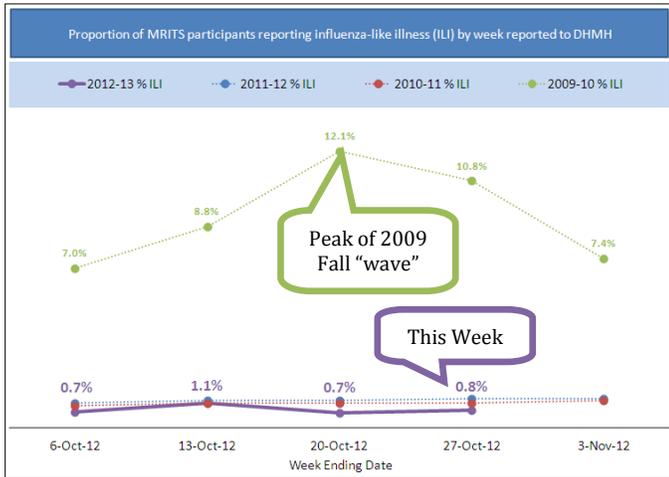
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	186 (34%)	138 (29%)	571 (30%)
Age 5-24	160 (29%)	148 (31%)	590 (31%)
Age 25-49	143 (26%)	140 (30%)	547 (28%)
Age 50-64	31 (6%)	27 (6%)	144 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	25 (5%)	18 (4%)	75 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	545 (100%)	471 (100%)	1,927 (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/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

Maryland Residents Influenza Tracking Survey (MRITS)

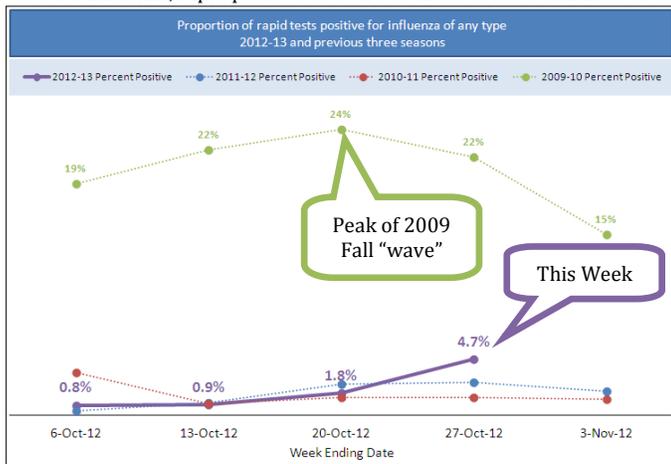
A total of 524 Maryland residents responded to the [weekly flu survey](#) this week. Of those, 4 (0.8%) reported having an influenza-like illness and missing a collective 6 days of regular daily activities.



Reports of ILI by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	--	--	1 (7%)
Age 5-24	3 (75%)	2 (50%)	7 (39%)
Age 25-49	1 (25%)	1 (25%)	5 (28%)
Age 50-64	--	1 (25%)	5 (28%)
Age ≥ 65	--	--	--
Total	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	18 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

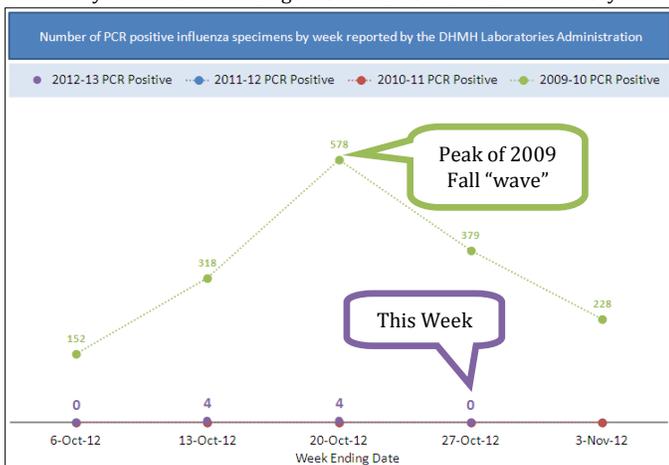
Twenty-six clinical laboratories reported 430 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 20 (4.7%) were positive. Seven were positive for influenza type A, and 13 were positive for type B. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests. Now that the State Laboratories Administration has reported 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	7 (35%)	2 (29%)	11 (33%)
Type B	13 (65%)	5 (71%)	22 (67%)
Total	20 (100%)	7 (100%)	33 (100%)

State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 24 PCR tests for influenza. None of those were positive. (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)

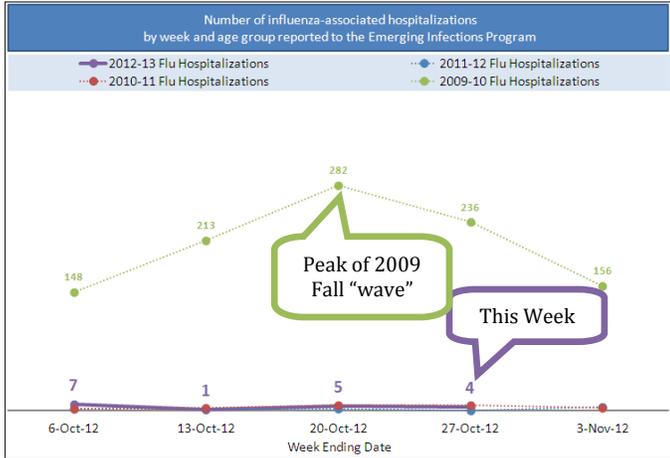


Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	--	1 (25%)	1 (13%)
Type A (H3N2)	--	2 (50%)	5 (63%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	--	1 (25%)	2 (25%)
Total	--	4 (100%)	8 (100%)

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

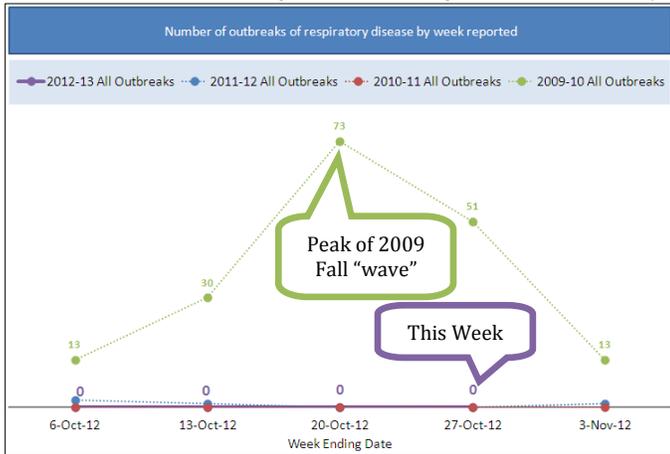
Hospitals in Maryland reported 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (25%)	--	3 (18%)
Age 5-17	1 (25%)	1 (20%)	4 (24%)
Age 18-24	--	--	1 (6%)
Age 25-49	--	3 (60%)	4 (24%)
Age 50-64	1 (25%)	1 (20%)	3 (18%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (25%)	--	2 (12%)
Total	4 (100%)	5 (100%)	17 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

No outbreaks of respiratory disease were 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	--	--	--
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	--
Pneumonia	--	--	--
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	--	--

There have been no outbreaks of respiratory disease reported to DHMH since September 30, 2012.

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending October 27, 2012, influenza activity remained low in the United States.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 3,036 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 43, 188 (6.2%) 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:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.1%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced low ILI activity; 49 states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 5 states was reported as local; the District of Columbia and 33 states reported sporadic activity; Guam and 12 states reported no influenza activity, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

