

# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 8, 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 8, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** with **LOCAL** geographic spread of influenza. Most influenza activity indicators are now trending upward.

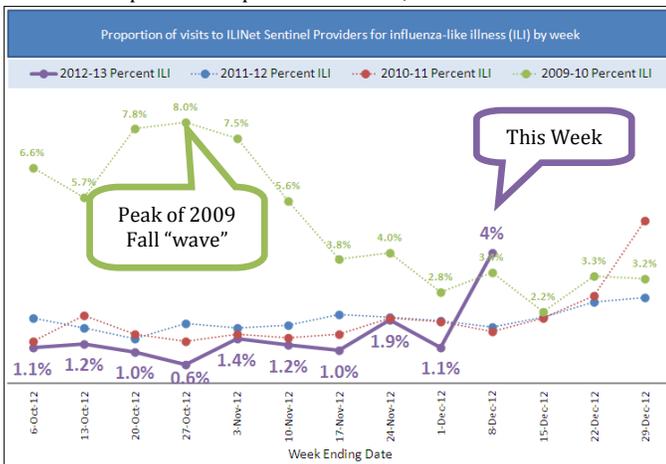
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels
✓ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread
No Activity
Sporadic
✓ Local
Regional
Widespread

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

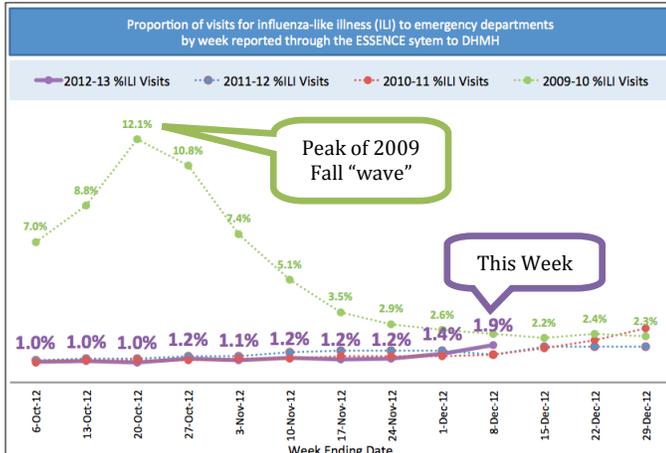
Nine sentinel providers reported a total of 3,457 visits last week. Of those, 138 (4%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	32 (23%)	27 (25%)	308 (28%)
Age 5-24	62 (45%)	40 (36%)	435 (40%)
Age 25-49	28 (20%)	35 (32%)	252 (23%)
Age 50-64	10 (7%)	7 (6%)	63 (6%)
Age ≥ 65	6 (4%)	1 (1%)	30 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	138 (100%)	110 (100%)	1,088 (100%)

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 48,776 visits through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those visits, 910 (1.9%) were visits for ILI.



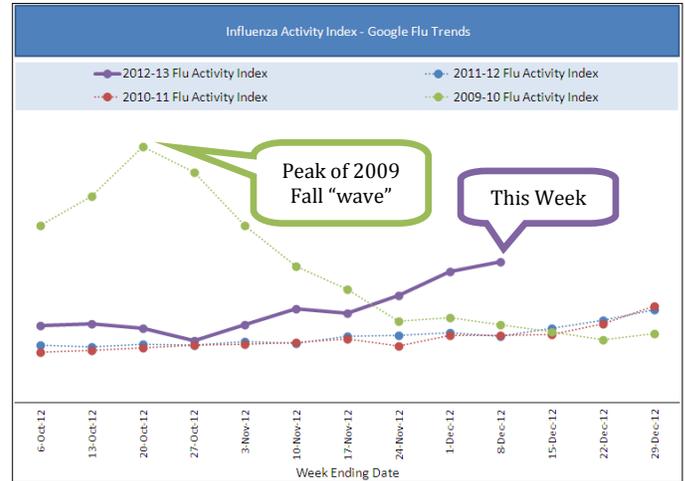
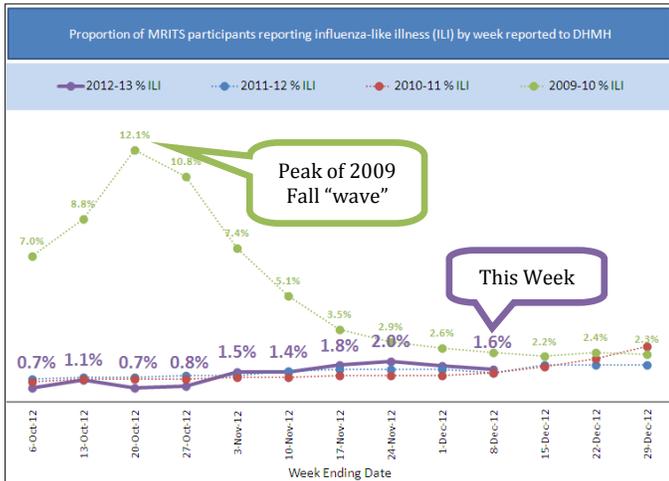
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	291 (32%)	240 (35%)	1,785 (32%)
Age 5-24	276 (30%)	168 (24%)	1,580 (28%)
Age 25-49	233 (26%)	198 (29%)	1,523 (27%)
Age 50-64	72 (8%)	55 (8%)	444 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	38 (4%)	26 (4%)	219 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	910 (100%)	687 (100%)	5,551 (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>

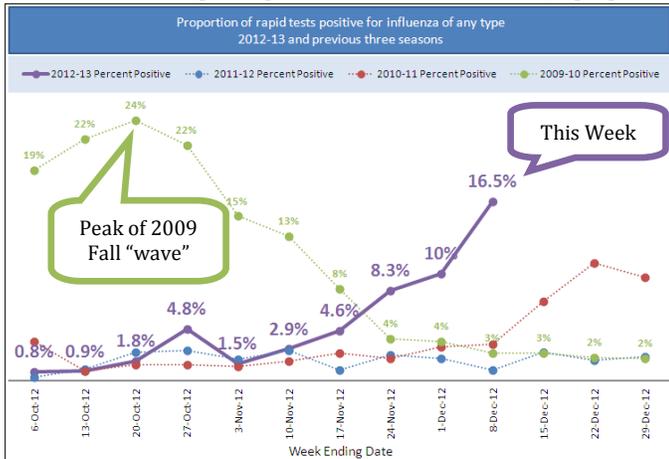
## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

A total of 566 responses to the [weekly flu survey](#) (MRITS) were received. Of those, 9 (1.6%) reported ILI with a cumulative 19 days of regular daily activities lost. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is now "high" in Maryland.

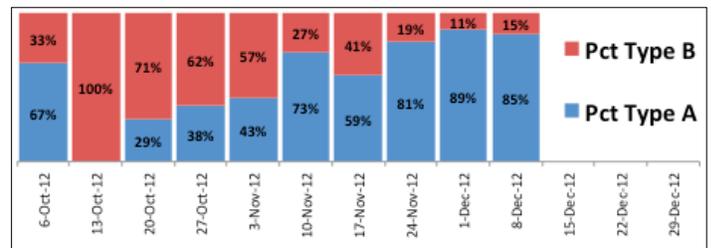


## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-seven clinical laboratories reported 1,249 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 206 (16.5%) were positive. One hundred seventy-six were positive for influenza type A, and 30 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.)

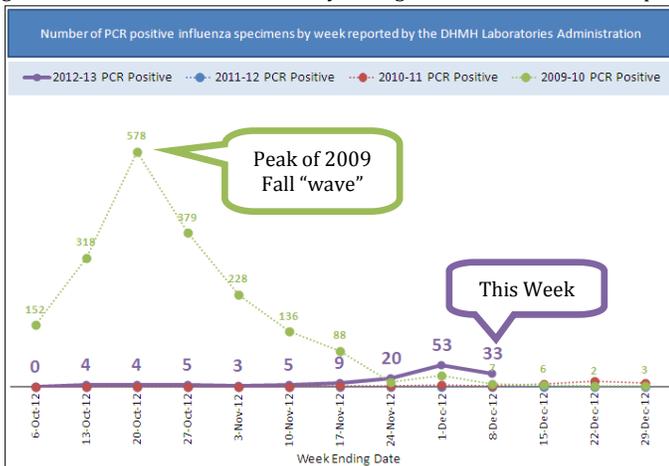


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	176 (85%)	72 (89%)	333 (79%)
Type B	30 (15%)	9 (11%)	91 (21%)
Total	206 (100%)	81 (100%)	424 (100%)



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 72 PCR tests for influenza. Twenty-seven of those were positive for influenza type A (H3N2), five were positive for type B influenza, and one was positive for influenza type A (H1N1). (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)

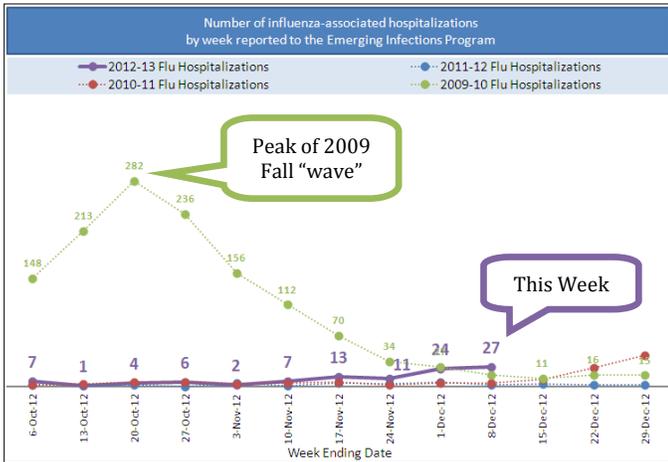


Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (3%)	2 (4%)	6 (4%)
Type A (H3N2)	27 (82%)	49 (92%)	117 (83%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	5 (15%)	2 (4%)	18 (13%)
Total	33 (100%)	53 (100%)	141 (100%)

Go to <http://dhmh.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.

## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

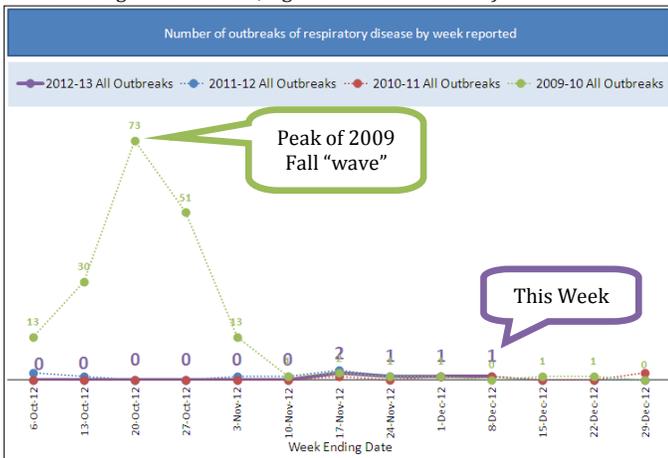
Hospitals in Maryland reported 27 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	4 (15%)	6 (25%)	23 (23%)
Age 5-17	2 (7%)	--	8 (8%)
Age 18-24	3 (11%)	2 (8%)	8 (8%)
Age 25-49	6 (22%)	6 (25%)	21 (21%)
Age 50-64	6 (22%)	4 (17%)	21 (21%)
Age ≥ 65	6 (22%)	6 (25%)	21 (21%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 (100%)</b>	<b>24 (100%)</b>	<b>102 (100%)</b>

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

One outbreak of influenza 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 (100%)	--	2 (40%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	--	1 (20%)
Pneumonia	--	1 (100%)	2 (40%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	<b>5 (100%)</b>

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending December 8, 2012, influenza activity increased in the U.S.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 7,663 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 49, 2,172 (28.3%) were positive for influenza.
- **Novel Influenza A Virus:** One human infection with a novel influenza A virus was reported.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported and was associated with an influenza B virus.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.8%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. Seven of ten regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. Eight states experienced high ILI activity, 2 states experienced moderate ILI activity; New York City and 9 states experienced low ILI activity; 31 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 18 states was reported as widespread; 17 states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia and 11 states reported local activity; Guam and 4 states reported sporadic activity, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

