**Highlights**

- In week 48 of 2019, trends for the preliminary individual flu activity indicators were mixed compared to the previous week. Influenza lab positives and statewide primary care visits for ILI continue to increase. As a whole, flu intensity (composite indicator) continued to increase and is low.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click here for definitions) = LOCALIZED, LOW
- Local medical facility labs reported 1,342 tests run with 53 (3.9%) positive results for week 48 of 2019.
- The percentage of ED visits for both influenza-like illness (ILI) and respiratory symptom visits increased compared to last week.
- In week 48 of 2019, the majority of individual local over-the-counter medication category sale trends tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; increase in thermometer sales) compared to last week.
- In week 48, the U.S. seasonal influenza activity continued to increase and has been elevated the past 4 weeks. Please visit the CDC website for specific information.

Local Flu Activity Dashboard (All data are preliminary and may change as updated reports are received.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Week Number(s) Available</th>
<th>Current Week Value</th>
<th>% Change Chart from Last Week</th>
<th># Weeks</th>
<th>General Trend Line Chart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>3.9% Pos.</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>4 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio)</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>4.8 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>41 runs</td>
<td>-39.7%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>Update not available at time of this report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data*: Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>21.1% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>16.9% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Data: OTC Cough &amp; Cold Sales</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>18,809 Total Sales</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermometer</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>86 Total Sales</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations</td>
<td>35-48</td>
<td>2 Admitted (15 Since wk. 35, 2017)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1 ●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Dec. 4, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza Associated Death Reported by Year (based on date of death)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAH comparison by Flu Season (October through May or Weeks 35 - 20)</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Current season figures (2019-20) are from week 35 through week 48 of 2019.</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1Interpret with caution. Indicators with small numbers subject to large weekly percentage fluctuations.
2Number of weeks "▲" = Increase (>2%), "▼" = Decrease (>2%), "•" = Stable (-2% to +2%).
3Black line is current years data. Based on data availability, red line is historical average (excluding pandemic year).
4Data Source: Medical claims data from athenaHealth® (www.athenahealth.com). Rate of Flu or ILI visits to Ohio (statewide) athenaHealth® network primary care practices/physicians. Claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.
5Franklin County, OH residents only (based on zipcode). NOTE: Excludes one hospital system included in the past due to technical changes affecting visit classification assignment and numbers.
6Confirmed cases only. Based on jurisdiction equal to Franklin County or City of Columbus and admission date available in ODRS.
Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports
In week 48, the preliminary Ohio\(^1\) (statewide) influenza and influenza-like-illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth\(^\circledR\) primary care providers (4.8 per 1,000 visits) increased compared to the previous week and is above its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 48 percentage of all Emergency Department (ED) visits categorized as ILI increased compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is above its historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 48 of 2019, 3.5% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). The percentage is above the national baseline of 2.4% for week 48.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 48 of 2019, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 1,342 specimens, with 53 (3.9%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2019 through week 48 of 2019 is 12,210 with 187 (1.5%) positives (49 type A, 137 type B, 0 type A and B, 1 type unknown).

Nationally in week 48 of 2019, clinical laboratories reported 26,576 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 2,713 (10.2%) of which were positive (784 type A, 1,929 type B). In week 48, public health laboratories reported testing 828 specimens, 389 of which were positive (147 type A – of which 103 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 27 were H3N2, and 17 were not subtyped; 242 type B – of which 5 were Yamagata lineage, 166 were Victoria lineage, and 71 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 48 of 2019, Ohio clinical labs reported 14,014 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (12) A(H1N1)pdm09; (2) A/H3N2; (72) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (86) Flu B (through 11/30/2019). In week 48 of 2019, ODH Public Health Lab reported 19 positive influenza tests from various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (5) A(H1N1)pdm09; (8) A/H3N2; (6) Influenza B (through 11/30/2019). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 48\(^{th}\) week of 2019, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory increased compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is above its baseline for the week (Figure 5).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales
In week 48 of 2019, the majority of individual local over-the-counter medication category sale trends tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, adult anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; increase in thermometer sales) compared to last week.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:
Ohio Seasonal Flu Surveillance: [https://odh.ohio.gov](https://odh.ohio.gov)

\(^1\)Note: County level athenaHealth\(^\circledR\) network primary care medical claims data is no longer available.
Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 48, 2019 (11/24/2019-11/30/2019)

Figure 1: Ohio Outpatient Primary Care Provider Influenza or Influenza-Like-Illness Visit Rate

Figure 2: Percentage of Ohio Outpatient Participating Provider* and CDC National Outpatient Sentinel Health Care Provider** visits for ILI and Associated Illnesses, 2019-20

Figure 3: Franklin County Resident ILI Defined** ED Visits, 2019-20, Franklin County, OH

Figure 4: Percentage of Local Reporting and National Laboratory Positive Influenza Tests by Week, 2019-20

*Source: Ohio (Statewide) medical claims data from athenaHealth
**Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.

Note: athenaHealth claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.

**Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.

Note: Ohio's claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.

**Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.