Highlights

- In week 52 of 2019, trends for the vast majority of individual local flu activity indicators continued to increase considerably. As a whole, local flu intensity (composite indicator) increased substantially and is now HIGH.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click here for definitions) = WIDESPREAD, HIGH.
- Local medical facility labs reported 2,671 tests run with 977 (36.6%) positive results for week 52 of 2019.
- The percentage of ED visits for both influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms increased compared to last week.
- In week 52 of 2019, the trends for individual local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked were mixed (decrease in chest rub, adult anti-fever and throat lozenge sales; increase in electrolyte, thermometer and pediatric anti-fever sales; stable cough and cold sales) compared to last week.
- In week 52, U.S. seasonal influenza activity is high, continues to increase and has been elevated for eight weeks now. 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 Week¹</th>
<th># Weeks²</th>
<th>General Trend Line Chart³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>36.6% Pos.</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>27.9 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>67 runs</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-51</td>
<td>Update not available due to winter break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>29.2% of All ED Visits</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>23.7% of All ED Visits</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Data:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTC Cough &amp; Cold Sales</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>20,987 Total Sales</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>1 •</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermometer</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>129 Total Sales</td>
<td>34.4%</td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations⁴</td>
<td>35-52</td>
<td>55 Admitted (108 Since wk. 35, 2017)</td>
<td>&gt;100%</td>
<td>3 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Jan. 2, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric 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>Influenza Associated Hospitalizations (IAH) Reported by Admission Year⁵</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>835</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IAH comparison by Flu Season (October through May or Weeks 35 - 20)

*Current season figures (2019-20) are from week 35 through week 52 of 2019.

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.
**Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports**

In week 52, the preliminary Ohio\(^1\) (statewide) influenza and influenza-like-illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® primary care providers (27.9 per 1,000 visits) increased compared to the previous week and is above its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 52 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 52 of 2019, 6.9% 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 52.

**Laboratory Surveillance**

During week 52 of 2019, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 2,671 specimens, with 977 (36.6%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2019 through week 52 of 2019 is 20,388 with 2,057 (10.1%) positives (416 type A, 1,640 type B, 0 type A and B, 1 type unknown).

Nationally in week 52 of 2019, clinical laboratories reported 45,749 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 12,016 (26.3%) of which were positive (3,859 type A, 8,157 type B). In week 52, public health laboratories reported testing 1,618 specimens, 1,172 of which were positive (474 type A – of which 387 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 37 were H3N2, and 50 were not subtyped; 698 type B – of which 2 were Yamagata lineage, 548 were Victoria lineage, and 148 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 52 of 2019, Ohio clinical labs reported 29,860 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (41) A(H1N1)pdm09; (2) A/H3N2; (606) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (2,237) Flu B (through 12/28/2019). In week 52 of 2019, ODH Public Health Lab reported 150 positive influenza tests from various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (44) A(H1N1)pdm09; (15) A/H3N2; (91) Influenza B (through 12/28/2019). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

**ED Respiratory Visits**

In the 52\(^{nd}\) 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 52 of 2019, the trends for individual local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked were mixed (decrease in chest rub, adult anti-fever and throat lozenge sales; increase in electrolyte, thermometer and pediatric anti-fever sales; stable cough and cold 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® network primary care medical claims data is no longer available.
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®


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.

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