2019-2020 Columbus & Franklin County Seasonal Influenza Activity Weekly Summary (Week 2, Jan. 5th, 2020– Jan. 11th, 2020)

**Highlights**
- In week 2 of 2020, trends for the individual local flu activity indicators were mixed compared to last week. As a whole, local flu intensity (composite indicator) decreased but remains HIGH.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click [here](#) for definitions) = WIDESPREAD, HIGH
- Local medical facility labs reported 2,876 tests run with 764 (26.6%) positive results for week 2 of 2020.
- The percentage of ED visits for both influenza-like-illness (ILI) and respiratory symptoms decreased compared to last week.
- In week 2 of 2020, the trends for individual local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked were mixed (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, and throat lozenge sales; increase in thermometer sales; stable pediatric anti-fever and adult anti-fever sales) compared to last week.
- In week 2, U.S. seasonal influenza key indicators that track flu activity declined slightly but remain high. Please [visit the CDC website](#)for specific information.

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

**Current Week's Composite Intensity Indicator**

<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>35-2</td>
<td>26.6% Pos.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio)</td>
<td>35-2</td>
<td>15.8 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>-22%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>▼</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-2</td>
<td>69 runs</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>▲</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-2</td>
<td>10.8% Absent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: % Change not available due to winter break the previous week.

**Hospital ED Data**

- **Complaint Defined as ILI**
  - 35-2 | 25.7% of All ED Visits | -9.9% | 2 | ▼ |
- **Categorized as Respiratory**
  - 35-2 | 20.4% of All ED Visits | -13.2% | 1 | ▼ |

**Medication Data**

- **OTC Cough & Cold Sales**
  - 35-2 | 20,354 Total Sales | -13.8% | 1 | ▼ |
- **Thermometer**
  - 35-2 | 161 Total Sales | 32.0% | 1 | ▲ |

**Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations**

- 35-2 | 37 Admitted (199 Since wk. 35, 2019) | -28% | 2 | ▼ |

**Reportable Conditions** *(Cumulative Numbers as of Jan. 16, 2020)*

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<thead>
<tr>
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</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>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAH Reported by Admission Year</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAH comparison by Flu Season (October through May or Weeks 35–20)</td>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>2016-17</td>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>2019-20*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Influenza Associated Death</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Interpret with caution. Indicators with small numbers subject to large weekly percentage fluctuations.
2. Number of weeks “▼” = Increase (>2%), “▼” = Decrease (>2%), “▲” = Stable (-2% to +2%).
3. Black line is current years data. Based on data availability, red line is historical average (excluding pandemic year).
4. Data 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.
5. Franklin 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.
6. Confirmed 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 2, the preliminary Ohio¹ (statewide) influenza and influenza-like-Illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® primary care providers (15.8 per 1,000 visits) decreased compared to the previous week and is above its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 2 percentage of all Emergency Department (ED) visits categorized as ILI decreased compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is above its historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 2 of 2020, 4.7% 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 2.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 2 of 2020, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 2,876 specimens, with 764 (26.6%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2019 through week 2 of 2020 is 27,755 with 3,913 (14.1%) positives (856 type A, 3,048 type B, 0 type A and B, 9 type unknown).

Nationally in week 2 of 2020, clinical laboratories reported 40,451 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 9,277 (22.9%) of which were positive (3,899 type A, 5,378 type B). In week 2, public health laboratories reported testing 1,904 specimens, 1,148 of which were positive (579 type A – of which 504 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 36 were H3N2, and 39 were not subtyped; 569 type B – of which 5 were Yamagata lineage, 422 were Victoria lineage, and 142 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 2 of 2020, Ohio clinical labs reported 38,571 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (79) A(H1N1)pdm09; (2) A/H3N2; (1,315) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (3,959) Flu B (through 1/11/2020). In week 2 of 2020, ODH Public Health Lab reported 267 positive influenza tests from various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (94) A(H1N1)pdm09; (17) A/H3N2; (156) Influenza B (through 1/11/2020). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 2nd week of 2020, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory decreased 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 2 of 2020, the trends for individual local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked were mixed (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, chest rub, and throat lozenge sales; increase in thermometer sales; stable pediatric anti-fever and adult anti-fever sales) compared to last week.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:
Ohio Seasonal Flu Surveillance: https://odh.ohio.gov
CDC National Seasonal Flu Surveillance Reports: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

¹Note: County level athenaHealth® network primary care medical claims data is no longer available.