

Highlights

- The COVID-19 pandemic may affect healthcare seeking behavior which in turn would impact certain flu surveillance data.
- In week 17 of 2020, individual flu activity indicator trends either decreased or remained stable compared to last week. **With the decline in influenza lab positives and confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations to at or below baseline levels, flu activity currently appears low.** Please see the individual indicators below.
- Local medical facility labs reported 529 tests run with 3 (0.6%) positive results for week 17 of 2020.
- The percentage of ED visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) was stable while respiratory symptom visits decreased compared to last week.
- In week 17 of 2020, the trends for all individual local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, adult anti-fever, pediatric anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales) compared to last week.
- In week 17, National flu activity remains low. 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*

Composite Intensity Indicator* Weekly Trend

Due to similarities of some of key indicators comprising the flu composite indicator to COVID-19 symptoms, the flu composite indicator is temporarily unavailable. Recent changes in health care seeking behavior due to COVID-19 concerns are likely impacting data, specially indicators that are flu-like. Please see the individual indicators below.

NOTE: Please see the divergence between indicators specific to both flu lab positives and confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations and those indicators based on symptoms/syndromes and sales in early-mid March. With the decline in influenza lab positives and confirmed influenza associated hospitalizations to at or below baseline levels, flu activity currently appears low.

Indicators	Week Number(s) Available	Current Week Value	% Change Chart from Last Week ¹ (-) (+)	# Weeks ² ▲ • ▼	General Trend Line Chart ³ (black = current, red = historical avg.)
Medical Facility Lab Data	35-17	0.6% Pos.	-23%	11 ▼	
athenaHealth® ⁴ Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio)		Note: Update not available at time of this report			
EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs	35-17	14 runs	-22.2%	3 ▼	
School Absences		Note: Update not available at time of this report			
Hospital ED Data ⁵ :					
Complaint Defined as ILI	35-17	21.0% of All ED Visits	-1.4%	1 •	
Categorized as Respiratory	35-17	16.2% of All ED Visits	-4.2%	5 ▼	
Medication Data:					
OTC Cough & Cold Sales	35-17	10,392 Total Sales	-9.0%	6 ▼	
Thermometer	35-17	101 Total Sales	-22.9%	3 ▼	
Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations ⁶	35-17	1 Admitted (863 Since wk. 35, 2019)	0%	1 •	

Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Apr. 26, 2020)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 YTD
Pediatric Influenza Associated Death Reported by Year (based on date of death)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations (IAH) Reported by Admission Year ⁶	447	293	846	1,036	839	728
IAH comparison by Flu Season (October through May or Weeks 35 - 20)	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20*
*Current season figures (2019-20) are from week 35 through week 17 of 2020.	871	265	619	1,235	746	863

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

Updated statewide influenza and influenza-like-illness (ILI) visit data from athenaHealth® was not available at the time of this report. The week 17 percentage of all Emergency Department (ED) visits categorized as ILI was stable compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is above its historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 17 of 2020, 1.8% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) and is below the national baseline of 2.4% for week 17.

Laboratory Surveillance

During week 17 of 2020, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 529 specimens, with 3 (0.6%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2019 through week 17 of 2020 is 64,399 with 12,441 (19.3%) positives (5,355, type A, 6,742 type B, 0 type A and B, 344 type unknown).

Nationally in week 17 of 2020, clinical laboratories reported 11,306 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 21 (0.2%) of which were positive (14 type A, 7 type B). In week 17, public health laboratories reported testing 407 specimens, 27 of which were positive (25 type A – of which 25 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 0 were H3N2, and 0 were not subtyped; 2 type B – lineage was not performed. Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 17 of 2020, Ohio clinical labs reported 101,279 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (731) A(H1N1)pdm09; (7) A/H3N2; (10,962) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (10,039) Flu B (through 4/25/2020). In week 17 of 2020, ODH Public Health Lab reported 1,033 positive influenza tests from various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (626) A(H1N1)pdm09; (17) A/H3N2; (390) Influenza B (through 4/25/2020). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits

In the 17th 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 17 of 2020, the trends for all individual local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked decreased (decrease in cough and cold, electrolyte, thermometer, chest rub, adult anti-fever, pediatric anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales) compared to last week.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:

Ohio Seasonal Flu Surveillance: <https://odh.ohio.gov>

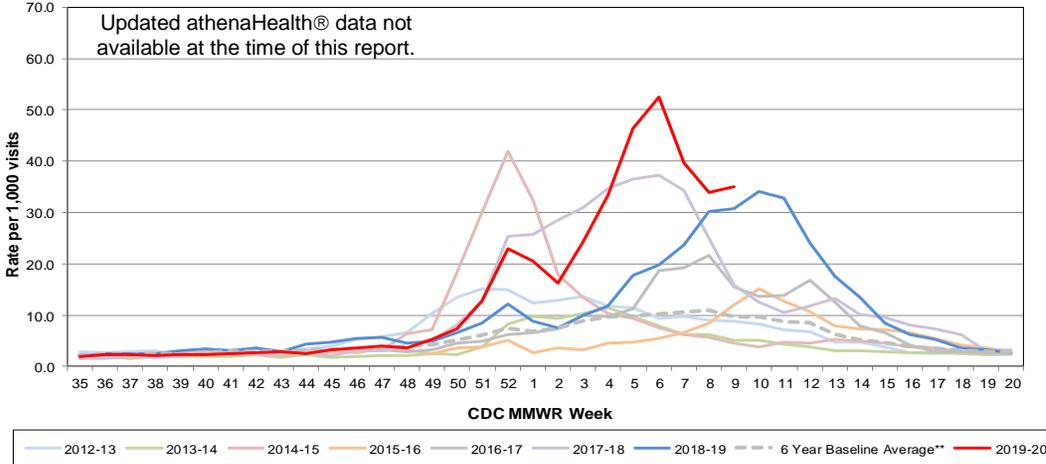
CDC National Seasonal Flu Surveillance Reports: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

World Health Organization Situation Updates: http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/en/

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

Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 17, 2020 (4/19/2020-4/25/2020)

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

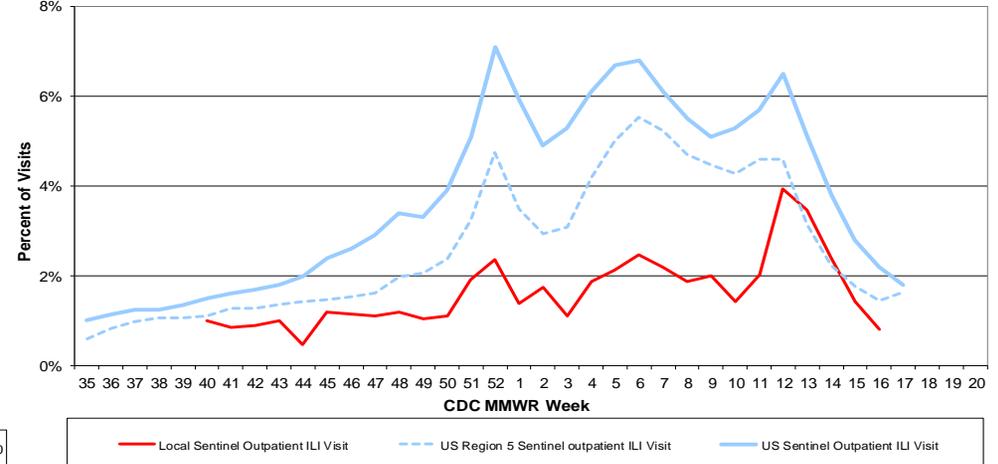


*Source: Ohio (Statewide) medical claims data from athenaHealth®

**Seasons: 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2015-16, 2016-17

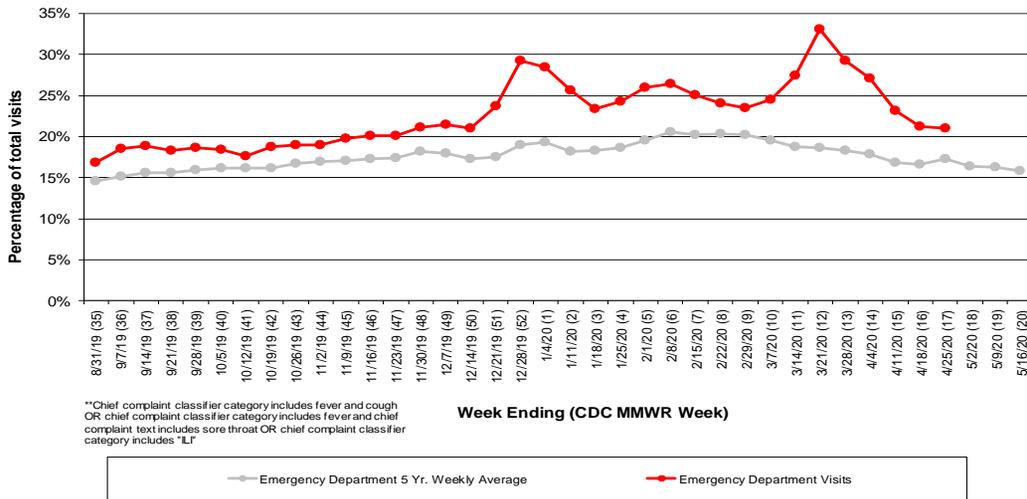
Note: athenaHealth® claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.

Figure 2: Percentage of CDC National, Regional, and Local Outpatient Sentinel Health Care Provider* Site visits for ILI, 2019-20



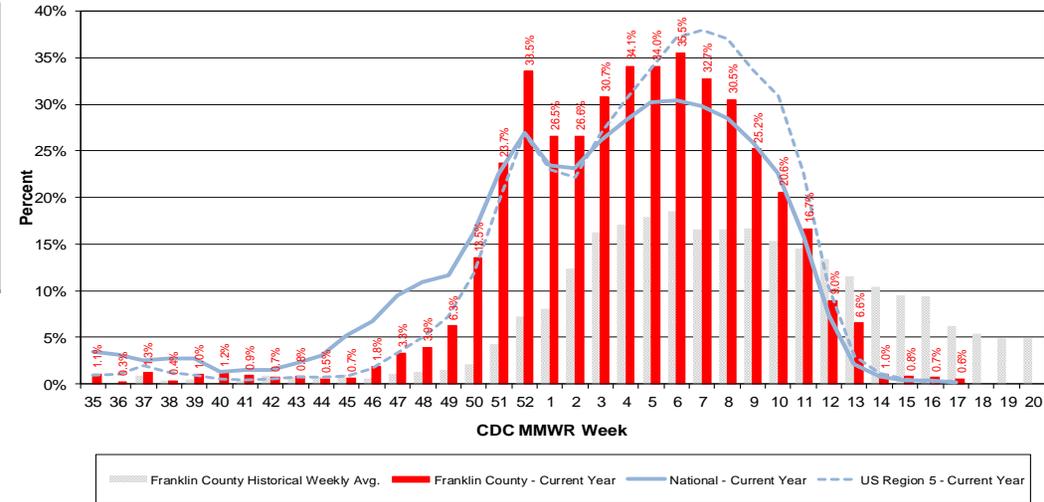
*Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.

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



**Chief complaint classifier category includes fever and cough OR chief complaint classifier category includes fever and chief complaint text includes sore throat OR chief complaint classifier category includes *LI*

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



Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 17, 2020 (4/19/2020-4/25/2020)

Figure 5: Franklin County Resident Respiratory ED Visits, 2019-20, Franklin County, OH

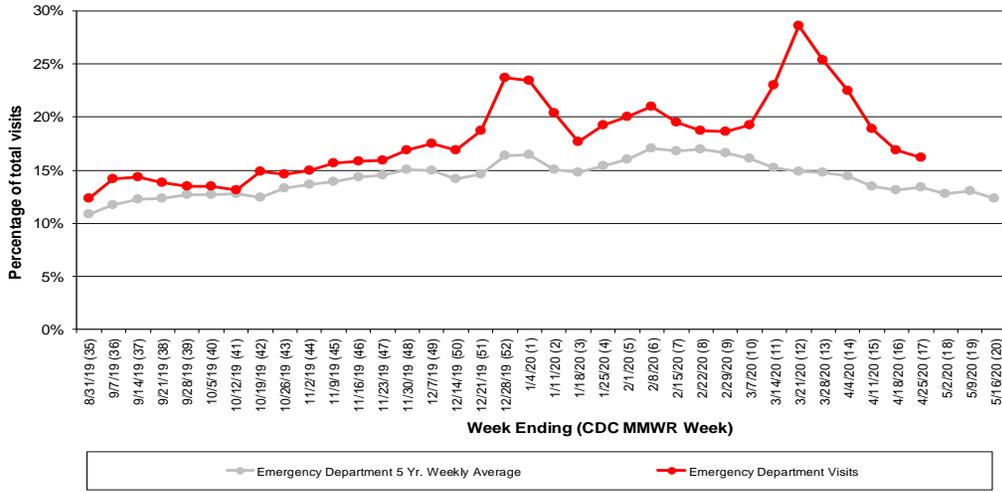


Figure 6: Selected Number of Over-the-Counter Medication Total Sales, 2019-20, Franklin County, OH

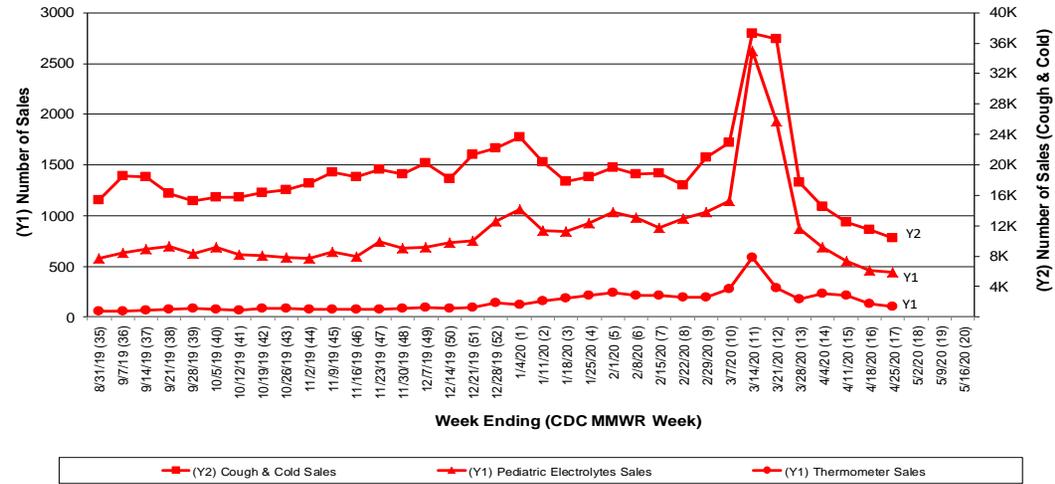
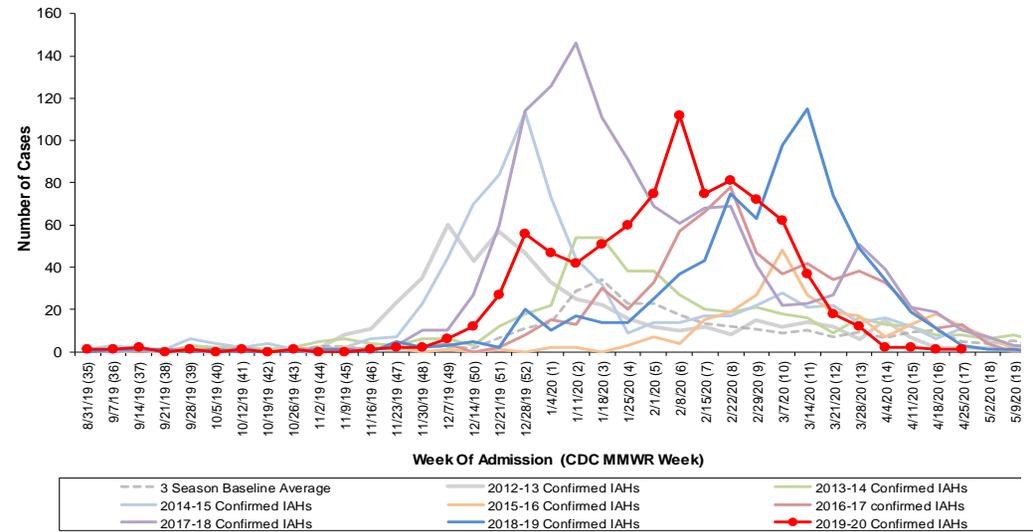


Figure 7: Columbus and Franklin County Jurisdiction Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations by Hospital Admission Week (As of 4/26/2020)



Columbus and Franklin County, OH Jurisdiction Confirmed Influenza Hospitalization Cumulative Rates (per 100,000) by Age-Group and Admission Week, 2019-2020 Season

