



MARYLAND
Department of Health

Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness Report: #2021:08

Reporting for the week ending 02/27/21 (MMWR Week #08)

March 5th, 2021

CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS

National: No Active Alerts

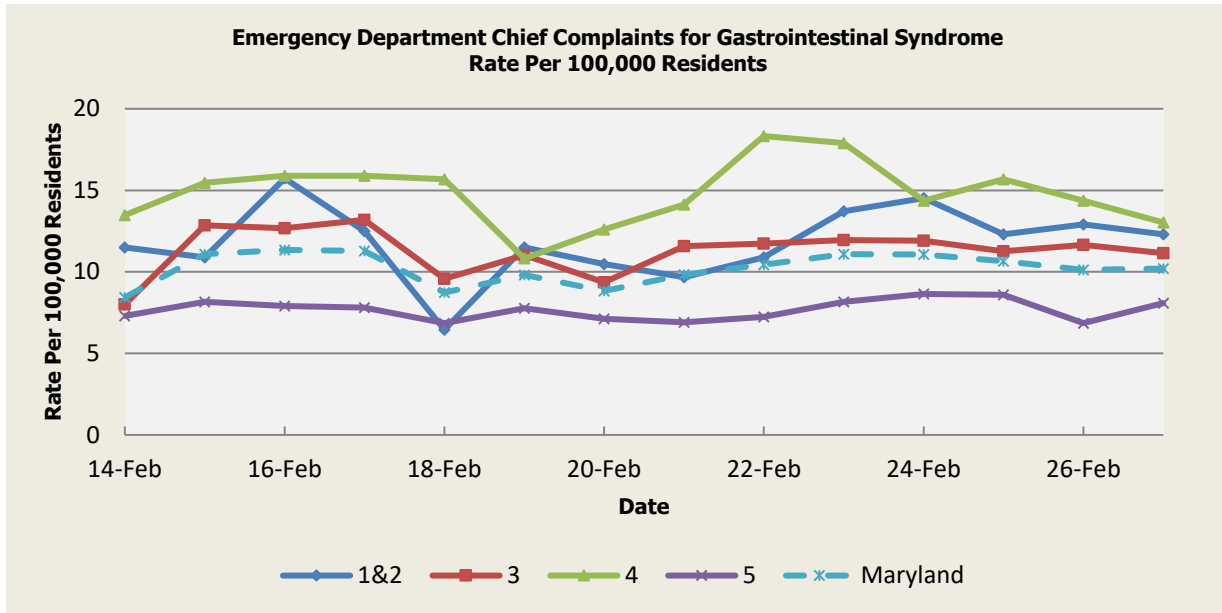
Maryland: **ENHANCED (MEMA status)**

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE REPORTS

ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics): Graphical representation is provided for all syndromes (excluding the “Other” category; see Appendix 1) by Health and Medical Regions (See Appendix 2). Emergency department chief complaint data is presented as rates per 100,000 residents using data from the 2010 census. Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Baltimore, MD: Maryland Department of Health; 2021.

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Gastrointestinal Syndrome



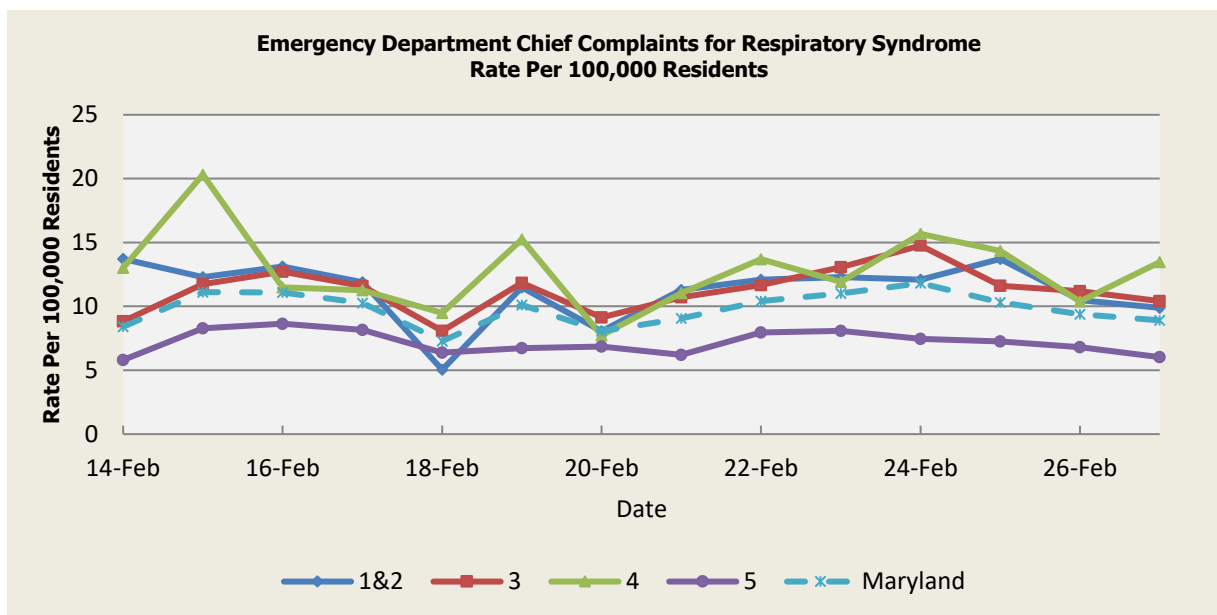
There was one (1) Gastrointestinal Syndrome outbreak reported this week: one (1) outbreak of Gastroenteritis in a Nursing Home (Region 3).

Gastrointestinal Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	13.14	14.75	15.81	10.07	12.90
Median Rate*	13.11	14.65	15.46	10.04	12.87

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Respiratory Syndrome



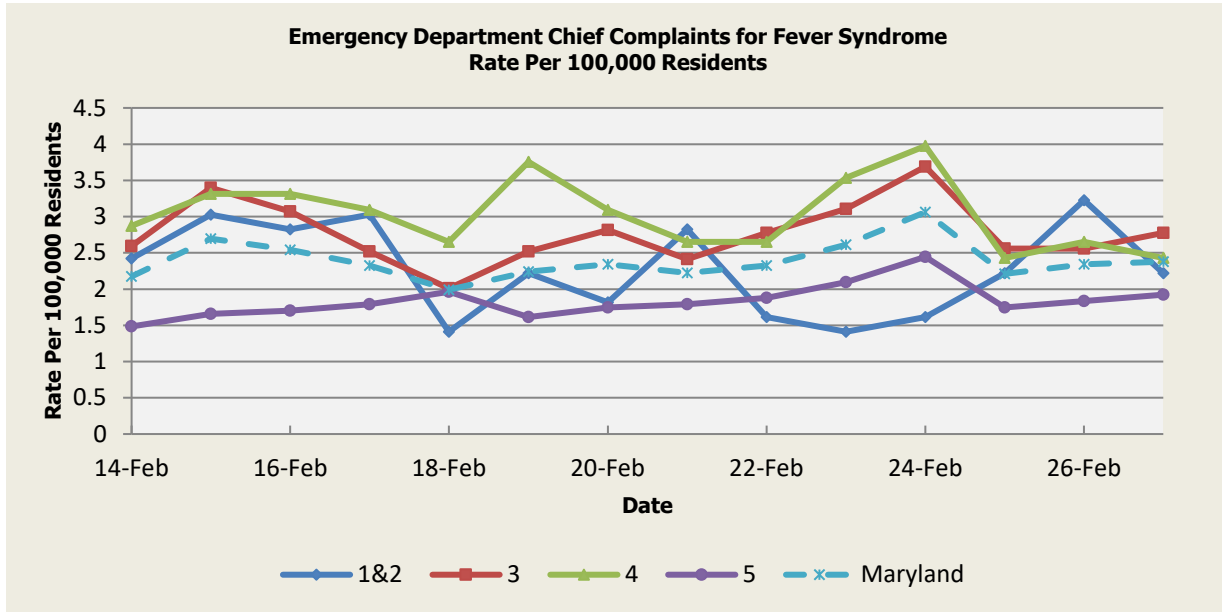
There were sixty six (66) Respiratory Syndrome outbreaks reported this week: Eight (8) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities (Regions 1&2,3,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Day Program (Region 4), eight (8) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Daycare Facilities (Regions 3,4,5), seven (7) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Group Homes (Regions 3,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Hospice (Region 4), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Institutes of Higher Education (Region 5), eight (8) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (Regions 1&2,3,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in an Outpatient Facility (Regions 1&2), ten (10) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Schools (Regions 1&2,3,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Shelter (Region 3), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Youth Sports Team (Region 5), four (4) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Substance Use Treatment Programs (Region 3), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Transitional Housing Facilities (Region 3) and five (5) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Workplaces (Regions 1&2,3,5).

Respiratory Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	12.45	14.70	15.22	9.94	12.73
Median Rate*	12.10	14.03	14.35	9.52	12.17

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Fever Syndrome



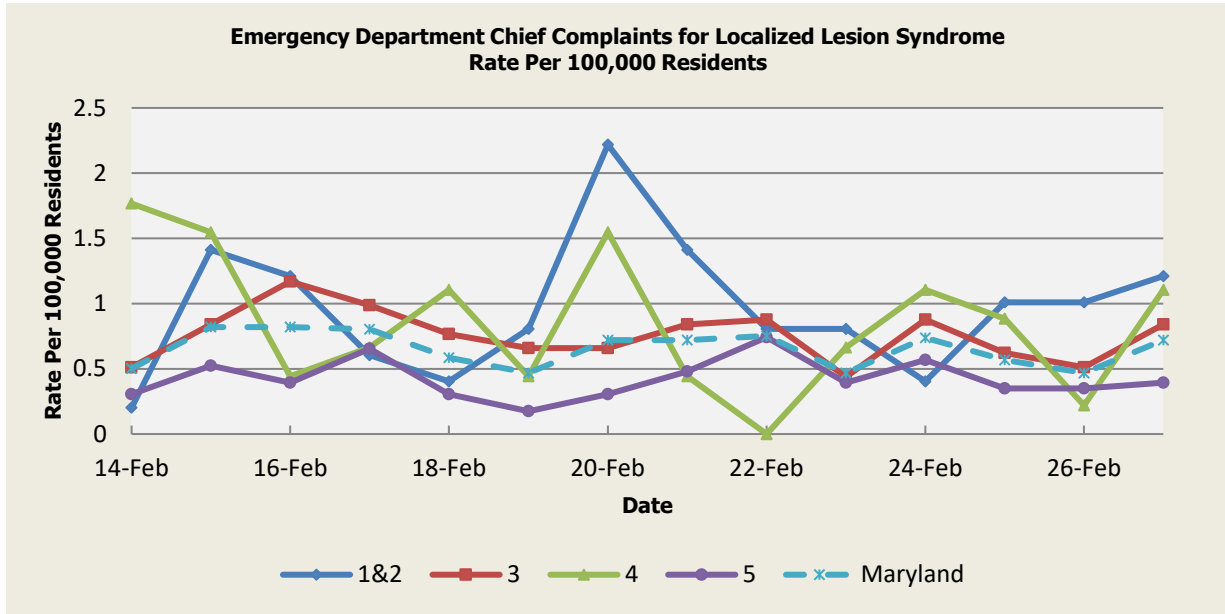
There were no Fever Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Fever Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.04	3.88	4.12	3.01	3.49
Median Rate*	2.82	3.73	3.97	2.88	3.36

*Per 100,000 Residents

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Localized Lesion Syndrome



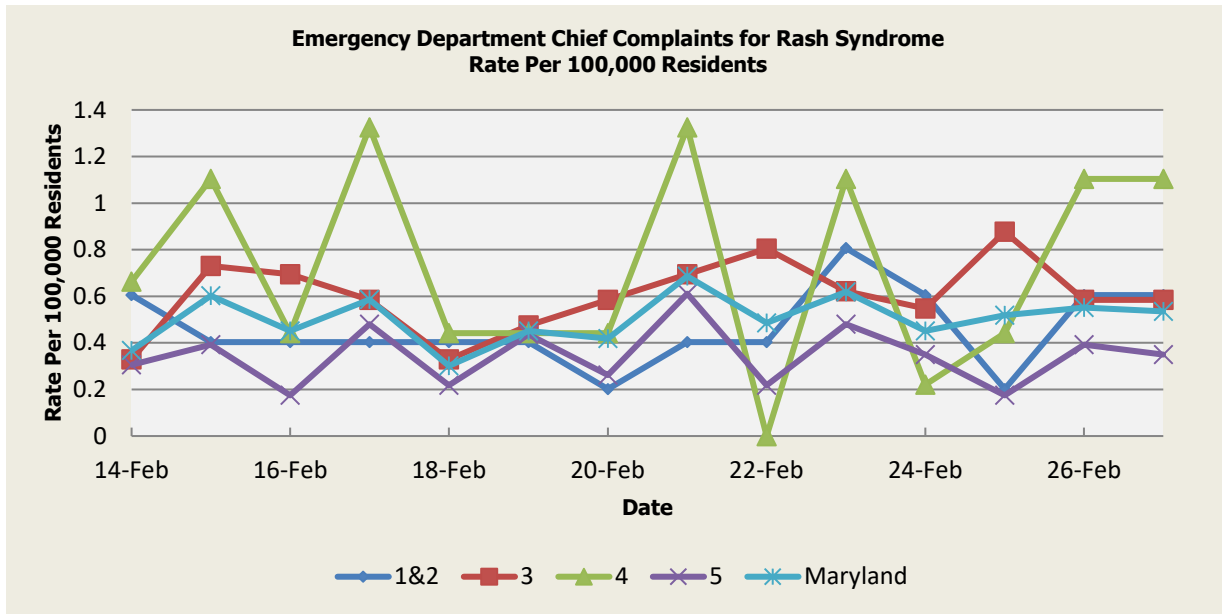
There were no Localized Lesion Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Localized Lesion Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.16	1.69	1.97	0.86	1.35
Median Rate*	1.01	1.64	1.99	0.83	1.31

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Rash Syndrome



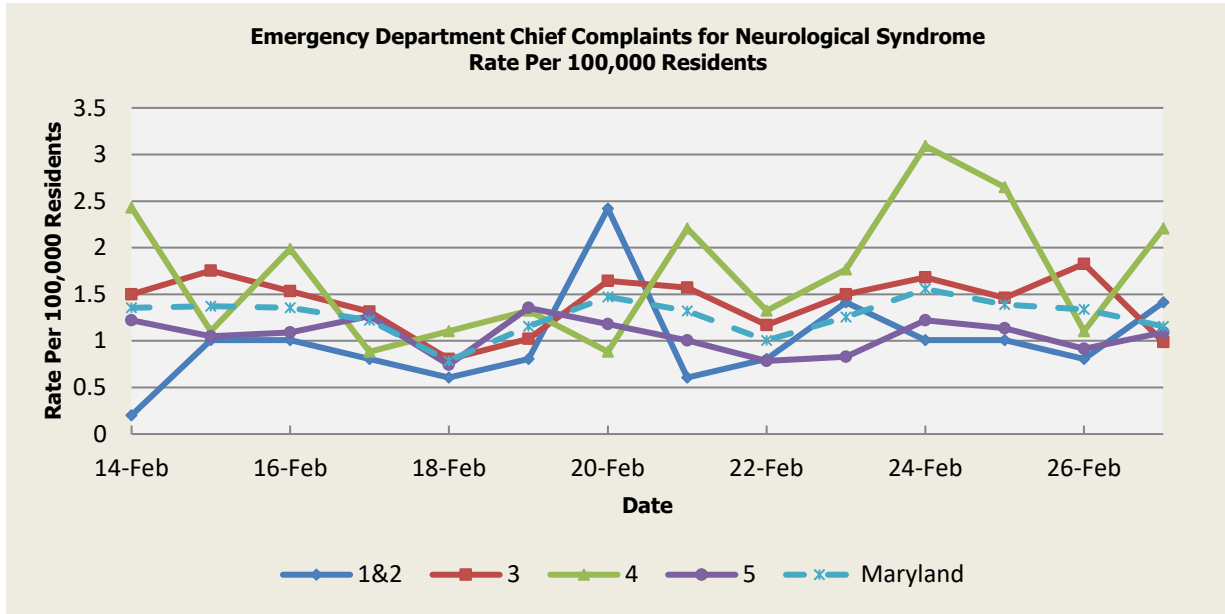
There were no Rash Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Rash Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.18	1.57	1.66	0.91	1.29
Median Rate*	1.21	1.53	1.55	0.87	1.27

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Neurological Syndrome



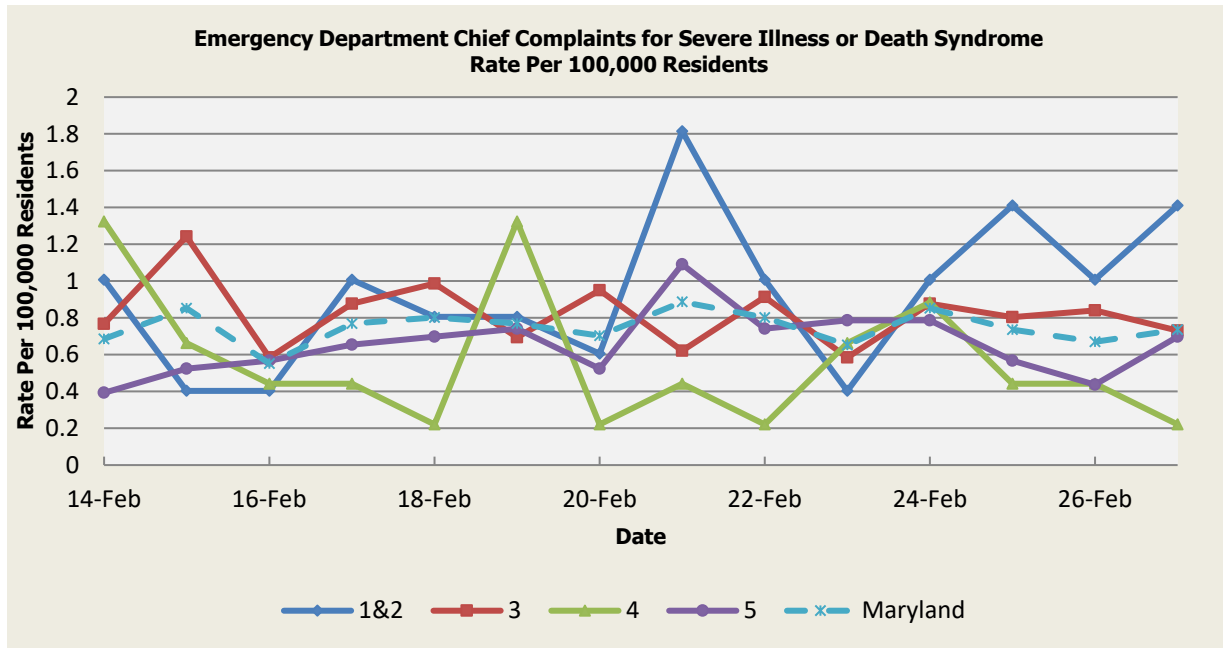
There were no Neurological Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Neurological Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.82	1.02	0.95	0.65	0.86
Median Rate*	0.81	0.99	0.88	0.61	0.84

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Severe Illness or Death Syndrome



There were no Severe Illness or Death Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

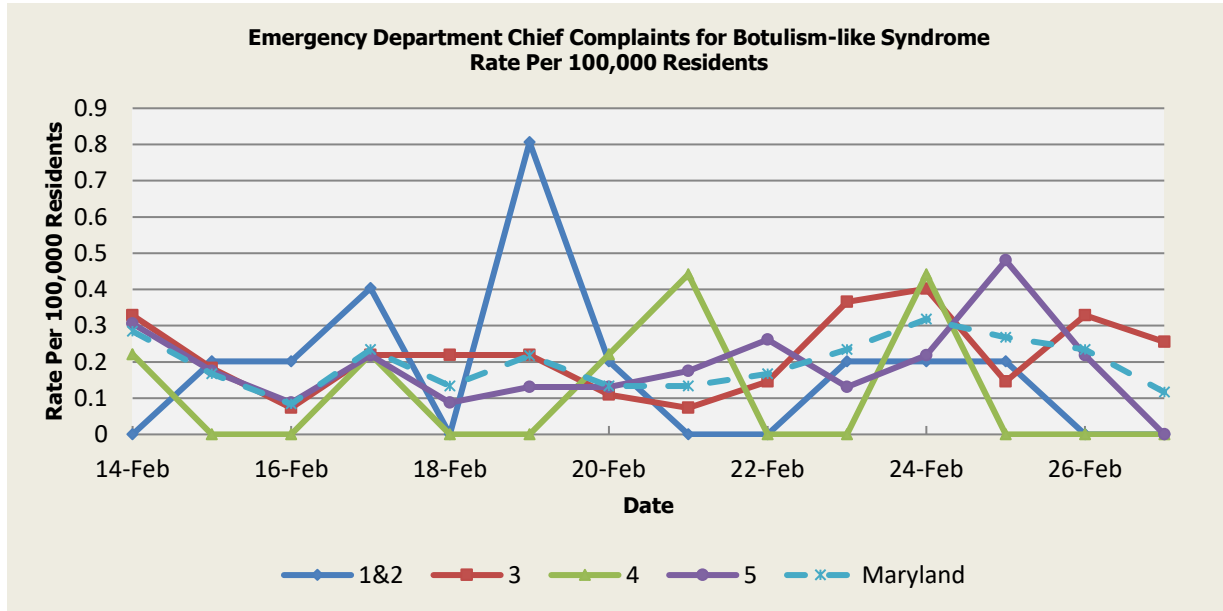
Severe Illness or Death Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.66	0.88	0.84	0.54	0.73
Median Rate*	0.60	0.84	0.88	0.52	0.70

* Per 100,000 Residents

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SYNDROMES RELATED TO CATEGORY A AGENTS

Botulism-like Syndrome



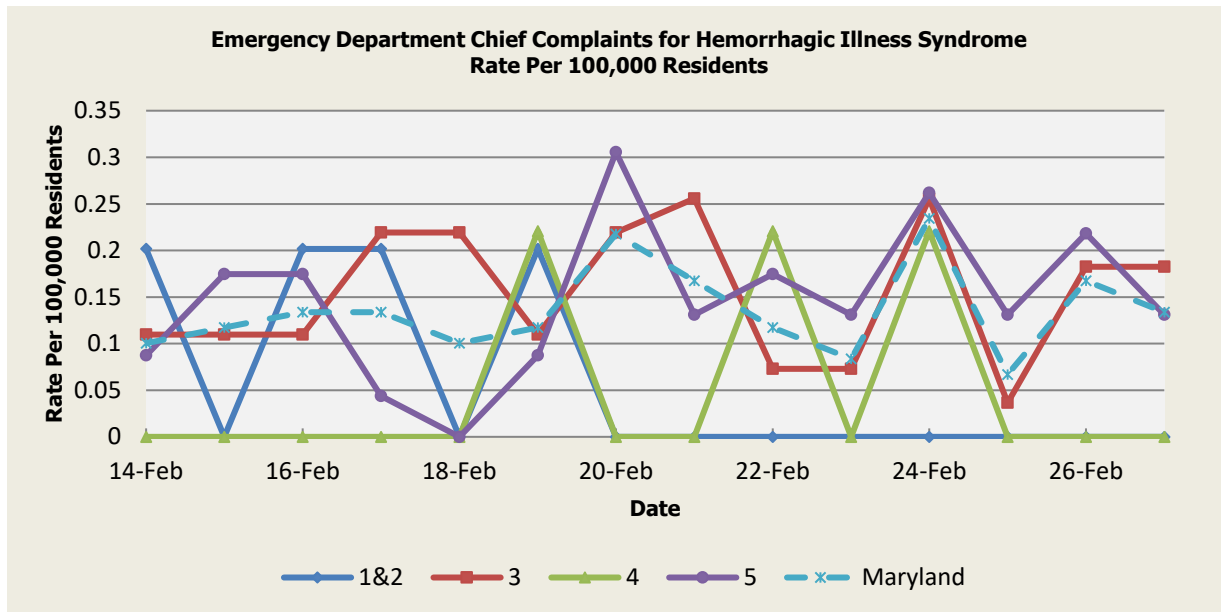
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Botulism-like Syndrome on 2/15 (Regions 1&2, 4), 2/25 (Regions 1&2). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

Botulism-like Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.08	0.13	0.07	0.09	0.11
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.10

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome



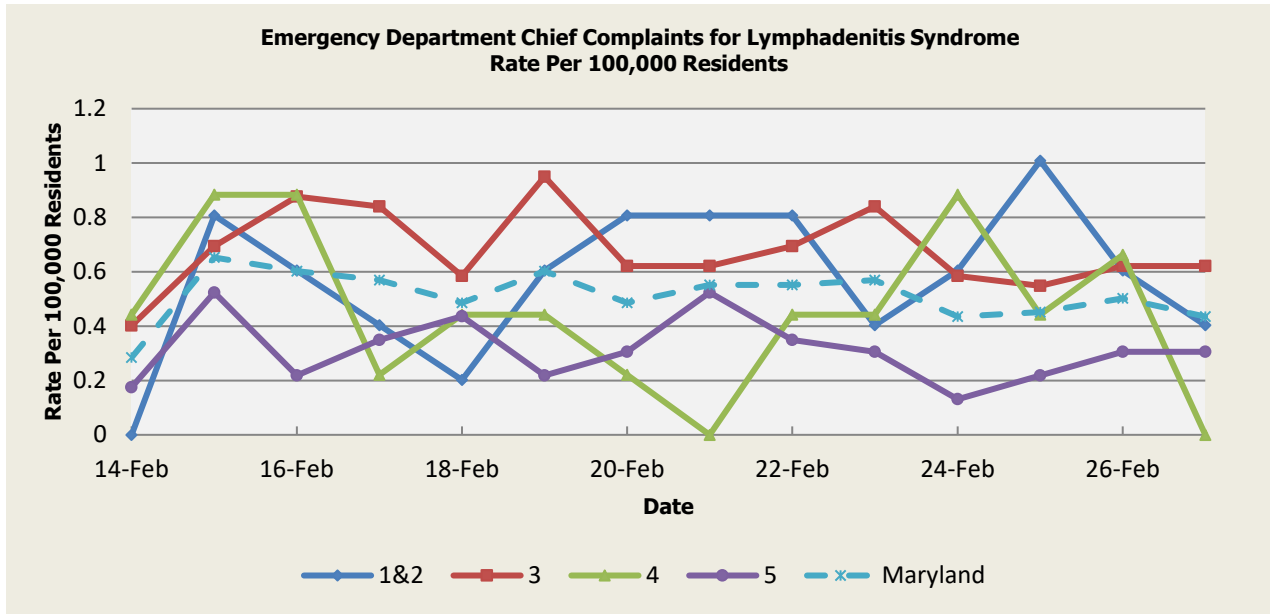
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome on 2/17 (Region 3), 2/19 (Regions 1&2,4). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.05	0.17	0.04	0.15	0.14
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.12

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Lymphadenitis Syndrome



There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Lymphadenitis Syndrome on 2/15 (Regions 1&2,4). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

Lymphadenitis Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.40	0.61	0.41	0.40	0.49
Median Rate*	0.40	0.55	0.44	0.35	0.47

* Per 100,000 Residents

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MARYLAND REPORTABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary

On March 5th, 2020, the Maryland Department of Health announced the first cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated COVID-19) in the State of Maryland.

Confirmed COVID-19 Case Counts in Maryland by County (As of March 5th 2021)

County	Number of Confirmed Cases
Allegany	6,416
Anne Arundel	36,149
Baltimore City	40,728
Baltimore County	51,492
Calvert	3,684
Caroline	2,056
Carroll	7,604
Cecil	5,046
Charles	9,033
Dorchester	2,358
Frederick	17,141
Garrett	1,844
Harford	12,635
Howard	15,934
Kent	1,133
Montgomery	63,796
Prince George's	73,994
Queen Anne's	2,593
Somerset	2,400
St. Mary's	5,164
Talbot	1,905
Washington	12,484
Wicomico	6,809
Worcester	3,280
Total	385,678

The most up-to-date information may be found on the Maryland Department of Health website at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov>.

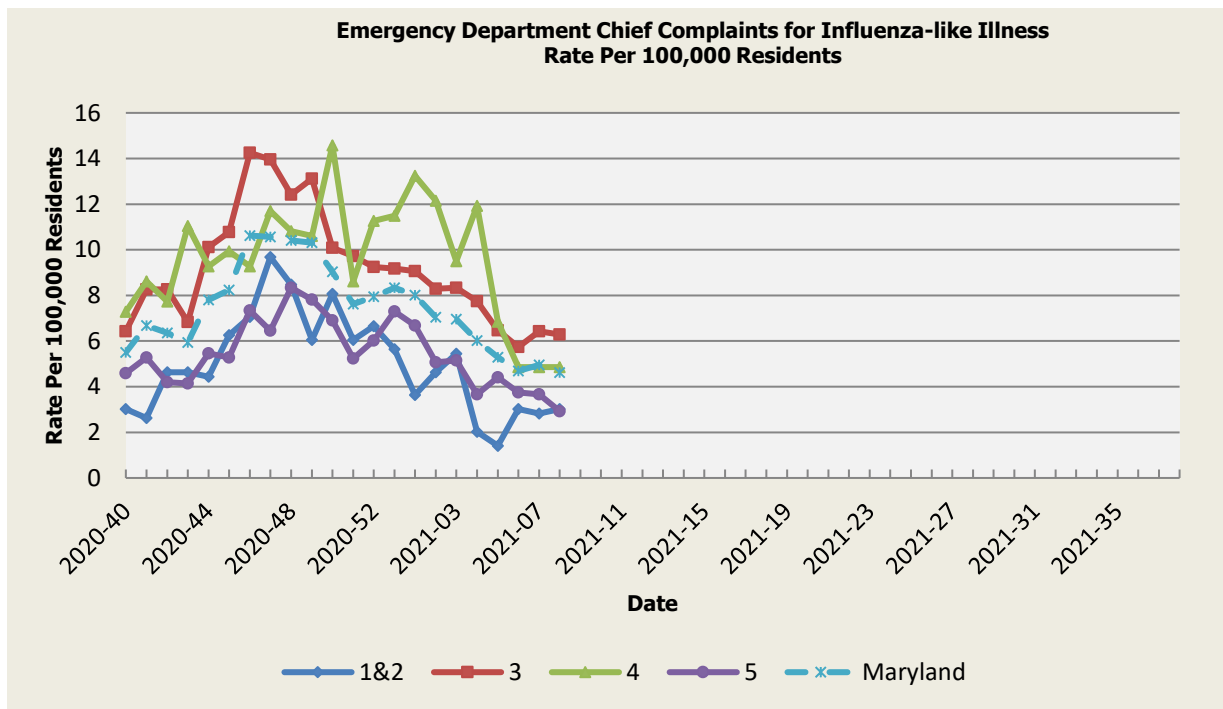
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SYNDROMIC INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Seasonal Influenza reporting occurs from MMWR Week 40 through MMWR Week 20 (October 2020 through May 2021). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, influenza reporting will be extended to the beginning of the 2021-2022 reporting season (MMWR Week 40/Week Ending October 9, 2021).

Seasonal Influenza activity for Week 08 was: Minimal

Influenza-like Illness

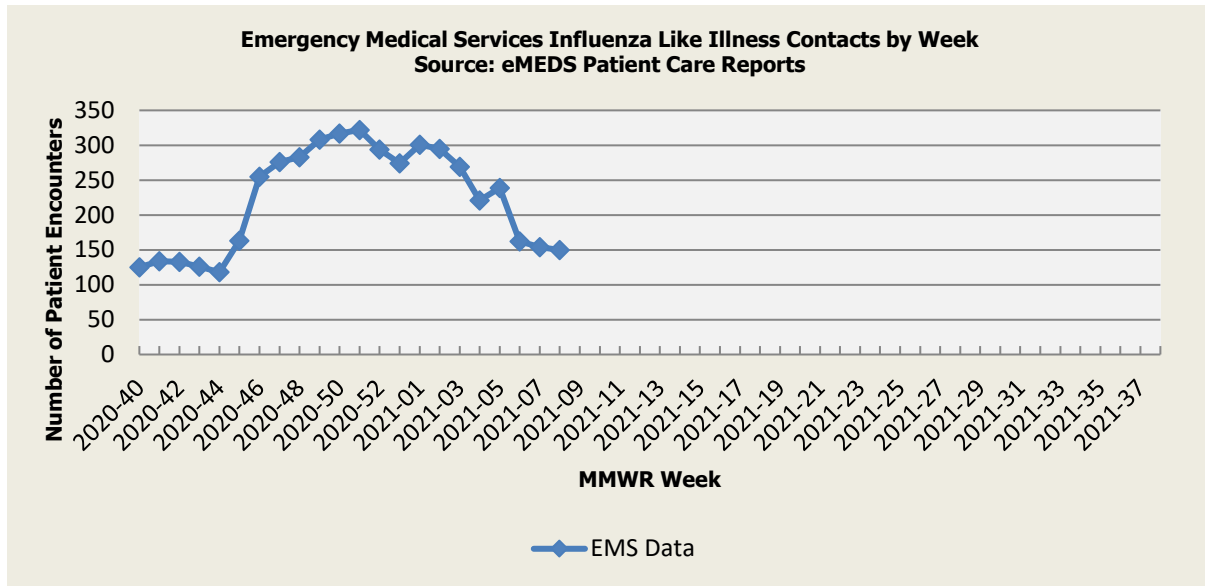


Influenza-like Illness Baseline Data Week 1 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	10.13	13.97	13.32	11.71	12.73
Median Rate*	7.46	10.21	9.50	8.58	9.36

* Per 100,000 Residents

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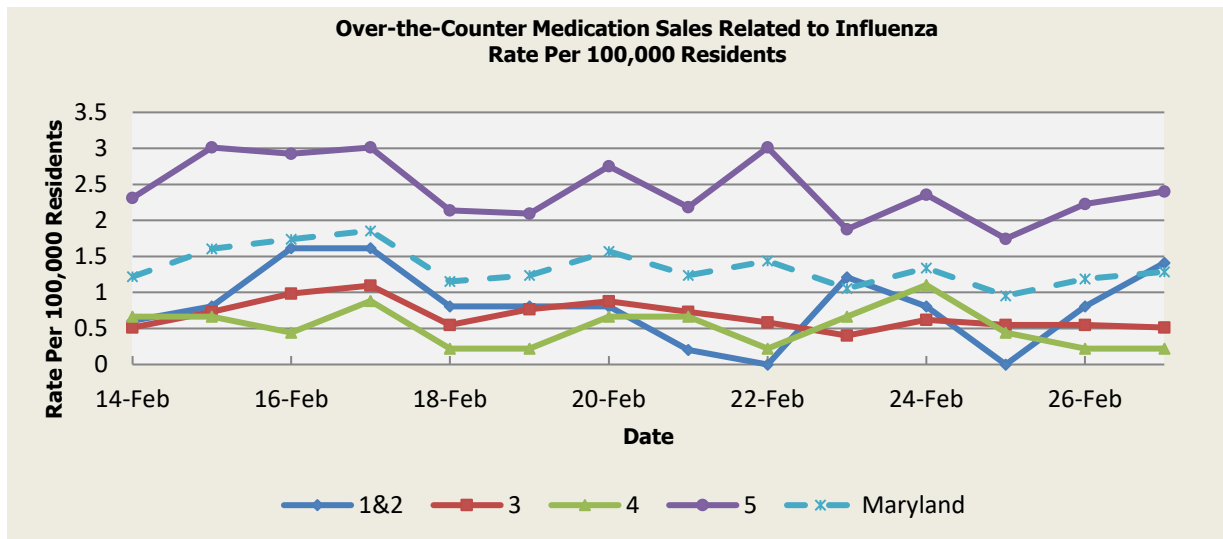
Influenza-like Illness Contacts by Week



Disclaimer on eMEDS flu related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected “flu like illness” as a primary or secondary impression of a patient’s illness. This impression is solely based on the signs and symptoms seen by the provider, not on any diagnostic tests. Since these numbers do not include all primary or secondary impressions that may be seen with influenza the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

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Over-the-Counter Influenza-Related Medication Sales



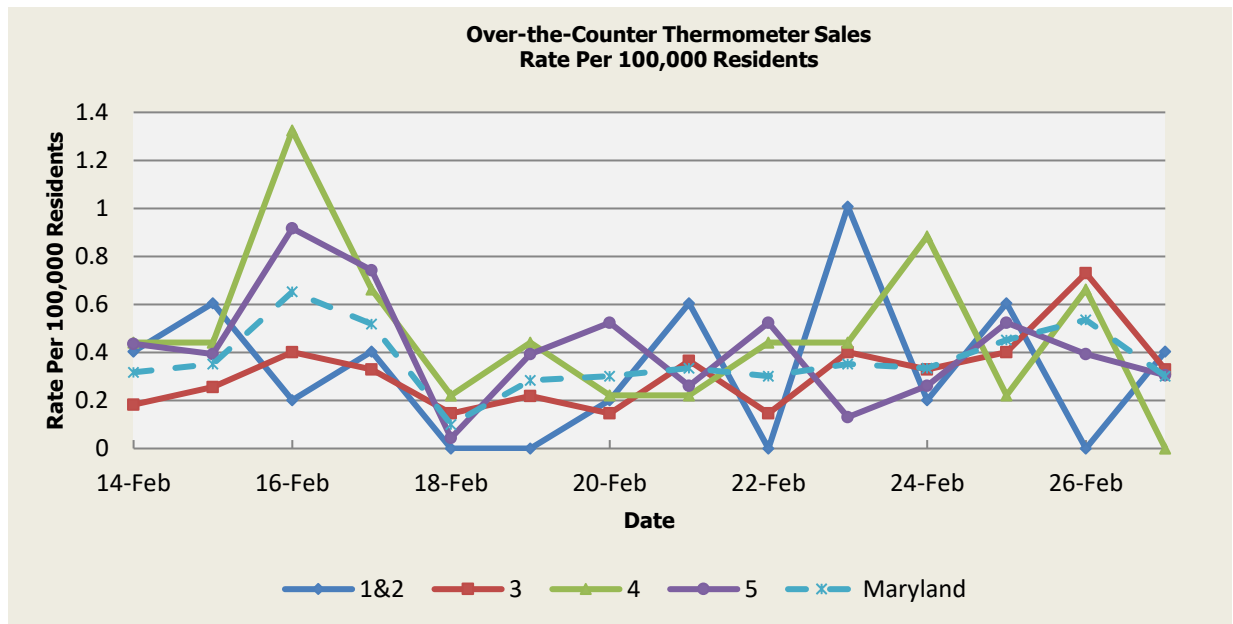
There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Medication Sales during this reporting period.

OTC Medication Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.21	4.09	2.51	7.40	5.17
Median Rate*	2.42	3.11	2.21	6.50	4.33

* Per 100,000 Residents

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Over-the-Counter Thermometer Sales



There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Thermometer Sales during this reporting period.

Thermometer Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	2.68	2.53	2.07	3.35	2.82
Median Rate*	2.42	2.48	1.99	3.36	2.85

* Per 100,000 Residents

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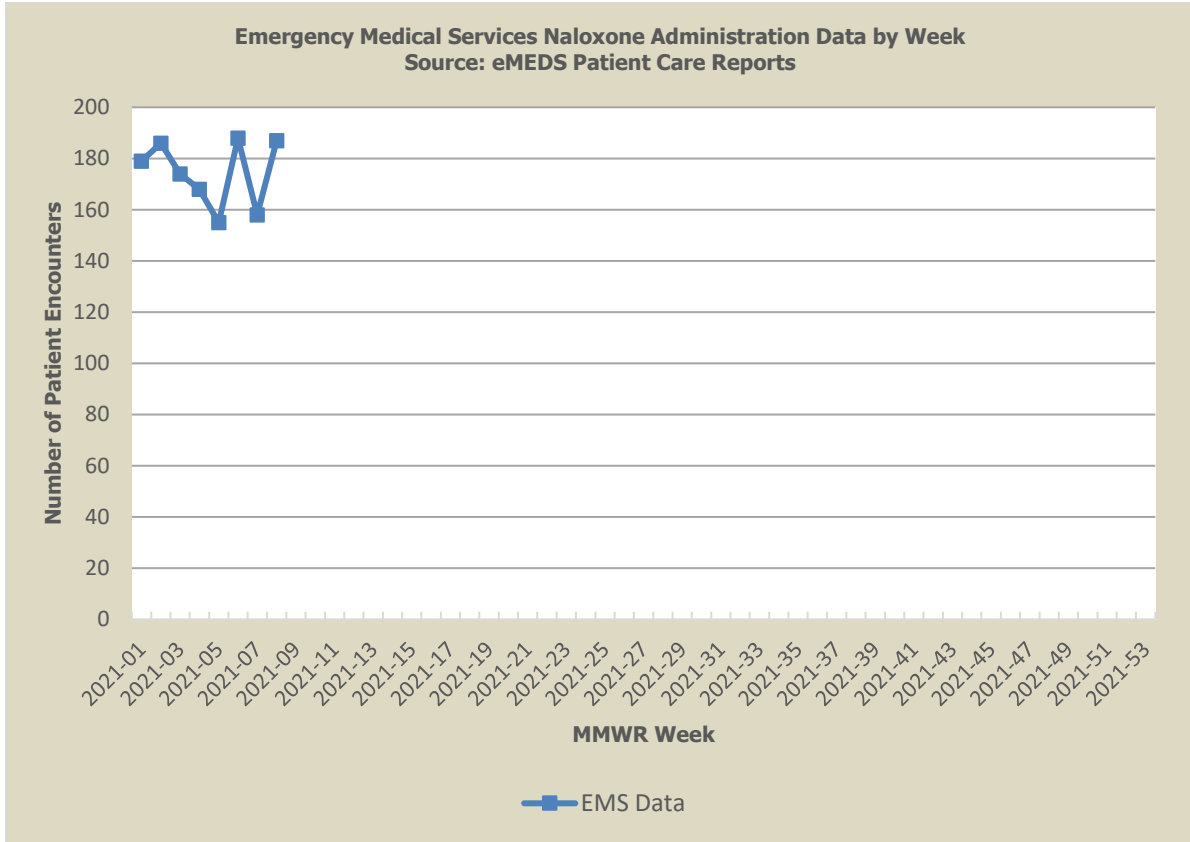
SYNDROMIC OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE

The purpose of this section is to characterize non-fatal ED visit trends for acute unintentional overdose by Heroin, Opioid or Unspecified substance among Maryland residents captured by ESSENCE data, including chief complaint and discharge diagnosis. ED visits that are identified as unintentional overdose by Heroin, Opioid or Unspecified substance include those with medical and non-medical use of a prescription Opioid or where the substance is not specified, given evidence that most fatal overdoses are Opioid-related.

In preparation for the release of new ESSENCE queries for identifying heroin, opioid and all drug overdoses, please note that we have removed the data chart showing unintentional overdose rates by heroin, opioid, or unspecified substances. These new data, when available, will be presented below.

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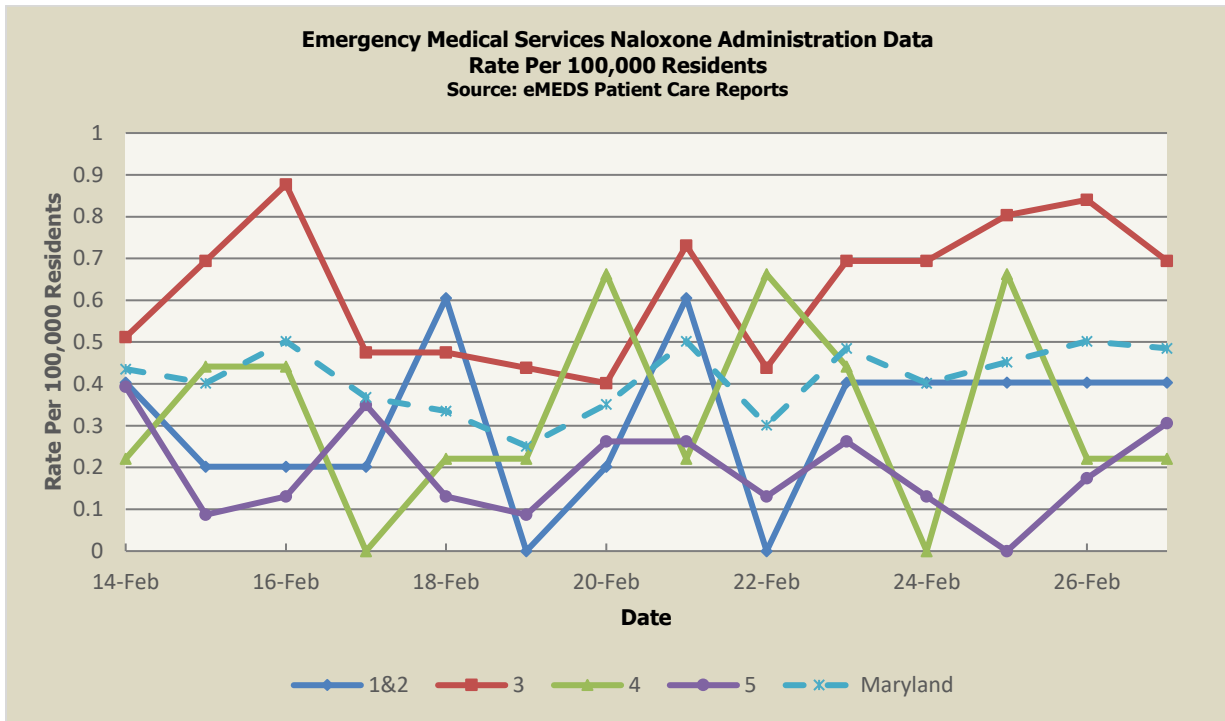
Naloxone Administration Data by Week



Disclaimer on eMEDS naloxone administration related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient’s signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

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Naloxone Administration Data



Disclaimer on eMEDS Naloxone administration related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE / AVIAN INFLUENZA-RELATED REPORTS

WHO update: The current WHO phase of pandemic alert for avian influenza is ALERT. Currently, the avian influenza H5N1 virus continues to circulate in poultry in some countries, especially in Asia and northeast Africa. This virus continues to cause sporadic human infections with some instances of limited human-to-human transmission among very close contacts. There has been no sustained human-to-human or community-level transmission identified thus far.

Influenza A (H7N9) is one of a subgroup of influenza viruses that normally circulate among birds. Until recently, this virus had not been seen in people. However, human infections have now been detected. Presently, there is limited information about the scope of the disease the virus causes and about the source of exposure. The disease is of concern because most patients have been severely ill. There is no indication thus far that it can be transmitted between people, but both animal-to-human and human-to-human routes of transmission are being actively investigated.

Alert phase: This is the phase when influenza caused by a new subtype has been identified in humans. Increased vigilance and careful risk assessment, at local, national, and global levels are characteristic of this phase. If the risk assessments indicate that the new virus is not developing into a pandemic strain, a de-escalation of activities towards those in the interpandemic phase may occur. As of March 5th, 2021, the WHO-confirmed global total (2003-2020) of human cases of H5N1 avian influenza virus infection stands at 862, of which 455 have been fatal. Thus, the case fatality rate for human H5N1 is approximately 53%.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA (UKRAINE), 3 March 2021, Information received on 2 Mar 2021 from Svitlana Shlapatska, focal point for animal disease notification, Ukraine. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8225607>

AVIAN INFLUENZA (SWEDEN, AFGHANISTAN), 26 February 2021, Information received on [and dated] 25 Feb 2021 from Dr Hakan Henrikson, chief veterinary officer, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Jonkoping, Sweden. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8215583>

HUMAN AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (RUSSIA), 28 February 2021, On 18 Feb 2021, the National IHR Focal Point for the Russian Federation notified WHO of detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in 7 human clinical specimens. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8217634>

NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (USA), 3 March 2021, Over the weekend [27-28 Feb 2021] both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) gave the green light to Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine, making it the 1st one-dose option available to Americans. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8224463>

EBOLA UPDATE (UNITED STATES, GUINEA, SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA), 28 February 2021, The U.S. will soon be monitoring travelers coming into the country from 2 nations impacted by the Ebola virus, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced Fri 26 Feb 2021. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8219231>

INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

LEPTOSPIROSIS (AUSTRALIA), 8 March 2021, The best wet season in a decade has also seen a spike in cases of the rare disease leptospirosis among cattle workers in the Top End. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8222012>

EBOLA UPDATE (GUINEA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO), 3 March 2021, Provincial health officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) said yesterday [1 Mar 2021] that 3 more Ebola cases have been confirmed in North Kivu, raising the outbreak total to 11, according to a report from Reuters. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8224627>

DIROFILARIA REPENS (UKRAINE), 3 March 2021, Officials in the southeastern Ukraine city of Melitopol are reporting the 1st human case of dirofilariasis this past January [2021]. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8219052>

LEISHMANIASIS, CUTANEOUS (PAKISTAN), 28 February 2021, Dozens of people have been infected by leishmania in Saida Shah area of Charmang tehsil in Bajaur tribal district. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8218991>

MEASLES UPDATE (CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM, PAKISTAN), 28 February 2021, There hasn't been a measles outbreak in Canada recently, and the country has gone more than a year without a single case of the disease. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8218188>

LASSA FEVER (NIGERIA), 27 February 2021, In week 7, the number of new confirmed cases increased from 17 in week 6, 2021, to 19 cases. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8216492>

MYCOBACTERIUM ABSCESSUS (ENGLAND), 26 February 2021, I am treating in Manchester (UK) a patient that developed *Mycobacterium abscessus* disseminated skin disease following cosmetic surgery at a hospital in Iraq. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8216182>

SALMONELLOSIS, SEROTYPE ENTERITIDIS (EUROPE), 26 February 2021, Nearly 200 people in 8 European countries and the United Kingdom are involved in a *Salmonella* outbreak ongoing since May 2018. *Salmonella* [enterica_ serotype] Enteritidis infections have been linked to frozen breaded chicken products from Poland with the most recent illness in the UK in December 2020. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8216181>

E. COLI EHEC (AUSTRIA), 26 February 2021, Austrian authorities are investigating an outbreak of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* [also called enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC)] infections that has affected a handful of people. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8216180>

ANTHRAX (BURKINA FASO), 26 February 2021, Burkina Faso's government has announced to mobilize 4000 doses of anthrax vaccines for free immunization to curb the spread of the disease in the country. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8213870>

OTHER RESOURCES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

More information concerning Public Health and Emergency Preparedness can be found at the Office of Preparedness and Response website: <http://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/> or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MarylandOPR.

More data and information on influenza can be found on the MDH website: <http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/Pages/Home.aspx>

Please participate in the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System (MRITS): <http://flusurvey.health.maryland.gov>

NOTE: This weekly review is a compilation of data from various surveillance systems, interpreted with a focus on a potential BT event. It is not meant to be inclusive of all epidemiology data available, nor is it meant to imply that every activity reported is a definitive BT event. International reports of outbreaks due to organisms on the CDC Critical Biological Agent list will also be reported. While not "secure", please handle this information in a professional manner. Please feel free to distribute within your organization, as you feel appropriate, to other professional staff involved in emergency preparedness and infection control.

For questions about the content of this review or if you have received this and do not wish to receive these weekly notices, please e-mail us. If you have information that is pertinent to this notification process, please send it to us to be included in the routine report.

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Appendix 1: ESSENCE Syndrome Definitions and Associated Category A Conditions

Syndrome	ESSENCE Definition	Category A Conditions
Botulism-like	(Botulism or (DifficultyFocusing and DifficultySpeaking) or (DifficultySpeaking and DifficultySwallowing) or (DifficultySwallowing and DifficultyFocusing) or DoubleVision or FacialParalysis or GuillainBarre or Ptosis) and not GeneralExclusions	Botulism
Fever	(Chills or (FeverPlus and (Drowsiness or Seizure)) or FeverOnly or SepsisGroup or ViralSyndrome) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Gastrointestinal	(AbdominalCramps or AbdominalPainGroup or Diarrhea or FoodPoisoning or Gastroenteritis or GIBleeding or Peritonitis or Vomiting) and not (GeneralExclusions or Gynecological or Obstetric or Reproductive or UrinaryTract)	Anthrax (gastrointestinal)
Hemorrhagic Illness	(FeverOrChills and (AcuteBloodAbnormalitiesGroup or BleedingFromMouth or BleedingGums or GIBleeding or Hematemesis or Hemoptysis or Nosebleed or Petechiae or Purpura)) and not GeneralExclusions	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
Localized Lesion	(Boils or Bump or Carbuncle or DepressedUlcer or Eschar or Furuncle or InsectBite or SkinAbscess or (SkinSores and not AllOverBody) or SkinUlcer or SpiderBite) and not (GeneralExclusions or Decubitus or Diabetes or StasisUlcer)	Anthrax (cutaneous) Tularemia
Lymphadenitis	(BloodPoisoning or Bubo or CatScratchDisease or SwollenGlands) and not GeneralExclusions	Plague (bubonic)
Neurological	((([Age<75] and AlteredMentalStatus) or (FeverPlus and (Confusion or Drowsiness or Petechiae or StiffNeck)) or Delirium or Encephalitis or Meningitis or UnconsciousGroup) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Rash	(ChickenPox or Measles or RashGeneral or Roseola or (Rubella and not Pregnancy) or Shingles or (SkinSores and AllOverBody) or Smallpox) and not GeneralExclusions	Smallpox
Respiratory	(Anthrax or Bronchitis or (ChestPain and [Age<50]) or Cough or Croup or DifficultyBreathing or Hemothorax or Hypoxia or Influenza or Legionnaires or LowerRespiratoryInfection or Pleurisy or Pneumonia or RespiratoryDistress or RespiratoryFailure or RespiratorySyncytialVirus or RibPain or ShortnessOfBreath or Wheezing) and not (GeneralExclusions or Cardiac or (ChestPain and Musculoskeletal) or Hyperventilation or Pneumothorax)	Anthrax (inhalational) Tularemia Plague (pneumonic)
Severe Illness or Death	CardiacArrest or CodeGroup or DeathGroup or (Hypotension and FeverPlus) or RespiratoryArrest or SepsisGroup or Shock	N/A

Appendix 2: Maryland Health and Medical Region Definitions

Health and Medical Region	Counties Reporting to ESSENCE
Regions 1 & 2	Allegany County Frederick County Garrett County Washington County
Region 3	Anne Arundel County Baltimore City Baltimore County Carroll County Harford County Howard County
Region 4	Caroline County Cecil County Dorchester County Kent County Queen Anne's County Somerset County Talbot County Wicomico County Worcester County
Region 5	Calvert County Charles County Montgomery County Prince George's County St. Mary's County

