



MARYLAND
Department of Health

Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness Report: #2021:37

Reporting for the week ending 09/18/21 (MMWR Week #37)

September 24, 2021

CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS

National: No Active Alerts

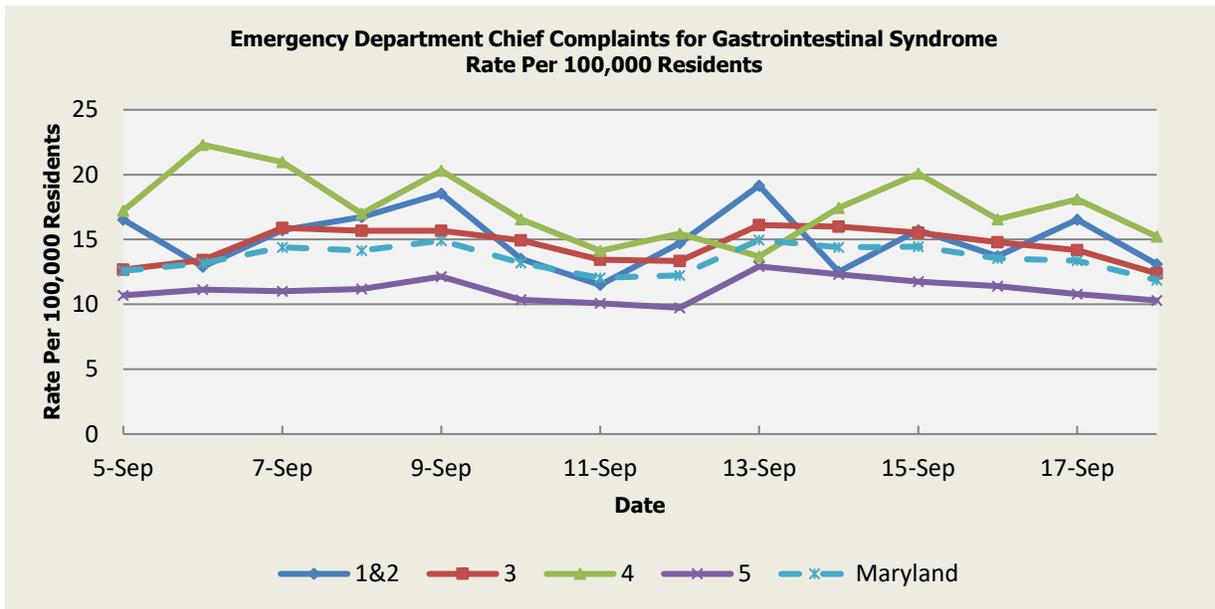
Maryland: **ENHANCED (MEMA status)**

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.

(report continues on next page)

Gastrointestinal Syndrome



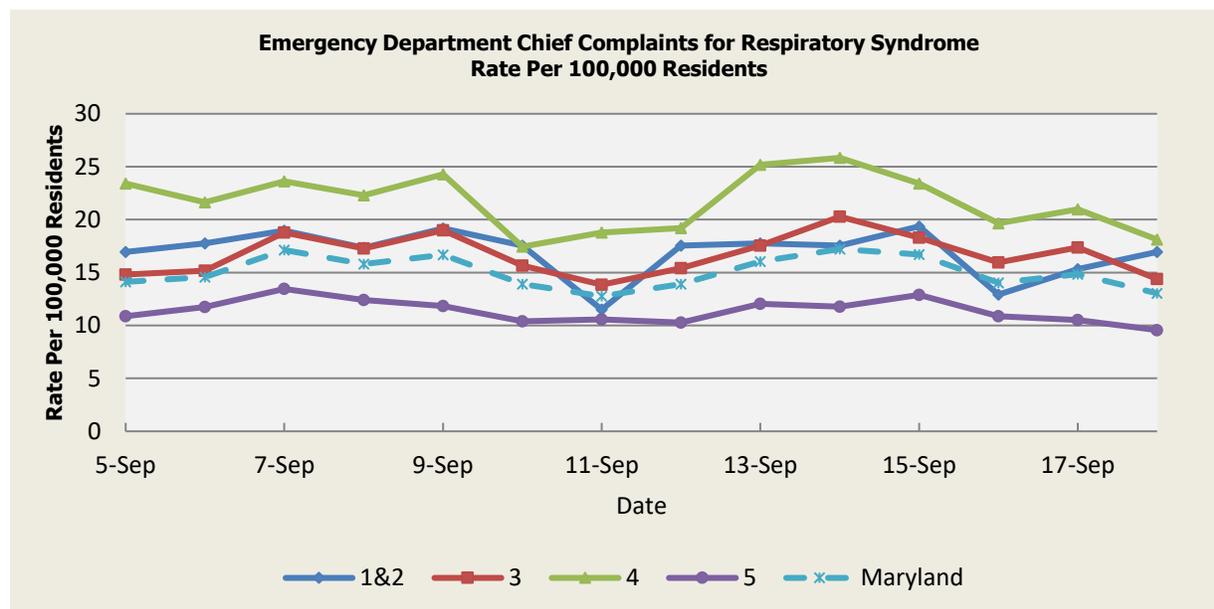
There were two (2) Gastrointestinal Syndrome outbreaks reported this week: two (2) outbreaks of Gastroenteritis in Daycare Facilities (Regions 3,5).

Gastrointestinal Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	13.15	14.71	15.88	10.07	12.89
Median Rate*	13.11	14.58	15.46	10.00	12.85

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Respiratory Syndrome



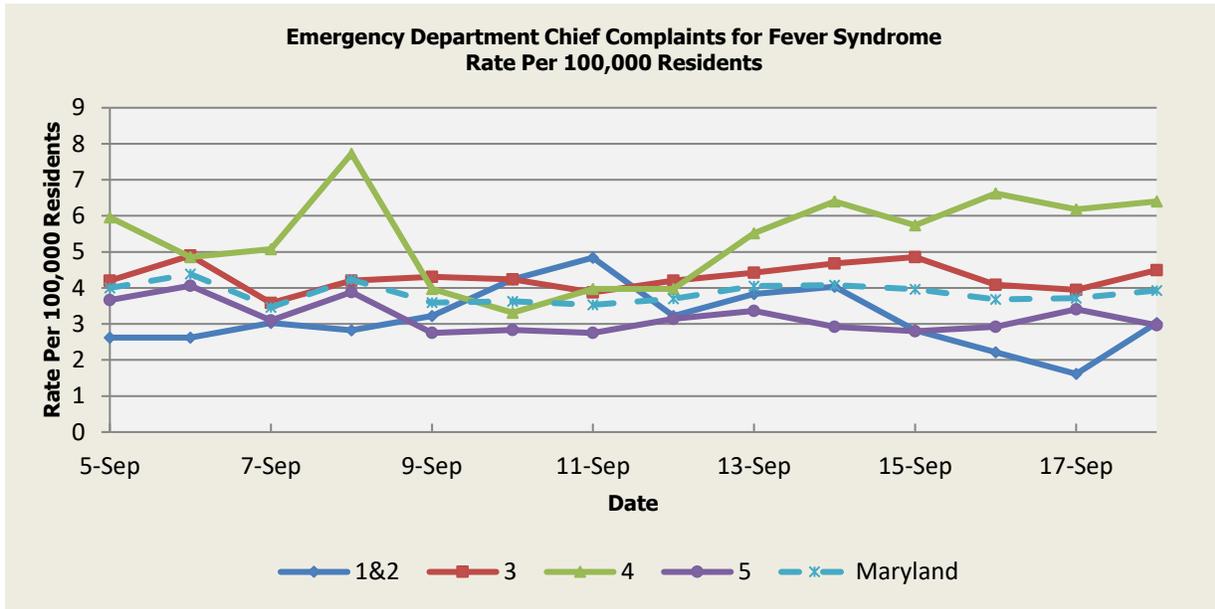
There were one hundred and seventy two (172) Respiratory Syndrome outbreaks reported this week: Sixty nine (69) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Schools (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), nineteen (19) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Group Homes (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), fifteen (15) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities (Regions 3,4,5), fourteen (14) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (Regions 3,5), eleven (11) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Daycare Facilities (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), nine (9) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Hospitals (Regions 1&2,3,4), four (4) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities (Regions 3,5), four (4) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Adult Day Programs (Regions 3,5), three (3) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Workplaces (Regions 3,5), three (3) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Substance Use Treatment Programs (Region 3), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Youth Sports Teams (Region 4), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Shelters (Region 5), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Adult Medical Daycare Centers (Region 3), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in an Institute of Higher Education (Region 5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a School Bus (Region 1&2), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in an Outpatient Facility (Regions 1&2), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in Another Type of Facility (Regions 1&2) and eight (8) outbreaks of RSV in Daycare Facilities (Regions 3,4,5).

Respiratory Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	12.45	14.66	15.26	9.88	12.69
Median Rate*	12.10	13.99	14.57	9.47	12.15

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Fever Syndrome



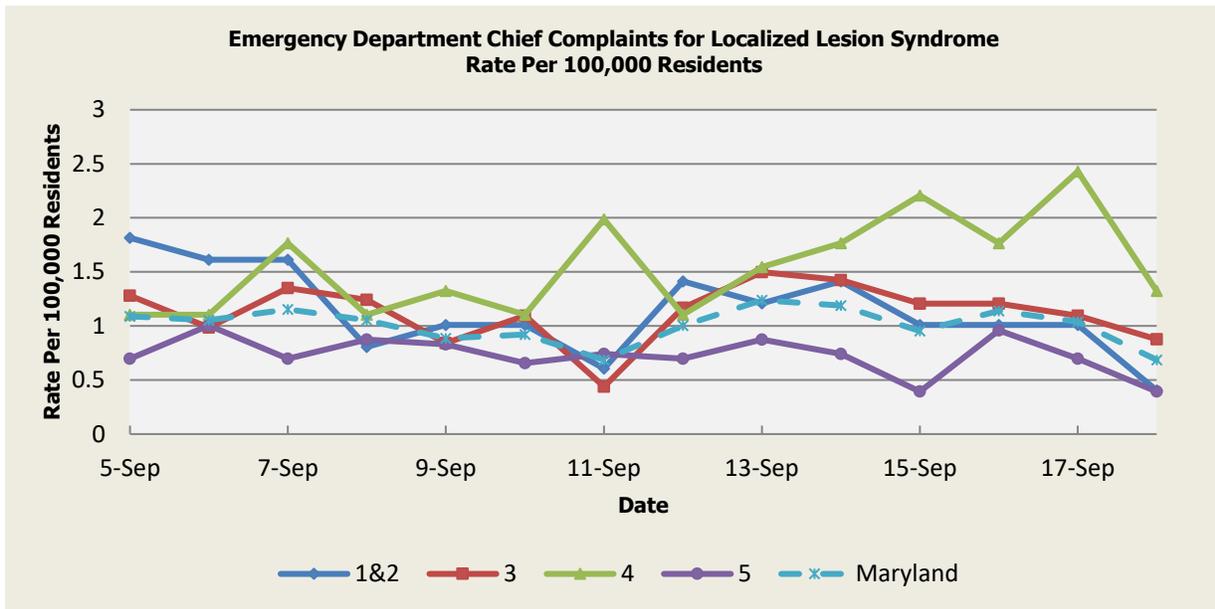
There were no Fever Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Fever Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.04	3.87	4.11	2.98	3.48
Median Rate*	2.82	3.73	3.97	2.88	3.35

**Per 100,000 Residents*

(report continues on next page)

Localized Lesion Syndrome



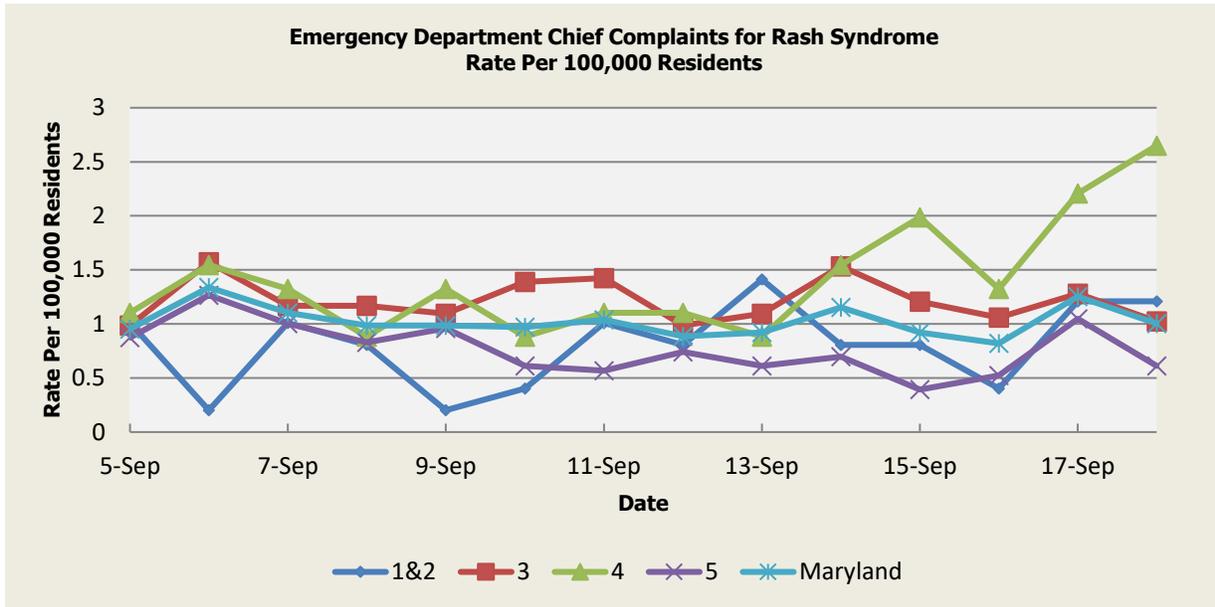
There were no Localized Lesion Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Localized Lesion Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.17	1.66	1.95	0.85	1.33
Median Rate*	1.01	1.61	1.77	0.83	1.29

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Rash Syndrome



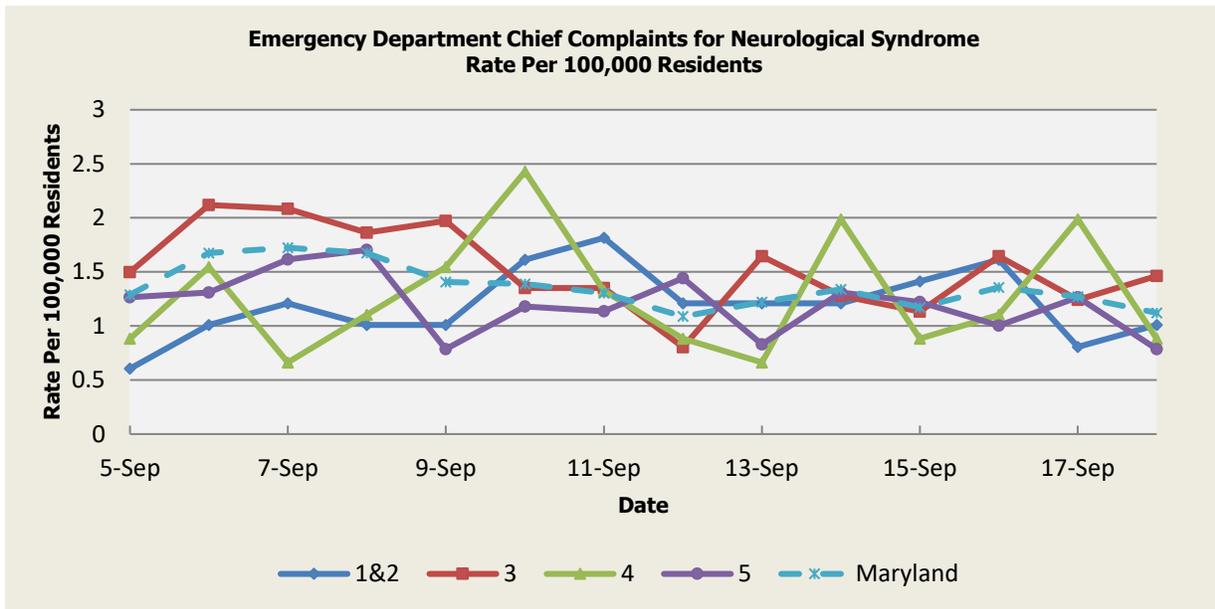
There was one (1) Rash illness outbreak reported this week: three (3) outbreaks of Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease in Daycare Facilities (Regions 1&2).

Rash Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.16	1.54	1.64	0.90	1.27
Median Rate*	1.01	1.50	1.55	0.87	1.25

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Neurological Syndrome



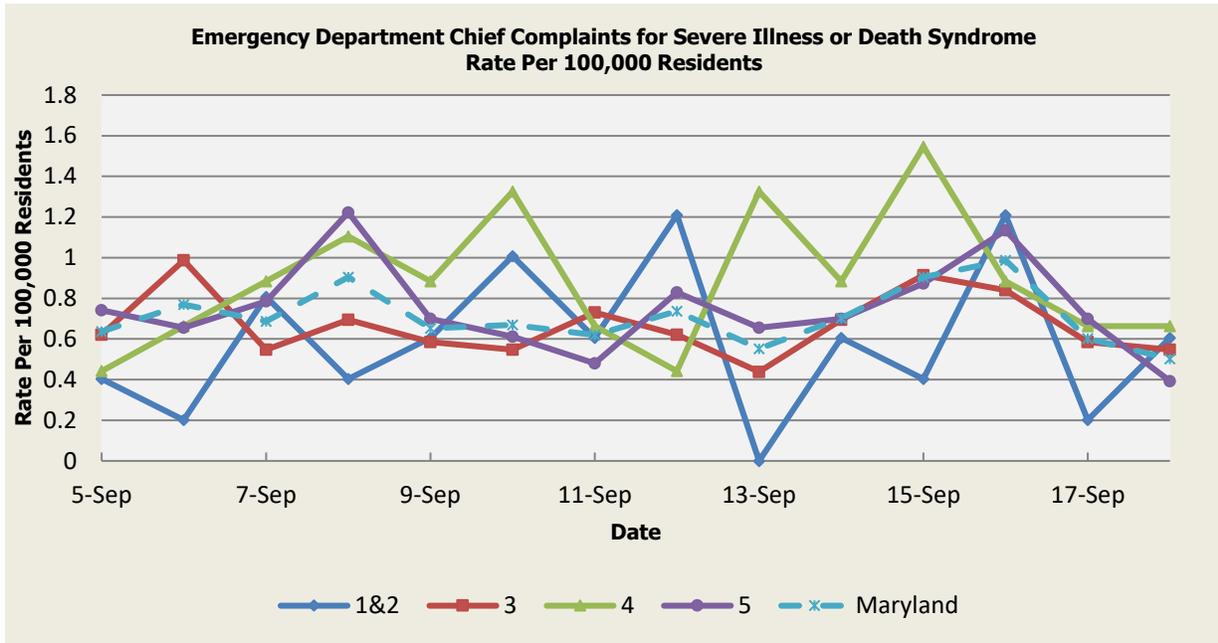
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Neurological Syndrome on 9/6 (Region 3), 9/7 (Regions 3,5), 9/8 (Region 5), 9/10 (Region 4), 9/11 (Regions 1&2), 9/12 (Region 5), 9/14 (Region 4), 9/17 (Region 4). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

Neurological Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.84	1.04	0.97	0.67	0.88
Median Rate*	0.81	0.99	0.88	0.61	0.85

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Severe Illness or Death Syndrome



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

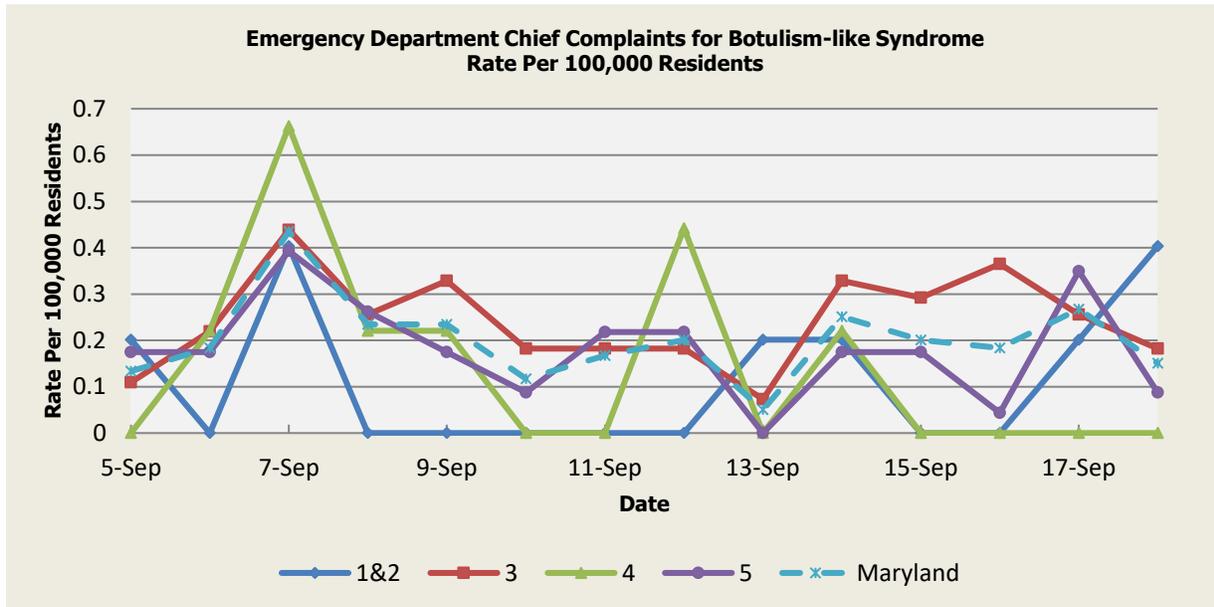
Severe Illness or Death Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.66	0.87	0.85	0.55	0.73
Median Rate*	0.60	0.84	0.88	0.52	0.70

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

SYNDROMES RELATED TO CATEGORY A AGENTS

Botulism-like Syndrome



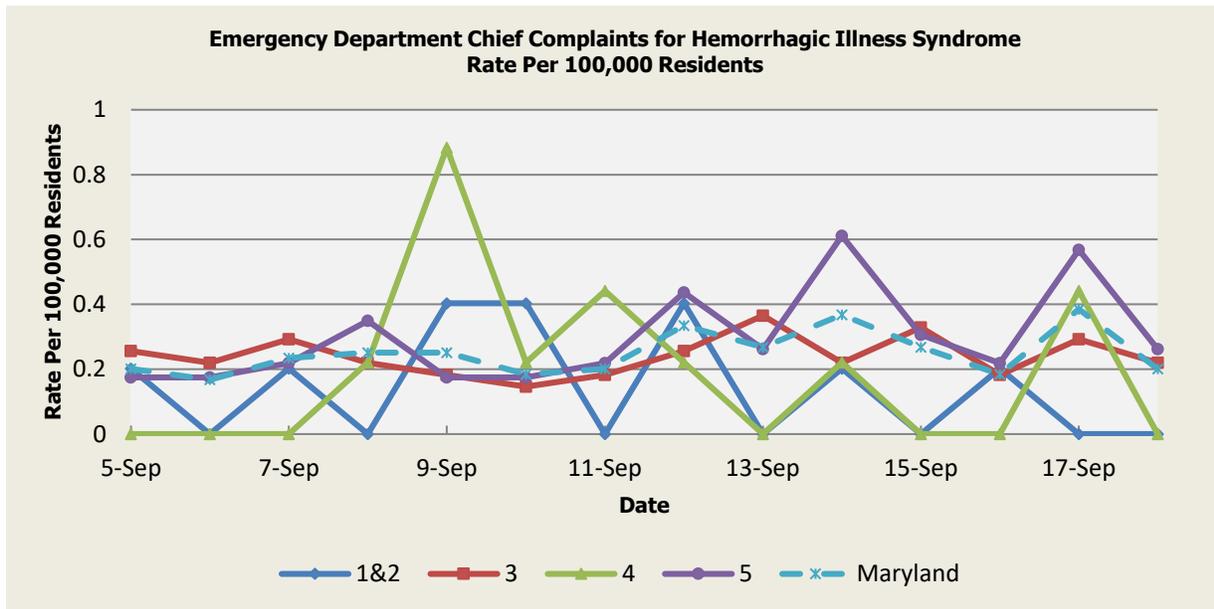
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Botulism-like Syndrome on 9/5 (Regions 1&2), 9/6 (Region 4), 9/7 (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), 9/8 (Regions 4,5), 9/9 (Regions 3,4), 9/11 (Region 5), 9/12 (Regions 4,5), 9/13 (Regions 1&2), 9/14 (Regions 1&2,3,4), 9/15 (Region 3), 9/16 (Region 3), 9/17 (Regions 1&2,5), 9/18 (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	0.14	0.07	0.10	0.11
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.10

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome



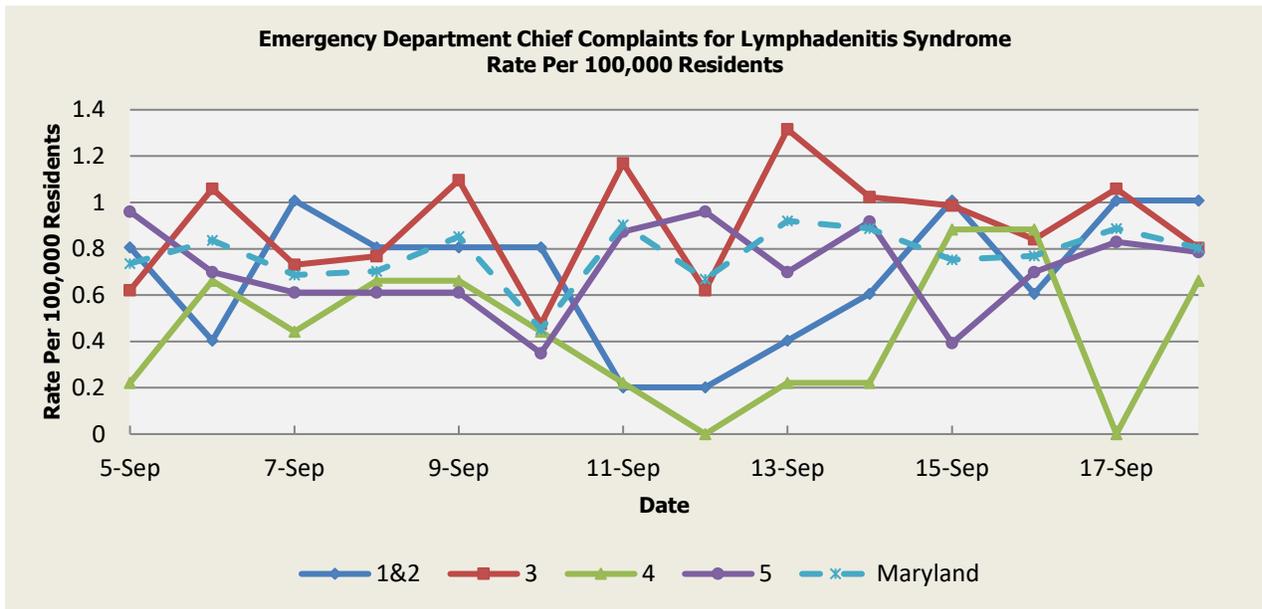
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome on 9/5 (Regions 1&2), 9/7 (Regions 1&2), 9/8 (Regions 4,5), 9/9 (Regions 1&2,4), 9/10 (Regions 1&2,4), 9/11 (Region 4), 9/12 (Regions 1&2,4,5), 9/13 (Region 3), 9/14 (Regions 1&2,4,5), 9/15 (Regions 3,5), 9/16 (Regions 1&2), 9/17 (Regions 4,5). 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	0.15	0.00	0.09	0.12

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Lymphadenitis Syndrome



There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Lymphadenitis Syndrome on 9/5 (Region 5), 9/7 (Regions 1&2), 9/11 (Region 5), 9/12 (Region 5), 9/13 (Region 3), 9/14 (Region 5), 9/15 (Regions 1&2,4), 9/16 (Region 4), 9/17 (Regions 1&2,5), 9/18 (Region 5). 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*	0.41	0.62	0.41	0.41	0.50
Median Rate*	0.40	0.58	0.44	0.35	0.49

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

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 (d COVID-19) in the State of Maryland.

Confirmed COVID-19 Case Counts in Maryland by County (As of September 24th, 2021)

County	Number of Confirmed Cases
Allegany	8,734
Anne Arundel	49,843
Baltimore City	72,781
Baltimore County	58,311
Calvert	5,064
Caroline	2,807
Carroll	10,856
Cecil	7,740
Charles	13,522
Dorchester	3,710
Frederick	22,737
Garrett	2,595
Harford	19,080
Howard	21,634
Kent	1,539
Montgomery	79,097
Prince George's	95,797
Queen Anne's	3,512
St. Mary's	8,268
Somerset	3,066
Talbot	2,537
Washington	17,367
Wicomico	9,961
Worcester	4,565
Total	525,123

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

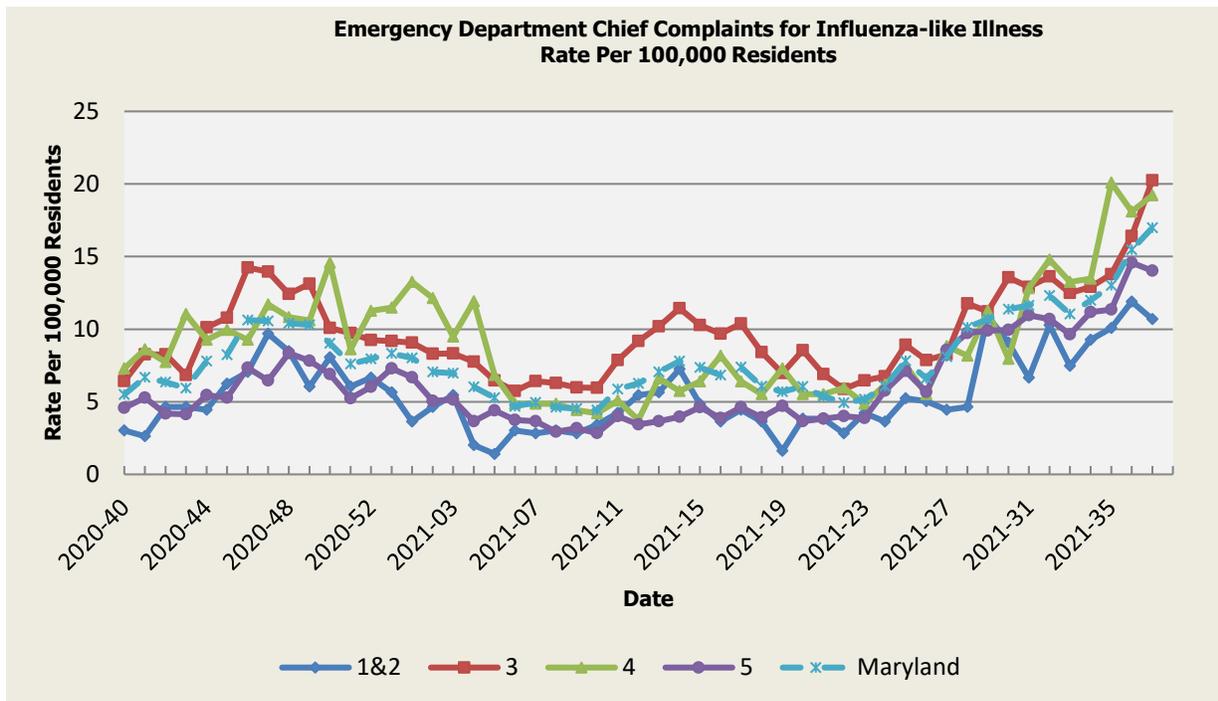
(report continues on next page)

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 37:

Influenza-like Illness

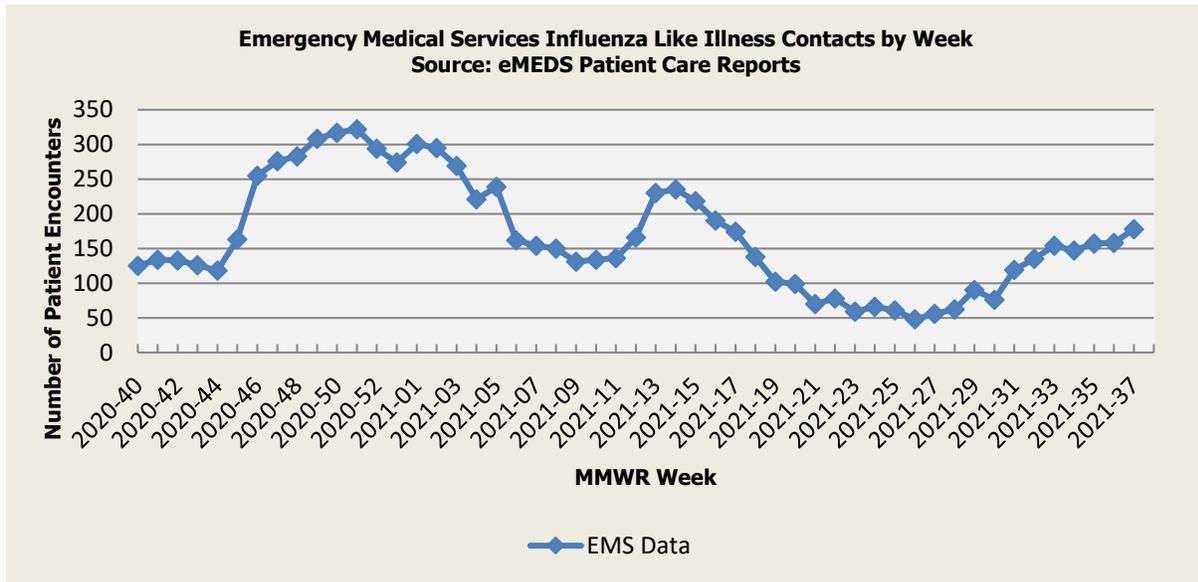


Influenza-like Illness Baseline Data Week 1 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	9.92	13.78	13.10	11.47	12.53
Median Rate*	7.26	10.19	9.27	8.47	9.17

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

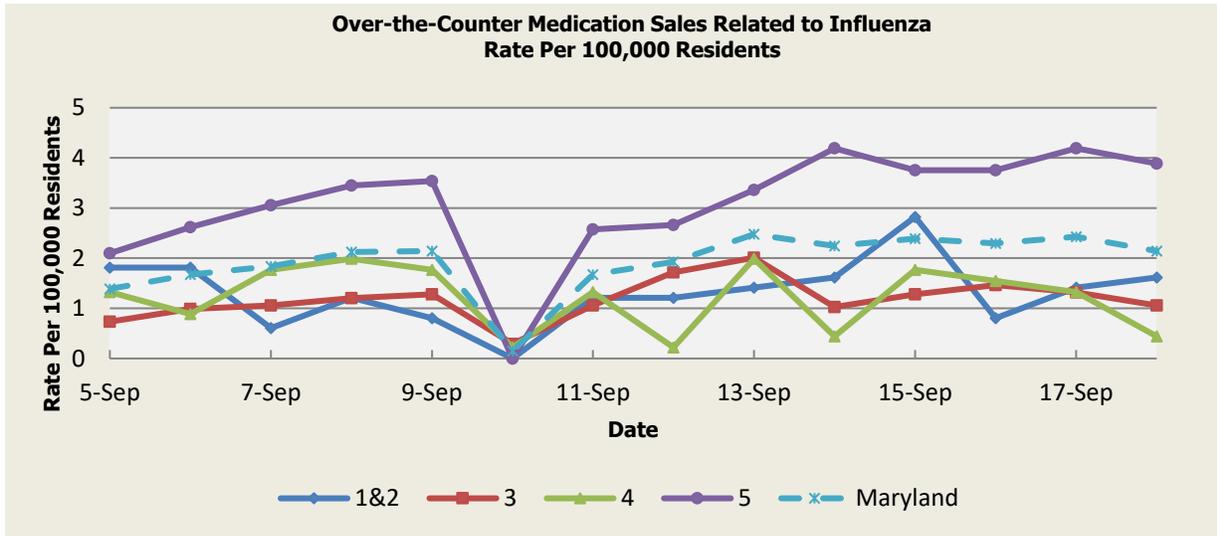
Influenza-like Illness Contacts by Week



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.

(report continues on next page)

Over-the-Counter Influenza-Related Medication Sales



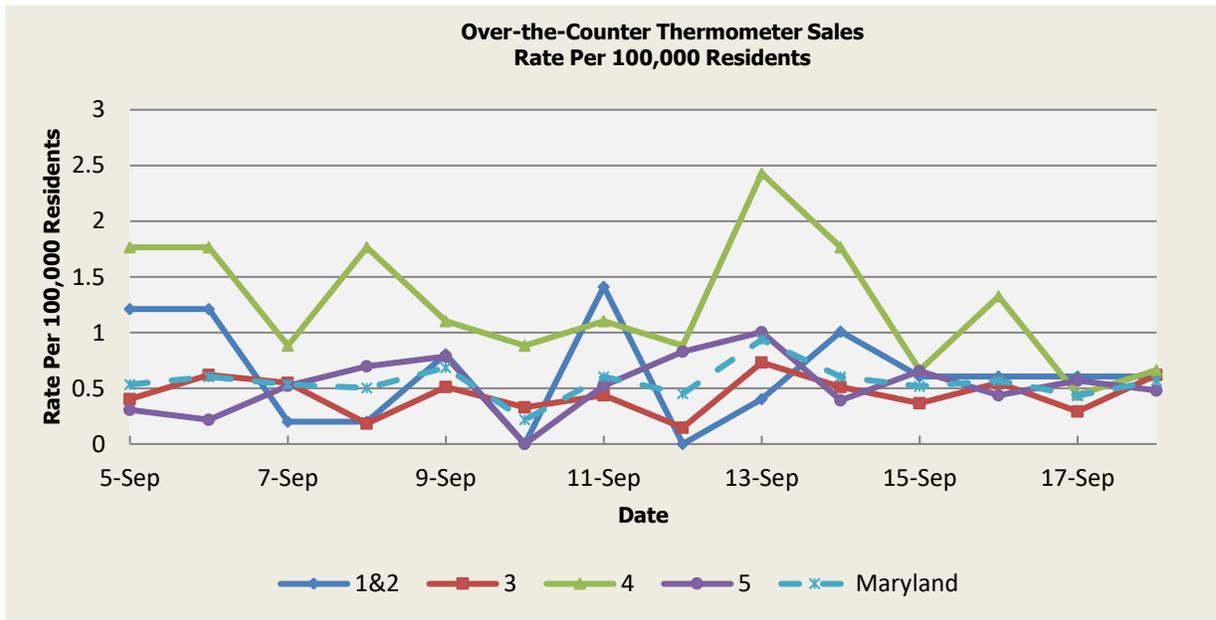
There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Medication Sales during this reporting period.

OTC Medication Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.10	3.94	2.43	7.17	4.99
Median Rate*	2.22	2.92	1.99	6.16	4.02

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

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*	2.57	2.43	2.00	3.21	2.71
Median Rate*	2.22	2.41	1.77	3.27	2.76

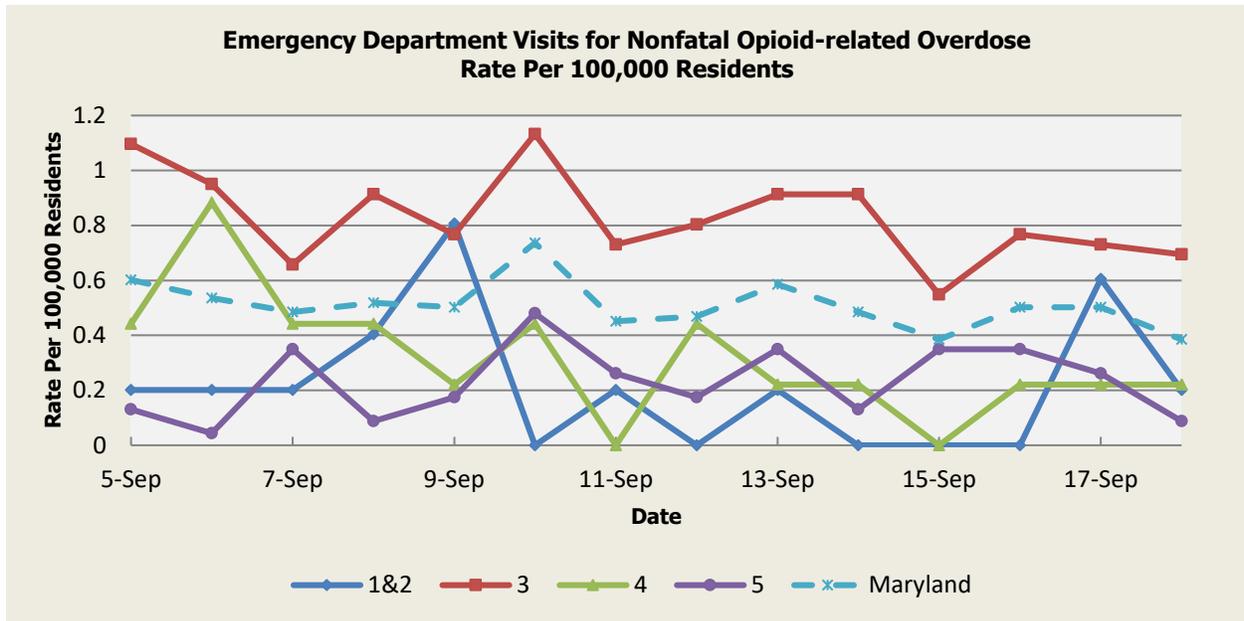
* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

SYNDROMIC OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE

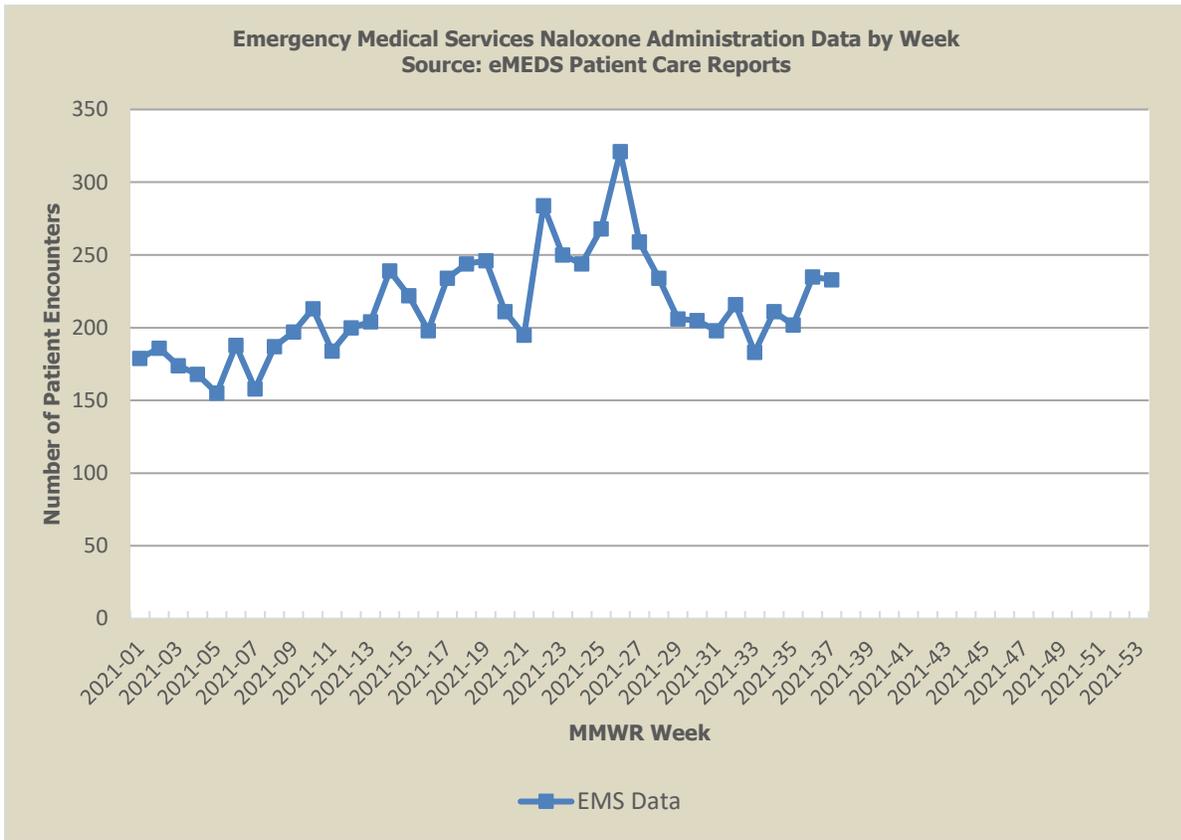
The purpose of this section is to characterize nonfatal overdose trends among Maryland residents captured by ESSENCE data, including emergency department (ED) chief complaint and discharge diagnosis as well as emergency medical services (EMS) patient care reports. Maryland uses ESSENCE data to track trends in nonfatal drug overdoses as a critical strategy for surveillance and tailoring prevention resources to populations most affected in the state.

Nonfatal Opioid-related Overdose



(report continues on next page)

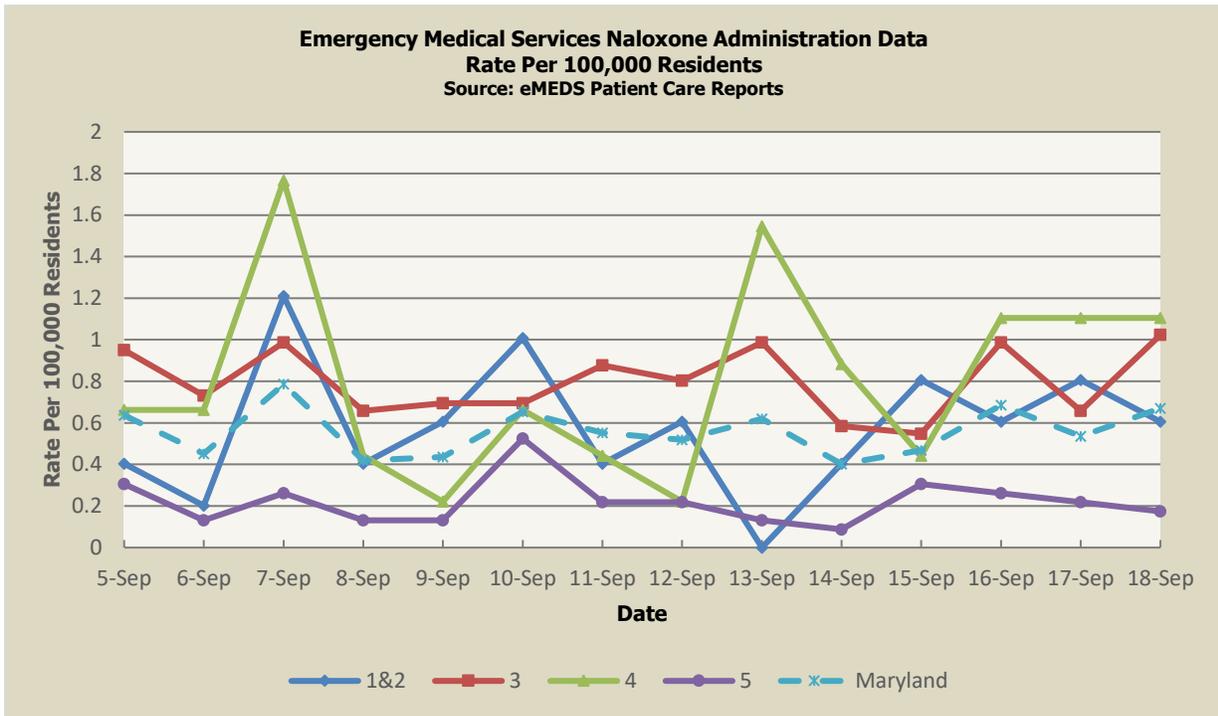
Naloxone Administration Data by Week



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.

(report continues on next page)

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.

(report continues on next page)

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 September 24th, 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 (RUSSIA), 20 September 2021, Highly pathogenic influenza A viruses (Inf. with) (non-poultry including wild birds) (2017-), Russia. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8687300>

HUMAN AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA (CHINA), 19 September 2021, Officials with the Hong Kong Centre for Health Protection (CHP) report monitoring an additional human case of avian influenza A(H5N6) in mainland China. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8685382>

AVIAN INFLUENZA (CAMBODIA), 19 September 2021, In February 2021, routine sentinel surveillance for influenza-like illness in Cambodia detected a human avian influenza A(H9N2) virus infection. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8668826>

(report continues on next page)

NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (CALIFORNIA), 23 September 2021, A mosquito sample collected in Stanislaus County has tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus [SLEV], according to the area's 2 mosquito abatement districts. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8698476>

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (326), 23 September 2021, It has been said many times that the arrival of the delta variant of the coronavirus has changed the course of the pandemic. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8698006>

BOTULISM (USA), 18 September 2021, Recall of Aldi Simply Nature Organic Poppy Seed Dressing for potential *Clostridium botulinum* contamination. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8683918>

SALMONELLOSIS, SEROTYPE ORANIENBURG (USA), 18 September 2021, CDC, public health and regulatory officials in several states are collecting different types of data to investigate a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* [enterica serotype] Oranienburg infections. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8679949>

ALASKAPOX (ALASKA), 17 September 2021, In July [2021], a young child in the Fairbanks area showed up at an urgent care clinic with a "pox-like" mark on the inside of her left elbow, along with other symptoms including a mild fever and pain. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8675483>

INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

MALARIA (COSTA RICA), 23 September 2021, Officials from the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS) and the ministries of health of Costa Rica and Nicaragua identified 15 people positive for malaria in the border community of La Trocha, after an epidemiological sweep carried out in various parts of the area. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8696530>

SALMONELLOSIS (CANADA), 22 September 2021, Off-market pork products in Canada source of *Salmonella* outbreak. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8694341>

CANNABIS POISONING (IRELAND), 21 September 2021, Doctors have warned of the growing public health threat of edible cannabis to children after a hospital in Dublin reported 6 cases of young children being accidentally poisoned with the drug over an 8-week period earlier this year. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8692639>

(report continues on next page)

MENINGITIS, MENINGOCOCCAL (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO), 21 September 2021, In early July 2021, an alert of a suspected outbreak was raised to the Health Division of Tshopo Province in the north-eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8691501>

TETANUS (RUSSIA), 20 September 2021, The Rospotrebnadzor [Federal Service for Supervision of Consumer Rights Protection and Human Welfare] department for the Sverdlovsk region is reporting the 1st tetanus case in more than 17 years. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8689038>

HAFF DISEASE (BRAZIL), 20 September 2021, Three new cases of Haff disease were confirmed in Bahia, according to information from the State Health Department (Sesab). According to the agency, 21 cases were reported, 3 discarded, and 2 others are under investigation. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8689848>

MARBURG VIRUS DISEASE (GUINEA), On 16 Sep 2021, the Ministry of Health of Guinea declared the end of the Marburg virus disease outbreak in Guéckédou prefecture, Nzérékoré Region. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8687665>

SCRUB TYPHUS (NEPAL), 18 September 2021, Patients with scrub typhus are increasing in Bajura district in recent months. According to Bajura District Hospital, 28 cases of scrub typhus have been detected so far in the district since Asar. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8679902>

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.

Prepared By:

Office of Preparedness and Response, Maryland Department of Health
7462 Candlewood Rd, Hanover, MD 21076

Peter Fotang, MD, MPH
Epidemiologist, Biosurveillance Program
Office: 443-628-6555
Email: Peter.Fotang@maryland.gov

Jessica Acharya (Goodell), MPH
Career Epidemiology Field Officer, CDC
Office: 443-628-6583
Email: Jessica.Acharya@maryland.gov

Lindsey Hall, MPH
Epidemiologist, Biosurveillance Program
Office: 443-628-6550
Email: Lindsey.hall@maryland.gov

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

