



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

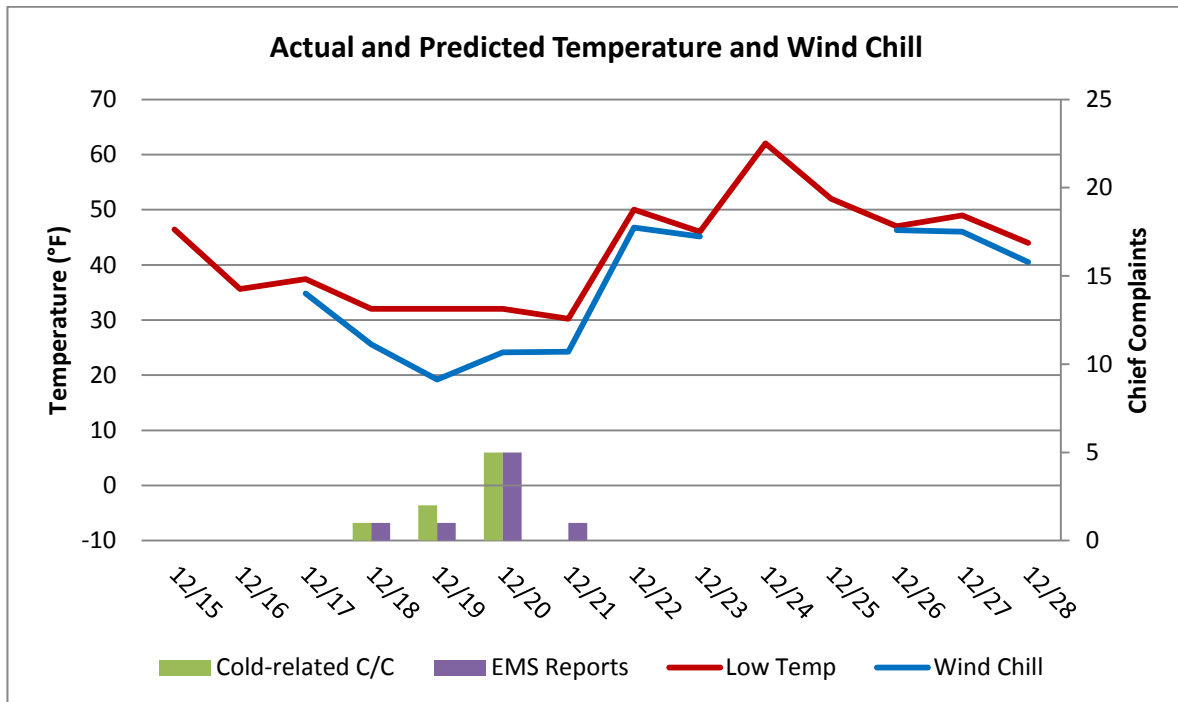
Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

Weekly Cold-related Illness Surveillance Report

December 23, 2015

Reporting for December 15, 2015 to December 21, 2015

National Weather Service Forecast: No current advisories.
Wind Chill Advisories Declared During the Previous Week: 0
Total Wind Chill Advisories Declared This Winter: 0

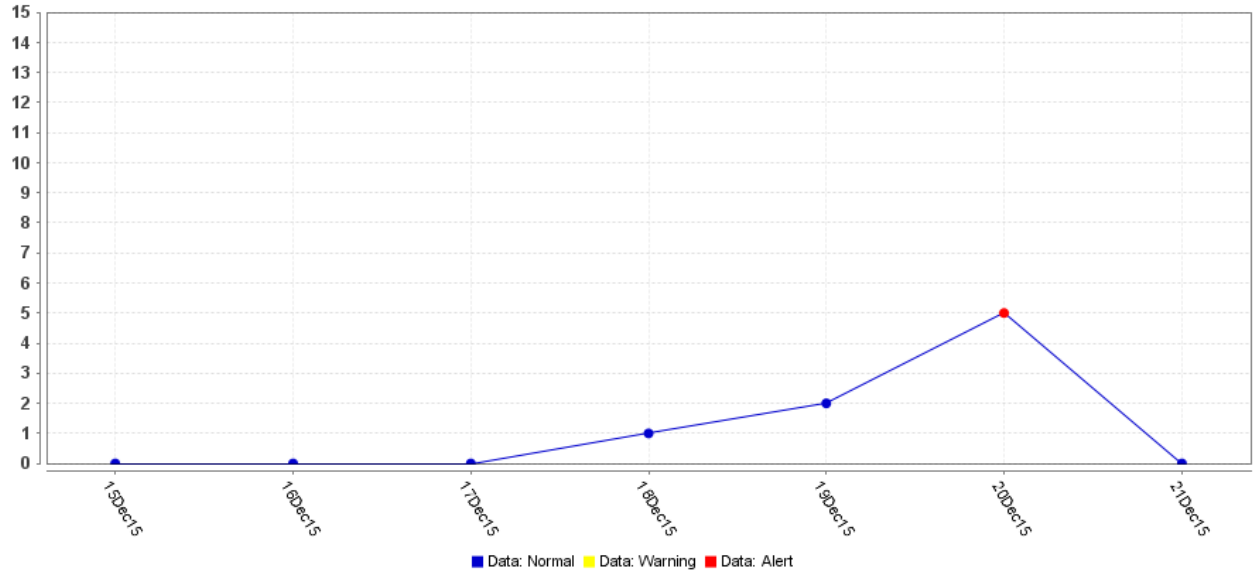


Wind Chill is only calculated for temperatures at or below 50°F and wind speeds above 3 mph

Note on Emergency Department Data: The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track cold-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the cold weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which is based on chief complaints (C/C) and not confirmed discharge diagnoses.

Disclaimer on eMEDS cold weather-related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected “hypothermia” 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 cold weather-related exposure, the actual numbers may be underestimated. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness



Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure

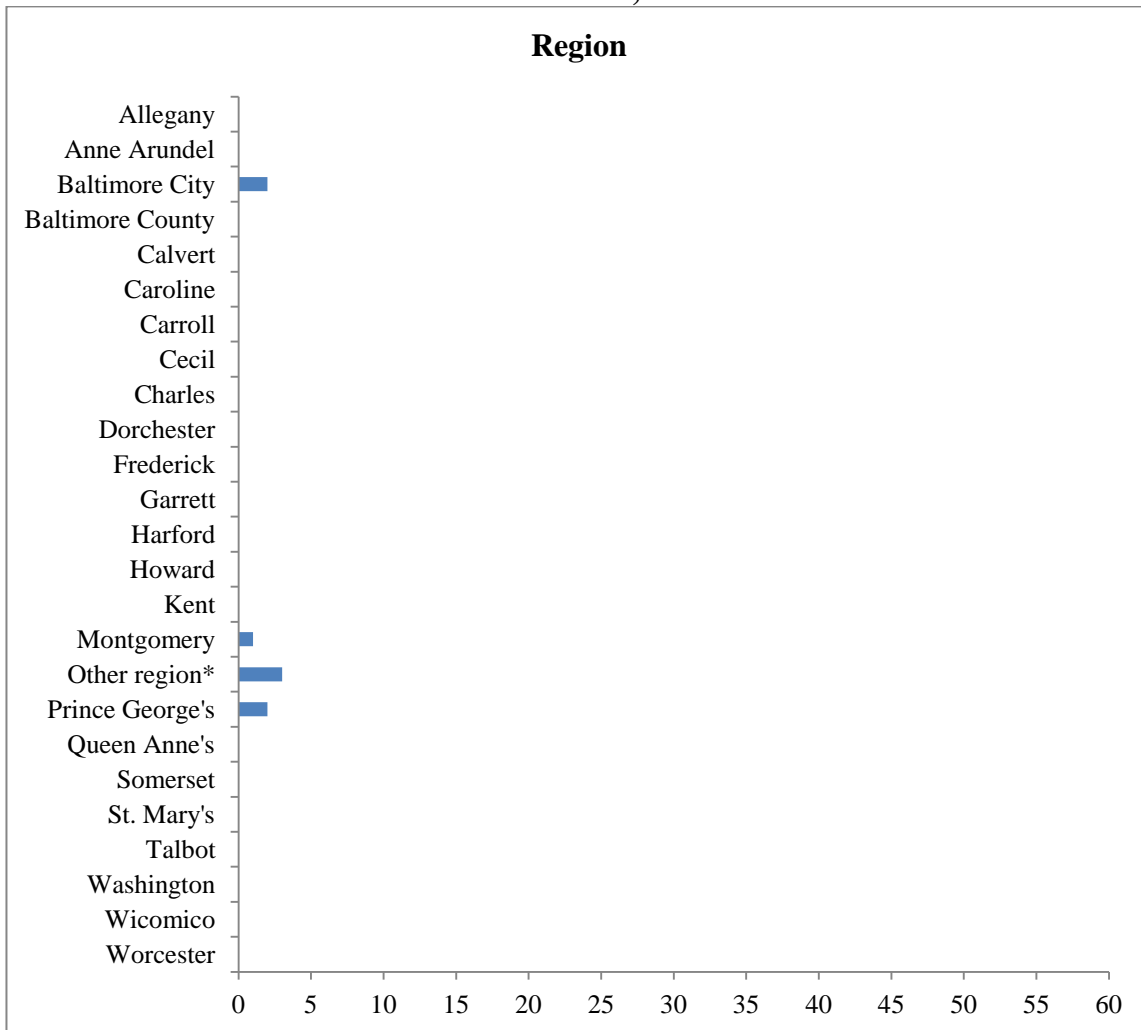


Date	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure
December 15	0	0
December 16	0	0
December 17	0	1
December 18	1	4
December 19	2	1
December 20	5	0
December 21	0	0

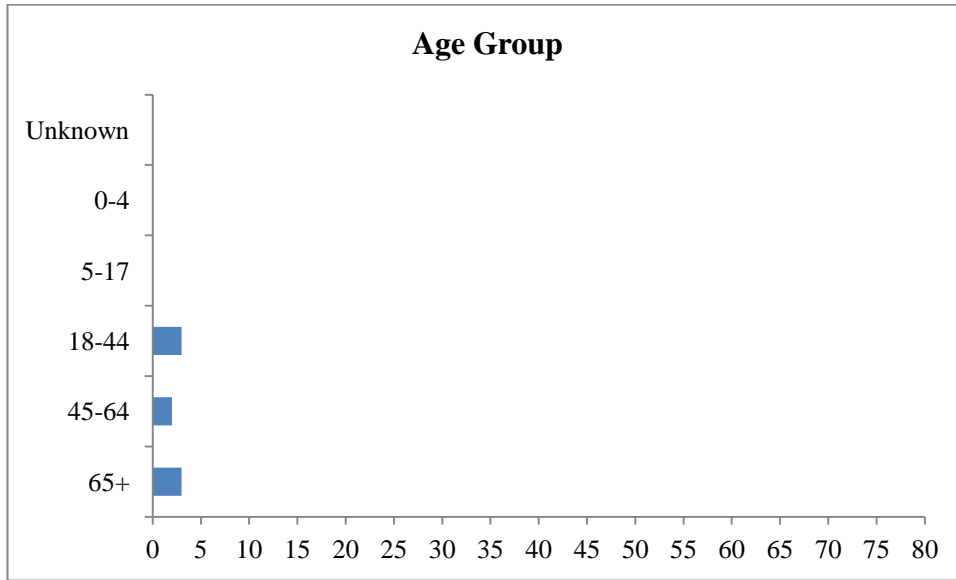
***Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot**

There was 1 chief complaint cluster identified this week. On December 18, 3 patients visited an ED in Montgomery County for carbon monoxide exposure. The patients presented at the ED after their CO alarm activated and low levels of CO were detected by the fire department. All patients were discharged.

Geographical and Age Group Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illnesses for December 15, 2015 through December 21, 2015



***Geographical distribution of emergency department chief complaints is based on patients' jurisdictions of residence. The "Other Region" category includes patient records without a ZIP code and patients who reside outside of Maryland.**



Total Number of Cold-related Deaths	Jurisdiction*	Age Group	Gender
1	Kent County	45-64 Years Old	Male

*Refers to the jurisdiction where the death occurred.

**Refers to a death that occurred during this week's reporting period.

There was 1 cold-related death reported this week.

There has been 1 cold-related death during this reporting period.

For media inquiries, please contact the Office of Communications: [410-767-6490](tel:410-767-6490)

Wind Chill Advisory/Warning Criteria: The National Weather Service issues a Wind Chill Advisory for projected wind chill factors of -5°F to -20°F, and a Wind Chill Warning when the projected wind chill is for -20°F or less.

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