



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

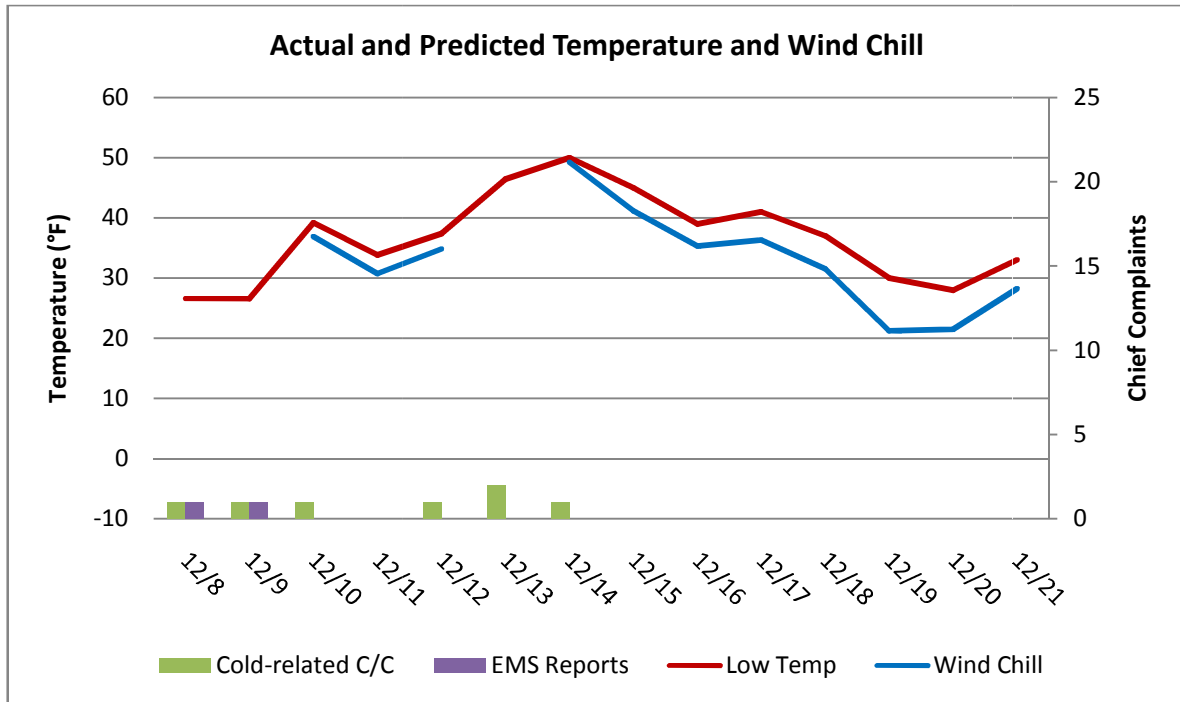
Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

Weekly Cold-related Illness Surveillance Report

December 16, 2015

Reporting for December 8, 2015, to December 14, 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

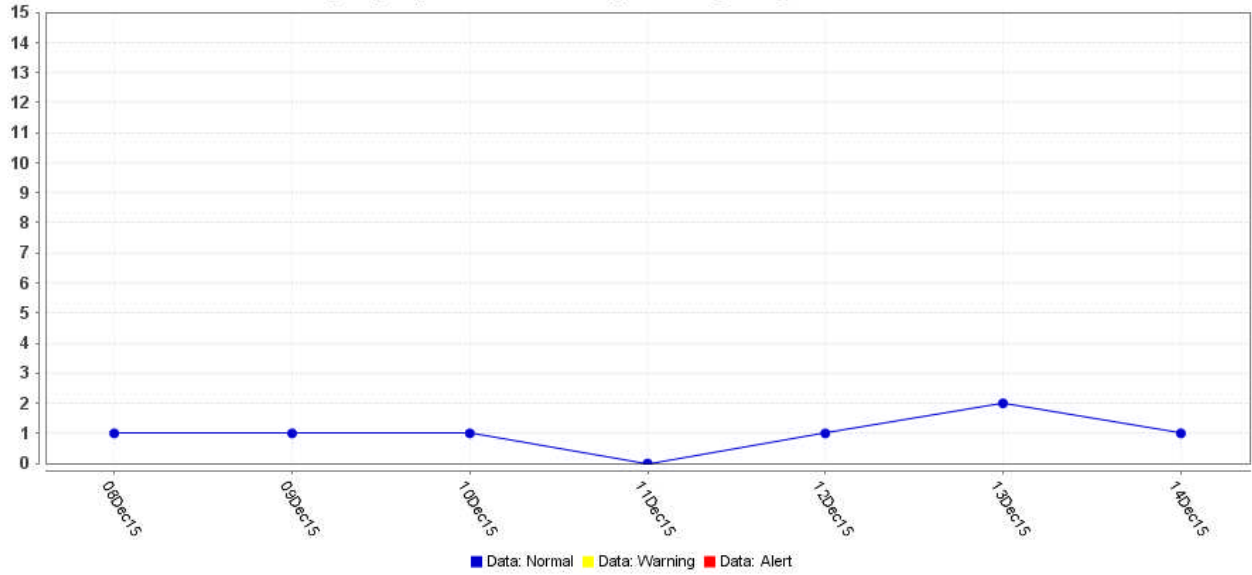


Wind Chill is only calculated for temperatures at or below 50°F and wind speeds above 3 mph

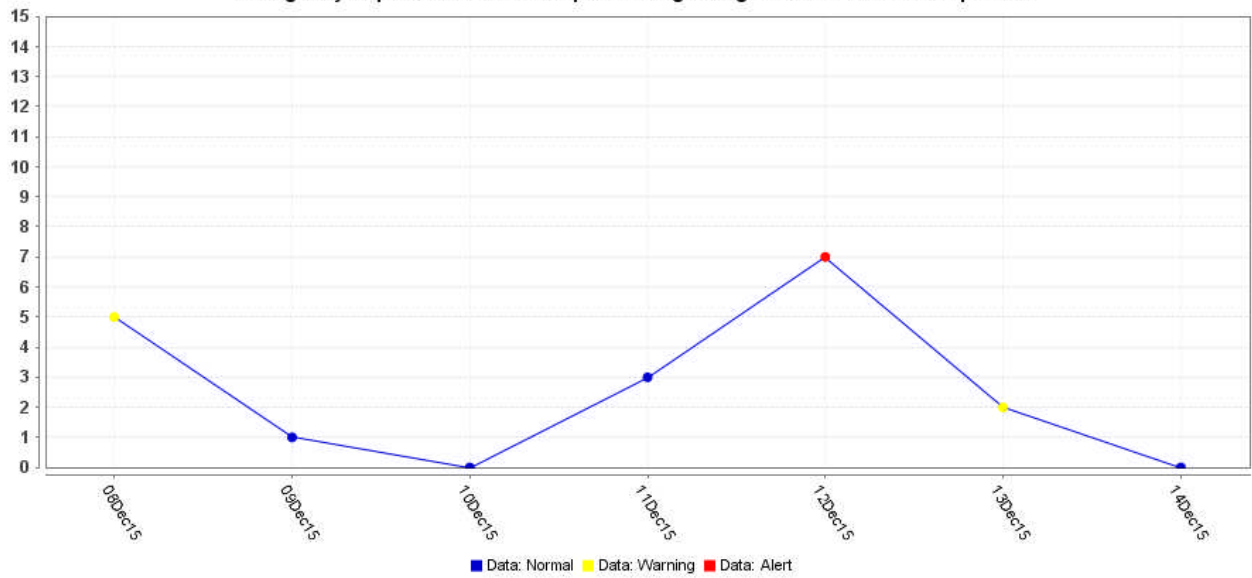
Note on Emergency Department Data: The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track cold-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the cold weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which is based 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

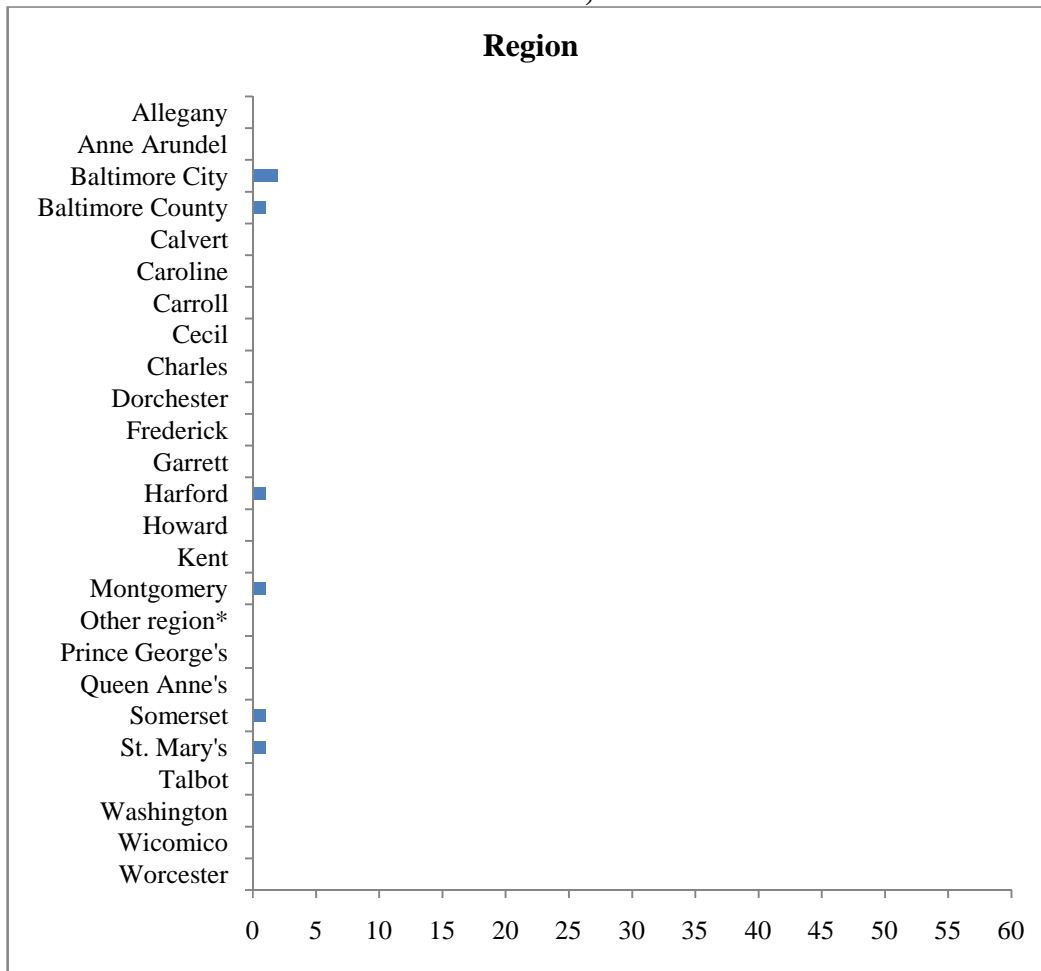


Date	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure
December 8	1	5
December 9	1	1
December 10	1	0
December 11	0	3
December 12	1	7
December 13	2	2
December 14	1	0

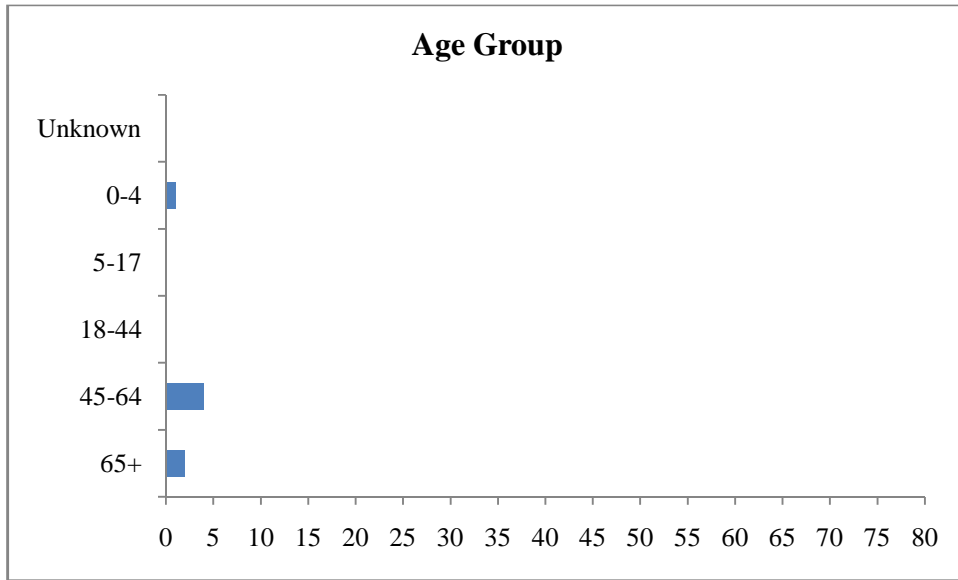
*Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot

There were 2 chief complaint clusters identified this week. On December 12, 6 patients visited an ED in Anne Arundel County for carbon monoxide exposure. The cluster is currently being investigated by the respective hospital. On December 8, 4 patients visited an ED in Frederick County for carbon monoxide exposure. The patients were all exposed in their dorm at a local college.

Geographical and Age Group Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illnesses for December 8, 2015 through December 14, 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.



There were no cold-related deaths reported this week.

There have been no cold-related deaths 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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