



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

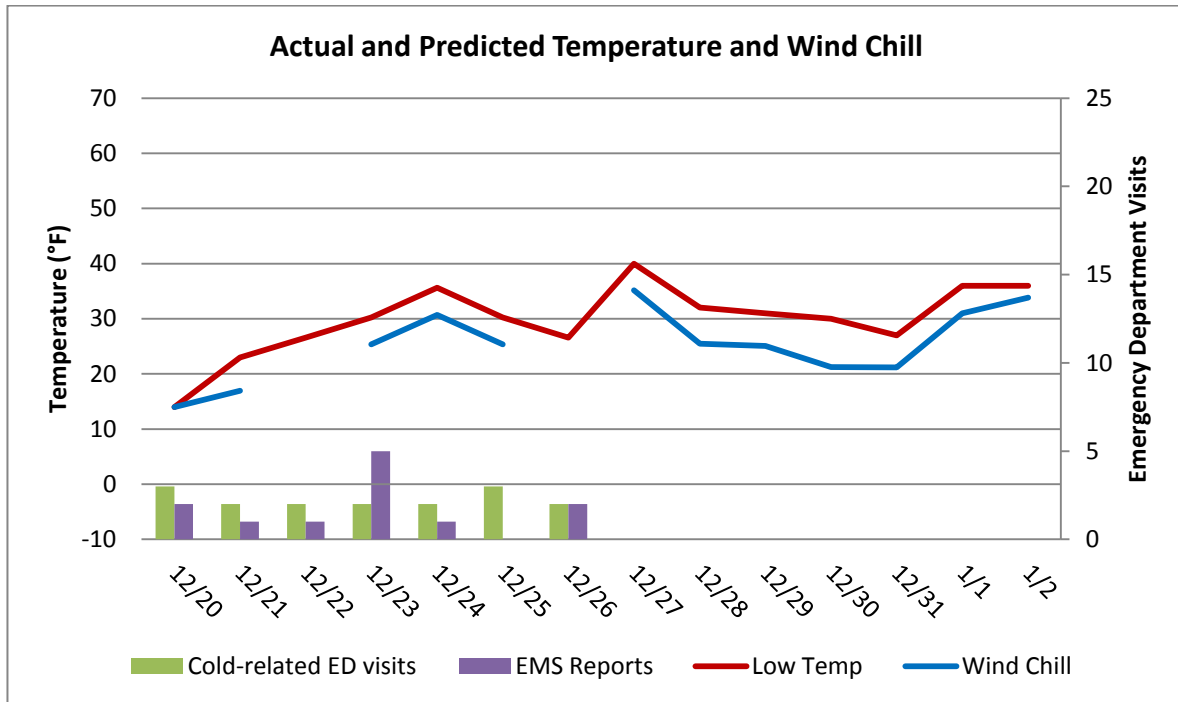
Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

## Weekly Cold-related Illness Surveillance Report

December 28, 2016

Reporting for December 20, 2016 to December 26, 2016

**National Weather Service Forecast:** No current advisories.  
**Wind Chill Advisories Declared During This Reporting Period:** 0  
**Total Wind Chill Advisories Declared This Winter:** 2

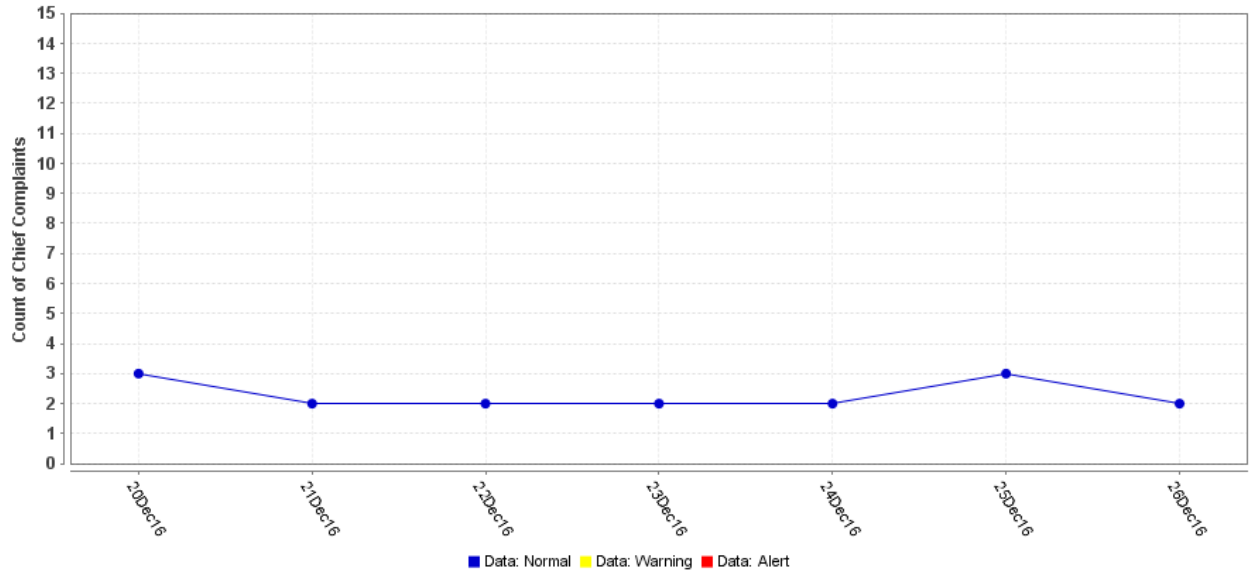


Wind Chill is only calculated for temperatures below 50°F and wind speeds above 3 mph

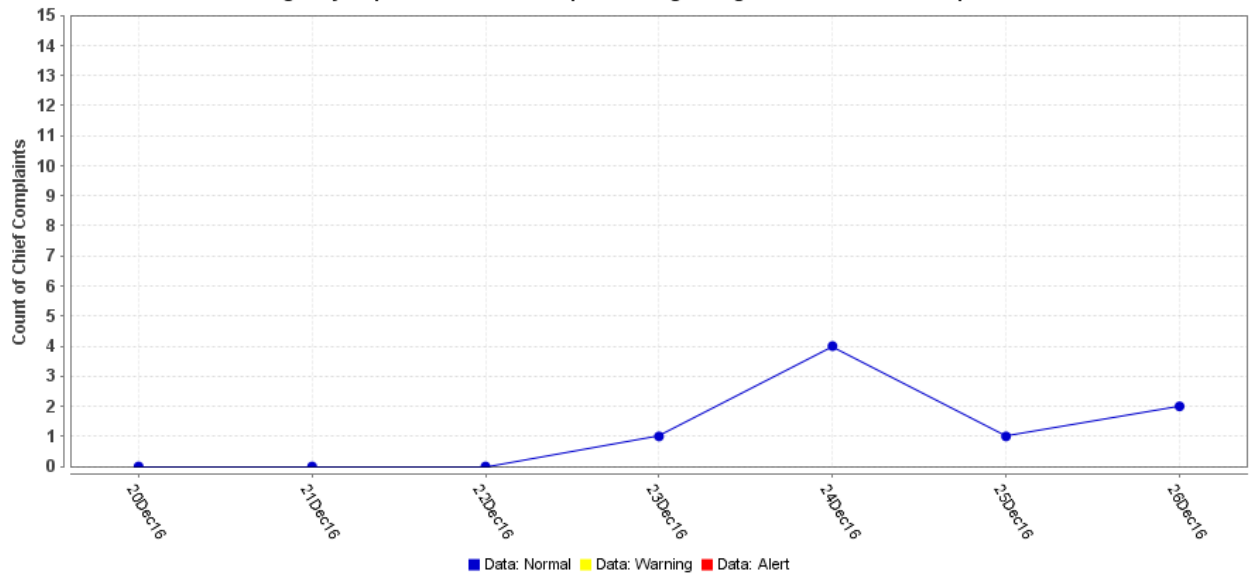
**Note on Emergency Department Data:** The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track cold-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the cold weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which includes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

**Note on EMS 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 exposure, the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

**Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness**



**Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure**

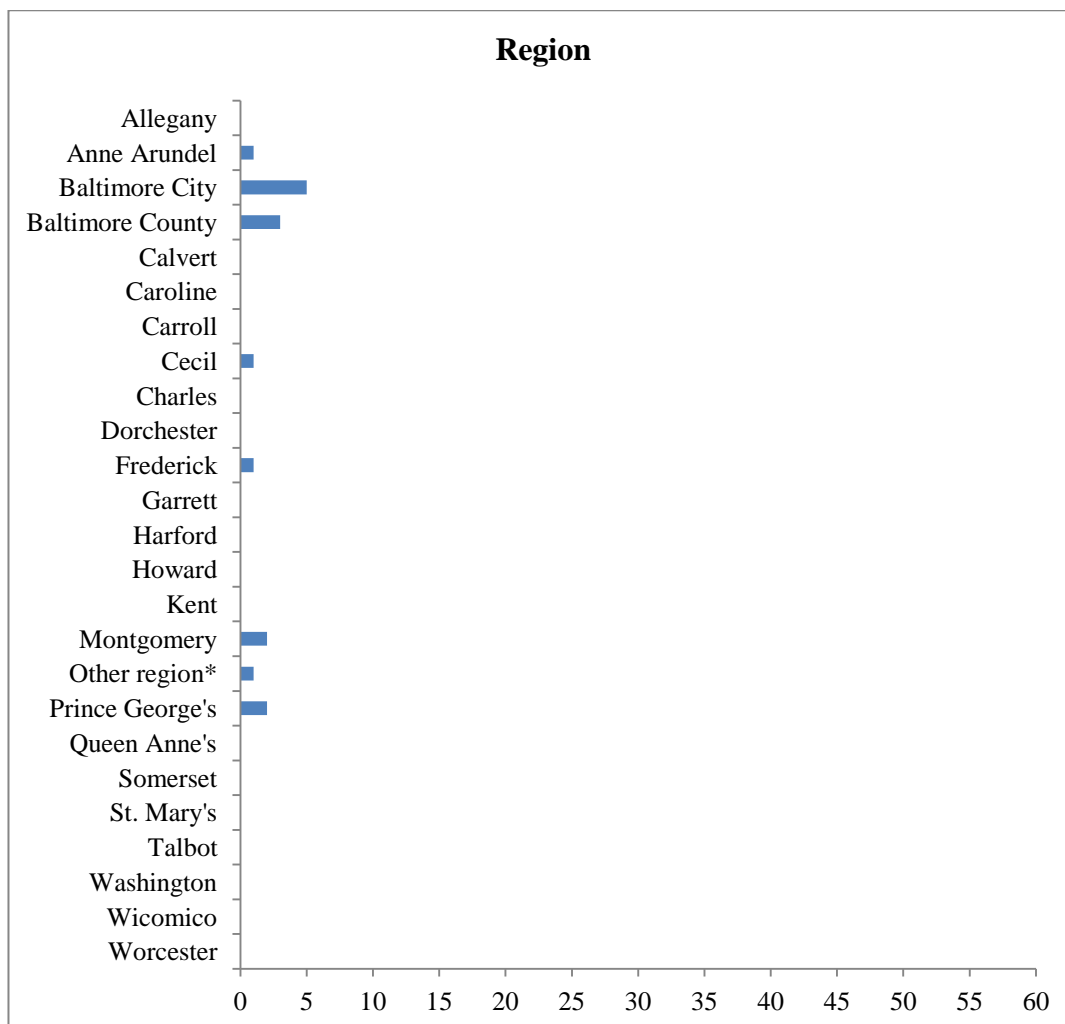


Date	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure
December 20	3	0
December 21	2	0
December 22	2	0
December 23	2	1
December 24	2	4
December 25	3	1
December 26	2	2

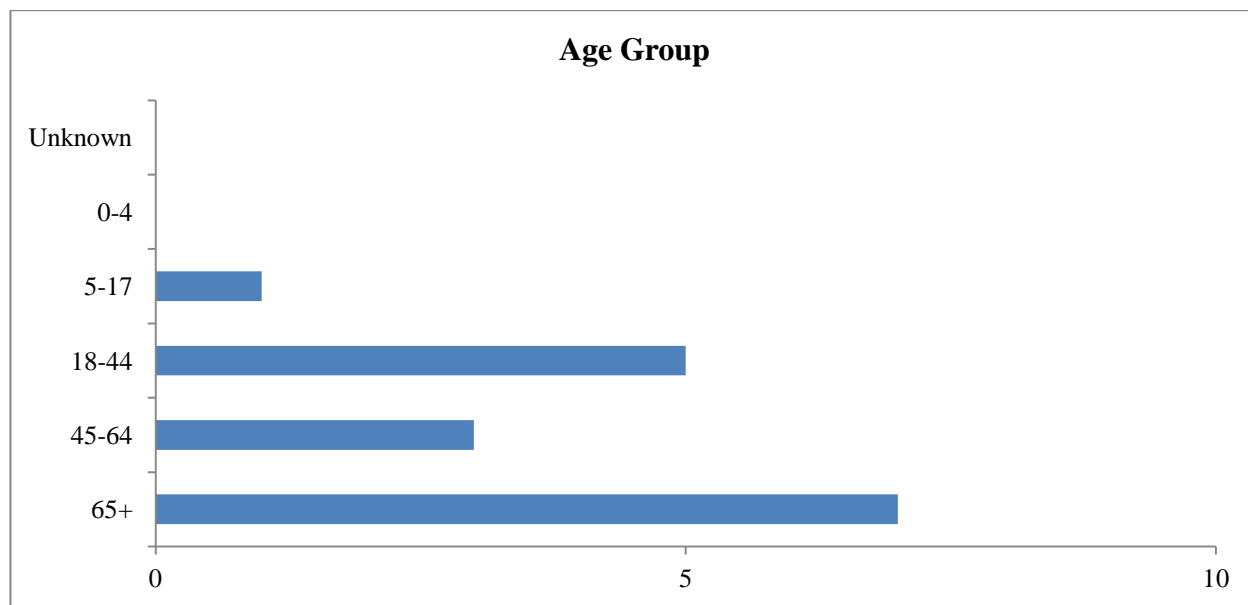
**\*Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot**

There were no chief complaint clusters identified this week.

**Geographical and Age Group Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illnesses for December 20, 2016 through December 26, 2016**



\*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
4	Montgomery**	45-65 Years Old	Male
	Garrett**	45-65 Years Old	Female
	Prince George's**	45-65 Years Old	Male
	Baltimore City	65+ Years Old	Female

\*Refers to the jurisdiction where the death occurred. \*\*Refers to a newly listed death

There were three cold-related deaths reported this week. All three cold-related deaths occurred earlier in the reporting period.

There have been four cold-related deaths during the reporting period this winter. One death was a suspected or presumed homeless individual.

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° or less.

For more information about extreme cold and emergency preparedness, follow the Office of Preparedness and Response on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Prepared by:**

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