Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to MDH for the week ending October 28, 2017

Prepared by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health

The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports are received.

SUMMARY

During the week ending October 28, 2017, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **SPORADIC** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers and Maryland Emergency Departments was low. The proportion of MRITS respondents reporting ILI was also low. Clinical laboratories reported a low number of specimens testing positive for influenza. There were 3 specimens that tested positive for influenza at the MDH lab. There were 16 influenza-associated hospitalizations. No respiratory outbreaks were reported to MDH.

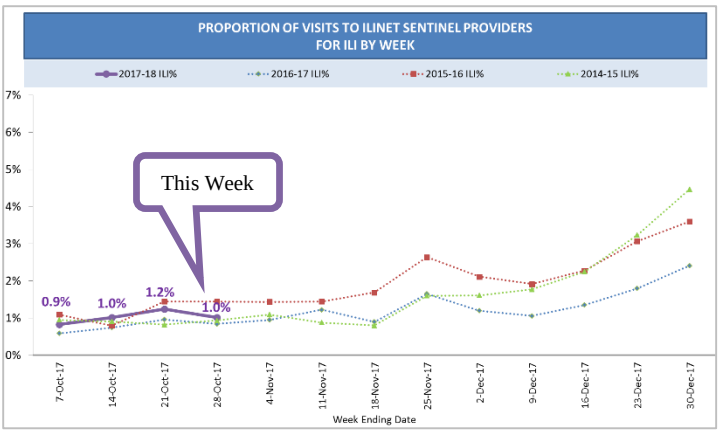
Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page

ILI Intensity Levels
✔ Minimal
Low
Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Activity
No Activity
✔ Sporadic
Local
Regional
Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

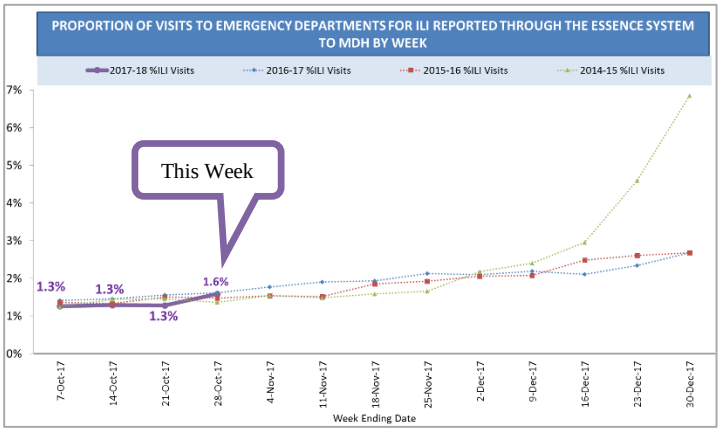
25 sentinel providers reported a total of 7,318 visits this week. Of those, 74 (1.0%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	23 (31%)	21 (30%)	81 (27%)
Age 5-24	32 (43%)	22 (31%)	112 (37%)
Age 25-49	11 (15%)	24 (34%)	67 (22%)
Age 50-64	4 (5%)	2 (3%)	28 (9%)
Age ≥ 65	4 (5%)	1 (1%)	11 (4%)
Total	74 (100%)	70 (100%)	299 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 45,538 visits this week through the ESSENCE surveillance system. Of those, 723 (1.6%) were visits for ILI.



ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	250 (35%)	162 (32%)	748 (31%)
Age 5-24	188 (26%)	129 (25%)	619 (26%)
Age 25-49	185 (26%)	124 (24%)	612 (26%)
Age 50-64	62 (9%)	54 (11%)	247 (10%)
Age ≥ 65	38 (5%)	42 (8%)	167 (7%)
Total	723 (100%)	511 (100%)	2,393 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

Delaware	http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html
District of Columbia	http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza
Pennsylvania	http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/I-L/Pages/Influenza.aspx#.V-LtaPkrJD8
Virginia	http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/influenza-flu-in-virginia/influenza-surveillance/
West Virginia	http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx

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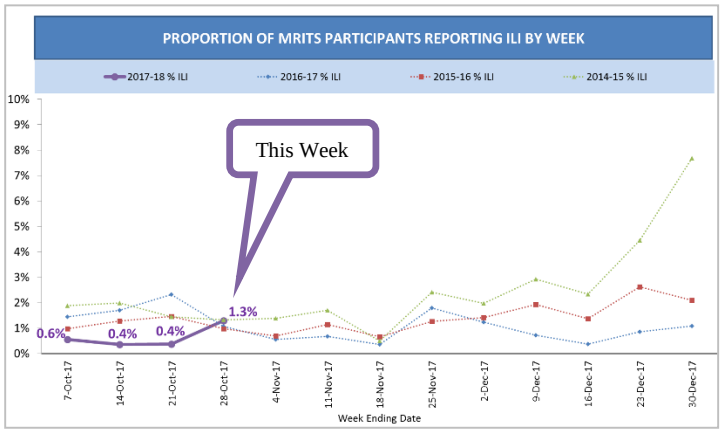
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS)

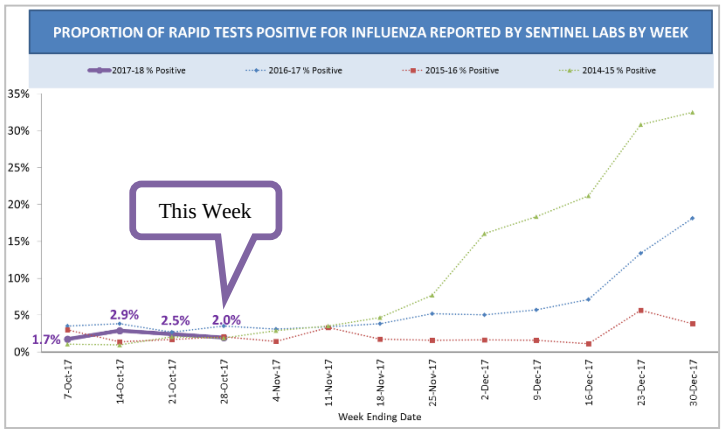
MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 541 residents responded to the MRITS survey this week. Of those, 7 (1.3%) reported having ILI and missing greater than 23 cumulative days of regular daily activities.



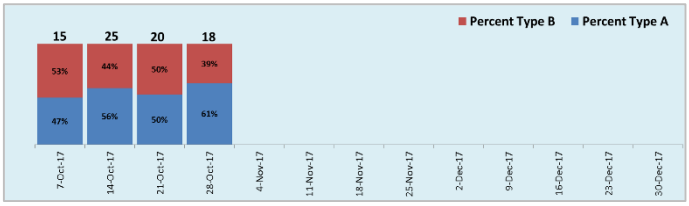
MRITS Respondents Reporting ILI By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	1 (14%)	--	2 (14%)
Age 5-24	--	1 (50%)	2 (14%)
Age 25-49	3 (43%)	--	3 (21%)
Age 50-64	2 (29%)	--	4 (29%)
Age ≥ 65	1 (14%)	1 (50%)	3 (21%)
Total	7 (100%)	2 (100%)	14 (100%)

Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

38 clinical laboratories reported performing 909 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 18 (2.0%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 11 (61%) were influenza Type A and 7 (39%) were influenza Type B. The reliability of RIDTs depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

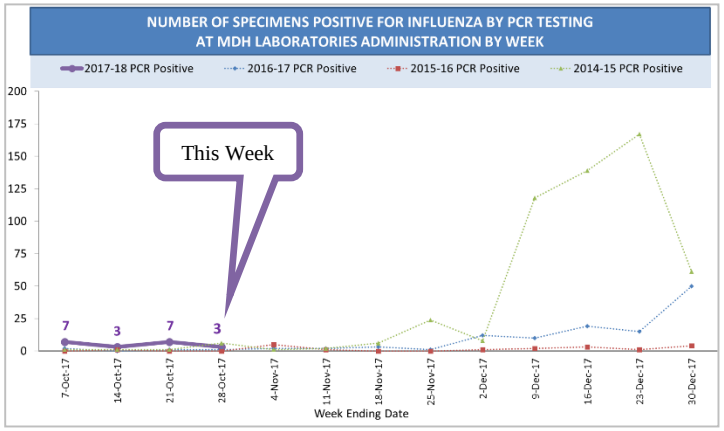


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	11 (61%)	10 (50%)	42 (54%)
Type B	7 (39%)	10 (50%)	36 (46%)
Total	18 (100%)	20 (100%)	78 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The MDH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 79 PCR tests for influenza and 3 (3.8%) specimens tested positive. Two of the specimens were Type A (H3) and 1 was Type A (H1). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The MDH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A and lineages of influenza B, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type, subtype, and lineage.



Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype)	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	1 (33%)	--	1 (5%)
Type A (H3)	2 (67%)	6 (86%)	14 (70%)
Type B (Victoria)	--	--	--
Type B (Yamagata)	--	1 (14%)	2 (10%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	3 (15%)
Total	3 (100%)	7 (100%)	20 (100%)

Where to get an influenza vaccination

Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2017-18 influenza season? Go to https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/Pages/getvaccinated.aspx and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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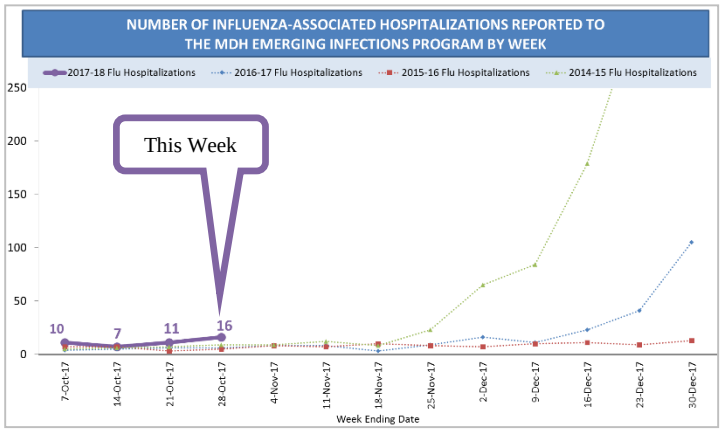
Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

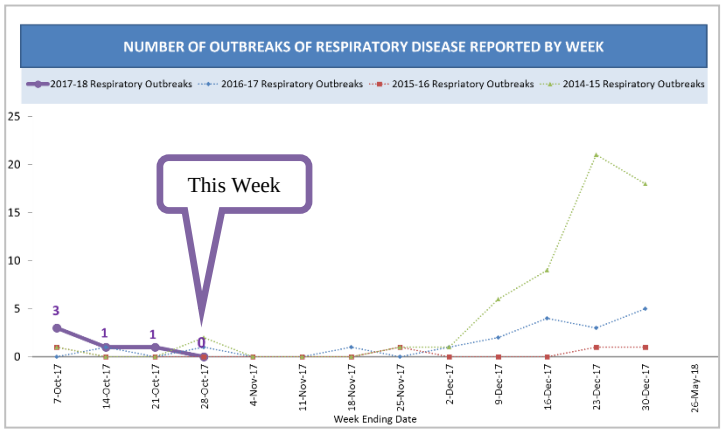
A total of 16 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported this week. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g., RIDT or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	2 (13%)	2 (18%)	5 (11%)
Age 5-17	--	1 (9%)	2 (4%)
Age 18-24	4 (25%)	1 (9%)	6 (13%)
Age 25-49	2 (13%)	3 (27%)	6 (13%)
Age 50-64	6 (38%)	1 (9%)	12 (27%)
Age ≥ 65	2 (13%)	3 (27%)	14 (31%)
Total	16 (100%)	11 (100%)	45 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There were no respiratory outbreaks reported to MDH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g., from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	--	--	1 (20%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	1 (100%)	2 (40%)
Pneumonia	--	--	2 (40%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	--	1 (100%)	5 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 43 (October 22-28, 2017), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories during week 43 was influenza A. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- **Novel Influenza A Virus:** Three human infections with novel influenza A viruses were reported.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported that occurred during the 2016-2017 season.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.5%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced moderate ILI activity, four states experienced low ILI activity, New York City and 45 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Guam and four states was reported as regional; Puerto Rico and 12 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia and 31 states reported sporadic activity; one state reported no activity; and the U.S. Virgin Islands and two states did not report.