Highlights

- In week 44 of 2019, the individual local flu activity indicator trend values were mixed compared to the previous week. As a whole, flu intensity (composite indicator) is low.
- Geographic spread and local intensity designation (Click here for definitions) = SPORADIC, LOW.
- Local medical facility labs reported 1,126 tests run with 6 (0.5%) positive results for week 44 of 2019.
- The percentage of ED visits for influenza-like-illness (ILI) decreased while respiratory symptom visits increased compared to last week.
- In week 44 of 2019, the trends for the local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked were mixed (decrease in electrolyte and thermometer sales; increase in cough and cold, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; stable adult anti-fever sales) compared to last week.
- In week 44, the U.S. seasonal influenza activity remains low but is increasing. Please visit the CDC website for specific information.

Local Flu Activity Dashboard (All data are preliminary and may change as updated reports are received.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Week Number(s) Available</th>
<th>Current Week Value</th>
<th>% Change Chart from Last Week$</th>
<th># Weeks$</th>
<th>General Trend Line Chart$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facility Lab Data</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>0.5% Pos.</td>
<td>-33%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>athenaHealth® Network PCP Flu or ILI Visit (Ohio)</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>3.0 per 1,000 visits</td>
<td>-7%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Cold/Flu Symptom Runs</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>32 runs</td>
<td>-22.0%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Absences</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>11.1% Absent</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>2 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital ED Data*: Complaint Defined as ILI</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>19.0% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>2 •</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categorized as Respiratory</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>14.9% of All ED Visits</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medication Data: OTC Cough &amp; Cold Sales</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>17,524 Total Sales</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>1 ▲</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermometer</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>80 Total Sales</td>
<td>-8.0%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations$</td>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>0 Admitted</td>
<td>-100%</td>
<td>1 ▼</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reportable Conditions (Cumulative Numbers as of Nov 3, 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pediatric Influenza Associated Death Reported by Year (based on date of death)</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019 YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infuenza Associated Hospitalizations (IAH) Reported by Admission Year$</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>447</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>846</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$Interpret with caution. Indicators with small numbers subject to large weekly percentage fluctuations.
$Number of weeks: "▲" = Increase (>2%), "▼" = Decrease (>2%), "•" = Stable (-2% to +2%).
$Black line is current years data. Based on data availability, red line is historical average (excluding pandemic year).
$Data Source: Medical claims data from athenaHealth® (www.athenahealth.com). Rate of Flu or ILI visits to Ohio (statewide) athenaHealth® network primary care practices/physicians. Claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.
$Franklin County, OH residents only (based on zipcode). NOTE: Excludes one hospital system included in the past due to technical changes affecting visit classification assignment and numbers.
$Confirmed cases only. Based on jurisdiction equal to Franklin County or City of Columbus and admission date available in ODRS.
Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports
In week 44, the preliminary Ohio\(^1\) (statewide) influenza and influenza-like-Illness (ILI) visit rate to athenaHealth® providers (3.0 per 1,000 visits) decreased compared to the previous week and is similar to its baseline average for the week (Figure 1). The week 44 percentage of all Emergency Department (ED) visits categorized as ILI decreased compared to the previous week (Figure 3) and is above its historic baseline for the week.

Nationally, during week 44 of 2019, 2.1% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). The percentage is below the national baseline of 2.4% for week 44.

Laboratory Surveillance
During week 44 of 2019, reporting Franklin County sentinel medical facility laboratories tested 1,126 specimens, with 6 (0.5%) positive (Figure 4). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 of 2019 through week 44 of 2019 is 6,967 with 56 (0.8%) positives (18 type A, 38 type B, 0 type A and B, 0 type unknown).

Nationally in week 44 of 2019, clinical laboratories reported 18,126 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 582 (3.2%) of which were positive (143 type A, 439 type B). Public health laboratories reported testing 766 specimens, 117 of which were positive (54 type A – of which 22 were A(H1N1)pdm09, 31 were H3N2, and 1 was not subtyped; 63 type B – of which 4 were Yamagata lineage, 38 were Victoria lineage, and 21 where lineage was not performed). Please visit the CDC website for more information, including cumulative data.

In week 44 of 2019, Ohio clinical labs reported 6,141 specimens tested for influenza this season thus far. Positive results include: (1) A(H1N1)pdm09; (0) A/H3N2; (7) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (9) Flu B (through 11/2/2019). In week 44 of 2019, ODH Public Health Lab reported 10 positive influenza tests from various submitters this season so far. Positive results include: (0) A(H1N1)pdm09; (7) A/H3N2; (2) Influenza B (through 11/2/2019). Please visit the ODH website for more information.

ED Respiratory Visits
In the 44\(^{th}\) week of 2019, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as respiratory increased compared to the percentage seen the previous week and is above its baseline for the week (Figure 5).

Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Sales
In week 44 of 2019, the trends for the local over-the-counter medication category sales tracked were mixed (decrease in electrolyte and thermometer sales; increase in cough and cold, chest rub, pediatric anti-fever, and throat lozenge sales; stable adult anti-fever sales) compared to last week.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:
Ohio Seasonal Flu Surveillance: https://odh.ohio.gov
CDC National Seasonal Flu Surveillance Reports: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

\(^1\)Note: County level athenaHealth® network primary care medical claims data is no longer available.
Figure 1: Ohio Outpatient Primary Care Provider Influenza or Influenza-Like-Illness Visit Rate

*Source: Ohio (Statewide) medical claims data from athenaHealth®
Note: athenaHealth® claims data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when they are received.

Figure 2: Percentage of Ohio Outpatient Participating Provider* and CDC National Outpatient Sentinel Health Care Provider** visits for ILI and Associated Illnesses, 2019-20

*Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.
**Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.

Figure 3: Franklin County Resident ILI Defined** ED Visits, 2019-20, Franklin County, OH

*Chief complaint classifier category includes fever and cough. Chief complaint classifier category includes fever and cold. Chief complaint classifier category includes fever and flu. Chief complaint classifier category includes "ILI"

Figure 4: Percentage of Local Reporting and National Laboratory Positive Influenza Tests by Week, 2019-20

*Source: Ohio (Statewide) medical claims data provided by athenaHealth®. Data are subject to filing and processing time lags. Historical data are updated when received.
**Source: U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) sentinel provider visits.
Figure 5: Franklin County Resident Respiratory ED Visits, 2019-20, Franklin County, OH

Figure 6: Selected Number of Over-the-Counter Medication Total Sales, 2019-20, Franklin County, OH

Figure 7: Columbus and Franklin County Jurisdiction Confirmed Influenza Associated Hospitalizations by Hospital Admission Week (As of 11/3/2019)

Columbus and Franklin County, OH Jurisdiction Confirmed Influenza Hospitalization Cumulative Rates (per 100,000) by Age-Group and Admission Week, 2019-2020 Season

*Note: Certain years have a 53rd week (e.g., season 2014-15) based on CDC’s MMWR Weeks