Arkansas Department of Health

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Outbreak Response/Epidemiology
Influenza Weekly Report
Arkansas 2019-2020

Week Ending Saturday 04/04/2020

Jennifer Dillaha, MD,
State Epidemiologist; Medical Director, Immunizations/Outbreak Response

Shirley Louie, MS, CIH
Deputy State Epidemiologist; Director, Center for Public Health Practice

Prepared by:

Haytham Safi, MD, MPH
Influenza Surveillance Coordinator
Haytham.Safi@Arkansas.gov
501-661-2920

Reviewed by:

Lori Simmons, MS, Branch Chief, Epidemiology
Kellye McCartney, Branch Chief, Immunizations/Outbreak Control
Mike Cima, PhD, Chief Epidemiologist, Associate Director for Science, CHP

April 8, 2020
During flu season, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) produces a Weekly Influenza Report for clinicians. The report provides information on flu activity in the state. The report also compares influenza-like-illness (ILI) in Arkansas to activity in the U.S. ADH receives reports of only a fraction of flu cases since it only requires reports of hospitalizations, deaths, and outbreaks. Therefore, it is important to understand that the information in the weekly update is representative of the timing and location of activity, but it does not reflect the overall burden of disease. It is presumed that there are many more people actually affected than the report shows. Clinicians and policy makers may find the report helpful in terms of communicating to colleagues and patients about the current status of the flu season.

**Report Key Points:**

- For Week 14, Arkansas reported “Local” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for geographic spread of influenza, and “Minimal” or 1 out of 10 for ILI intensity.

- Since September 29, 2019, 36,000 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers, with 80 positive tests reported this week. **Please note that reported cases reflect only a portion of the actual numbers of flu cases in the state.**

- Among flu antigen tests this season that can distinguish between influenza A and B virus types, 53 percent were influenza A, and 47 percent were influenza B.

- There were 9 positive PCR flu tests from private labs this week: 3 tested positive for influenza A, 6 tested positive for influenza B. At the ADH lab, no sample tested for flu this week.

- About 2.4 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms this week were there for ILI (Syndromic Surveillance). Less than 1 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI (ILINet sentinel providers).

- No school report this week due to school closures for COVID 19 starting March 17, 2020; prior, ADH was aware of 42 schools/districts that closed briefly due to the flu this season.

- There were 2 influenza related deaths in Arkansas reported this week for a total of 118 influenza-related deaths including three pediatric death this season. CDC estimates a total of 24,000 flu deaths have occurred nationwide including 162 pediatric deaths reported this season.

- Since September 29, 2019, 12 facilities including 10 nursing homes have reported influenza outbreaks.

- Nationally, the proportion of deaths reported to the National Center for Health Statistics attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) is above the epidemic threshold this week.

- For Week 13, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as widespread in Puerto Rico and 22 states, and regional in 18 states. The District of Columbia and 7 states reported local activity, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 3 states reported sporadic activity, and Guam did not report.


**For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:**


CDC - Seasonal Influenza (Flu) - Weekly Report: [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/)

**Death Report for Week 14**
- Deaths from all causes: 643
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 65
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 2

**Cumulative Flu Deaths since 09/29/2019**
- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 20
- Death Certificate or Antigen only: 98
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 118

**ER Visits (Syndromic Surveillance)**
- Week Ending: 04/04/2020
  - Total Visits: 12,694
  - Total Visits: 14,308
  - Total Visits: 525

**Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions**
- PCR Confirmed:
  - Cumulative: 508
  - Week ending 04/04/2020: 2
- Antigen Positive:
  - Cumulative: 814
  - Week ending 04/04/2020: 1

**Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level**

**PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases**
- Total Cases since 09/29/2019: 6,806
- Week ending 04/04/2020: 9

Reported cases reflect only a portion of the actual numbers of flu cases in the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCR Tests</th>
<th>ADH Lab Week 14</th>
<th>Other Labs Week 14</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases Since 09/29/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3,315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both A and B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Victoria</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/ Yamagata</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1N1+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubtypeable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 09/29/2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>PCR+</th>
<th>Hospitalized</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yr.</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-17 yr.</td>
<td>2,953</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 yr.</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 yr.</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 yr.</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 65 yr.</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6,806</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**School Absenteeism**

Week Ending: 04/04/2020
- PercentAbsent: No report -- school closing
- Previous Week: No report -- school closing
  - Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

**Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 14:**

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**Note:** The image contains graphical representations of intensity levels for ILI activity and school absenteeism, but the detailed content is not transcribed into plain text.
Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2005-2020 (Provisional)
Report Updated: 4/7/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>0-4 Yrs</th>
<th>5-17 Yrs</th>
<th>18-24 Yrs</th>
<th>25-44 Yrs</th>
<th>45-64 Yrs</th>
<th>65+ Yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flu Season

Number of Deaths

Hospital Report – Downloaded from ESSENCE (Syndromic Surveillance)
Percent ER Visits with ILI

* All seasons range from week 40 to week 53 except 2009-2010 started week 36
Source: ADH Outbreak Response Section and Center for Health Statistics

Week

% of Patients with ILI

2017-2018
2018-2019
2019-2020
Arkansas Subset of US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)

Percentage of Outpatient Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by ILINet in Arkansas

Week, Month of Report

Percent of Outpatients Visits Due to ILI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

2019-20  Average 2013-18  Off Season Rate  2018-19

Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS of Arkansas

Week, Month of Report

Number of Claims Paid Each Week

Week, Month of Report

Average 2013-19  YR 2018-19  Off Season Baseline  YR 2019-20
Antigen Report

Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Age Group, Arkansas 2019-20

Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Type, Arkansas 2019-20
Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 14: Local
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2019-2020 Season

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System Data through the week ending March 21, 2020, as of April 2, 2020