Arkansas Department of Health

José R. Romero, MD, FAAP, FIDSA, FPIDS, FAAAS, Secretary of Health

Outbreak Response/Epidemiology
Influenza Weekly Report
Arkansas 2021-2022

Week Ending Saturday 04/09/2022

Jennifer Dillaha, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Mike Cima, PhD
State Epidemiologist

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

Prepared by:
Haytham Safi, MD, MPH
Epidemiology Supervisor
Influenza Surveillance Coordinator
Haytham.Safi@Arkansas.gov
501-661-2920

Reviewed by:
Lori Simmons, MS, Branch Chief, Epidemiology

April 12, 2022
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 “Minimal” or 3 out of 13 for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) activity level indicator determined by data reported to ILINet.

- Since September 27, 2021, 12,210 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers. 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 in Arkansas, 90 percent were influenza A, and 10 percent were influenza B.

- Less than 2 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms this week were there for ILI (Syndromic Surveillance). Less than 2 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI (ILINet sentinel providers).

- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 7.4 percent among public schools.

- Arkansas reported 18 influenza-related deaths this flu season. In 2020-21 season, Arkansas reported 24 influenza-related deaths.

- Since September 27, 2021, 1 nursing home in Arkansas has reported an influenza outbreak.

- 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.

You can report flu year-round and view the weekly influenza report during the influenza season at: [http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/influenza](http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/influenza). You can also access the reporting website directly at: [https://FluReport.ADH.Arkansas.gov](https://FluReport.ADH.Arkansas.gov).

**For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:**
World Health Organization (WHO): [https://www.who.int/tools/flunet](https://www.who.int/tools/flunet)
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: 778
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 57
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 2
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 0

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 10/03/2021
- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 3
- Death Certificate or Antigen only: 15
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 18

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions
- Cumulative: 317
- Week ending 04/9/2022: 14

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers

PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases
- Total Cases since 10/03/2021: 1,986
- Week ending 04/9/2022: 119

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCR Tests</th>
<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases Since 10/03/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>1,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both A and B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Victoria</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Yamagata</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1N1+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3+</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubtypeable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>1,986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 10/03/2021

<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>295</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-17 yr.</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 yr.</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 yr.</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 yr.</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 65 yr.</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,986</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Absenteeism*

Week Ending: 04/9/2022
- Percent Absent: 7.38
- Previous Week: 7.87
- Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

ER Visits (Syndromic Surveillance)

- Week Ending: 04/9/2022
  - Weighted Average: 1.5%
  - Total Visits: 17,457
  - Visits with ILI: 268
- Previous Week
  - Weighted Average: 1.7%
  - Total Visits: 17,115
  - Visits with ILI: 290
Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools

School Report:

School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2021-2022
Percent Absent for Week Ending 4/9/2022

Date: April 12, 2022
Source: Arkansas Department of Health
Author: Haytham Saff, Epidemiology Supervisor

Percent of students absent
- 0 - 5
- > 5 - 10
- > 10 - 15
- > 15 - 20
- > 20
- No Report
- Increase 10% from Previous Rate
Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2005-2022 (Provisional)
Report Updated: 4/12/2022

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

|        Oct        |      Nov       |      Dec |
|       Jan      |          Feb     |        Mar       |
|         Apr       |       May       |          Jun      |
|     Jul       |        Aug     |    Sep         |

Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS of Arkansas

Number of Claims Paid Each Week

Week, Month of Report

|        Oct        |      Nov       |      Dec |
|       Jan      |          Feb     |        Mar       |
|         Apr       |       May       |          Jun      |
|     Jul       |        Aug     |    Sep         |
Antigen Report

Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Age Group, Arkansas 2021-22

Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Type, Arkansas 2021-22
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region Public Health Labs, 2021-2022 Season, Week Ending April 2, 2022
Values in legend are for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6) for the most recent 3 weeks

Influenza-Like-Illness Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

This system monitors visits for ILI (fever and cough or sore throat), not laboratory confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, October 3, 2021 – April 2, 2022

Pneumonia, Influenza and COVID Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System Data as of April 7, 2022, National Data
Percentage of All Deaths due to Pneumonia, Influenza, and COVID-19, as of April 7, 2022, Arkansas Data