



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health

Outbreak Response/Epidemiology Influenza Weekly Report Arkansas 2019-2020

Week Ending Saturday 12/07/2019

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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 49, Arkansas reported “Regional” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for geographic spread of influenza, and “High” or 8 out of 10 for ILI intensity.
- Since September 29, 2019, 2,400 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers, with over 280 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, 57 percent were influenza A, and 43 percent were influenza B.
- There were 101 positive PCR flu tests from private labs this week: 63 tested positive for influenza A, 38 tested positive for influenza B. At the ADH lab, 1 tested positive for influenza A subtype H1N1, and 3 tested positive for influenza B subtype Victoria; 2 samples tested negative for influenza this week.
- About 3.2 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms this week were there for ILI (Syndromic Surveillance). About 3.5 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI (ILINet sentinel providers).
- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 5.4 percent among public schools.
- To date, 7 influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season. CDC has reported a total of 6 pediatric deaths nationwide this season.
- To date, one nursing home in Arkansas has reported influenza outbreak.
- Nationally, the proportion of deaths reported to the National Center for Health Statistics attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold this week.
- For Week 48, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as widespread in 16 states and regional in Puerto Rico and 14 states; 17 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 3 states reported sporadic activity; and Guam did not report.
- 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>. You can also access the reporting website directly at: <https://FluReport.ADH.Arkansas.gov>.

For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:

World Health Organization (WHO): http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html.

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

2019-2020 Influenza Outbreak Response/Epi Report (Week 49: 12/01/19 – 12/07/19)

Death Report for Week 49

- Deaths from all causes: 734
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 45
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 1

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 09/29/2019

- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 1
- Death Certificate or Antigen only: 6
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 7

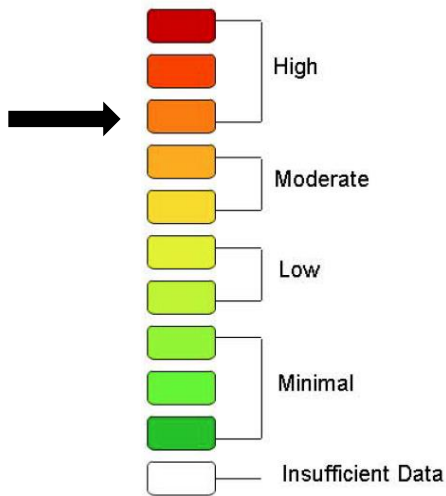
ER Visits (Syndromic Surveillance)

- **Week Ending: 12/07/2019**
Weighted Average: 3.2%
– Total Visits: 22,694
– Visits with ILI: 716
- **Previous Week**
Weighted Average: 3.4%
– Total Visits: 21,448
– Visits with ILI: 725

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions

- **PCR Confirmed:**
– Cumulative: 27
– Week ending 12/07/2019: 3
- **Antigen Positive:**
– Cumulative: 74
– Week ending 12/07/2019: 9

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers



PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases

- Total Cases since 09/29/2019: 324
- Week ending 12/07/2019: 105

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

PCR Tests	ADH Lab Week 49	Other Labs Week 49	Cumulative Cases Since 09/29/2019
A+	0	63	150
B+	0	38	152
Both A and B	0	0	10
B/Victoria	3	0	8
B/ Yamagata	0	0	0
H1N1+	1	0	3
H3+	0	0	1
Unsubtypeable	0	0	0
Total	4	101	324
Negative	2	--	--

PCR Confirmed Influenza Cases since 09/29/2019

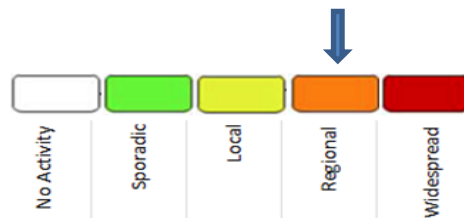
Age Groups	PCR+	Hospitalized	Deaths
0-4 yr.	76	2	0
5-18 yr.	106	2	0
19-24 yr.	20	1	0
25-44 yr.	61	5	0
45-64 yr.	41	7	1
>= 65 yr.	19	10	0
Unknown	1	0	0
Total	324	27	1

School Absenteeism*

Week Ending: 12/07/2019
 - Percent Absent: 5.4
 - Previous Week: 11.0

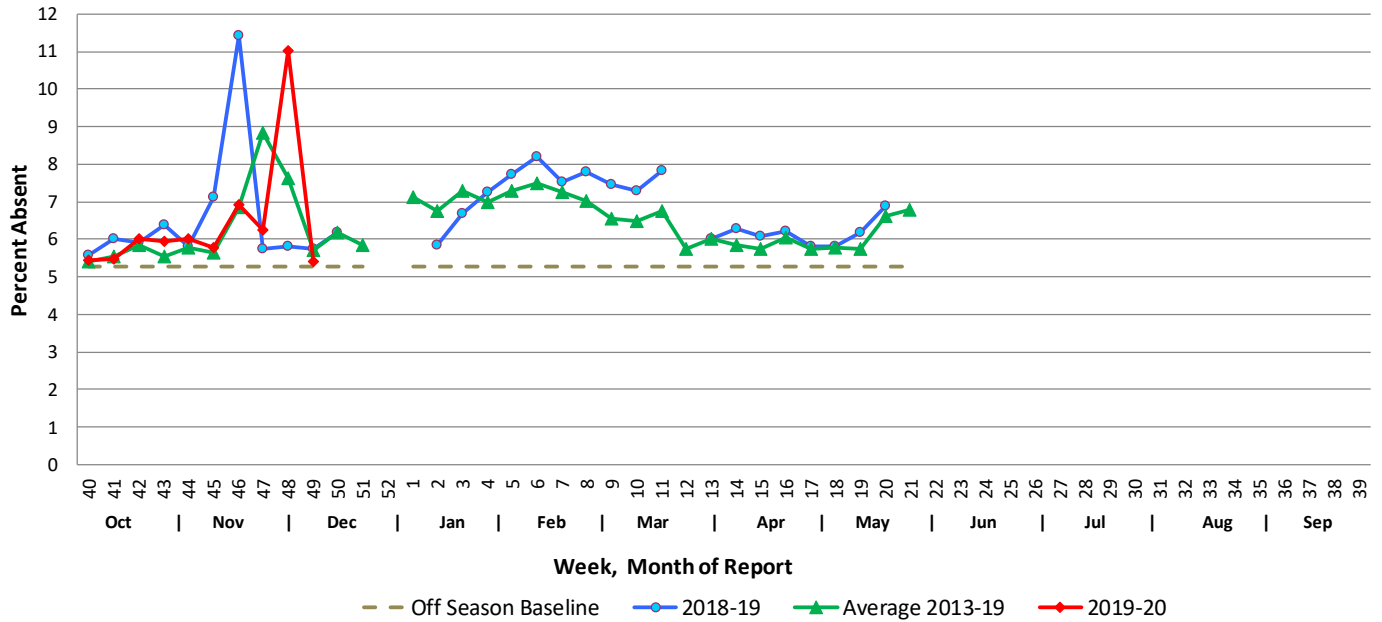
* Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 49:

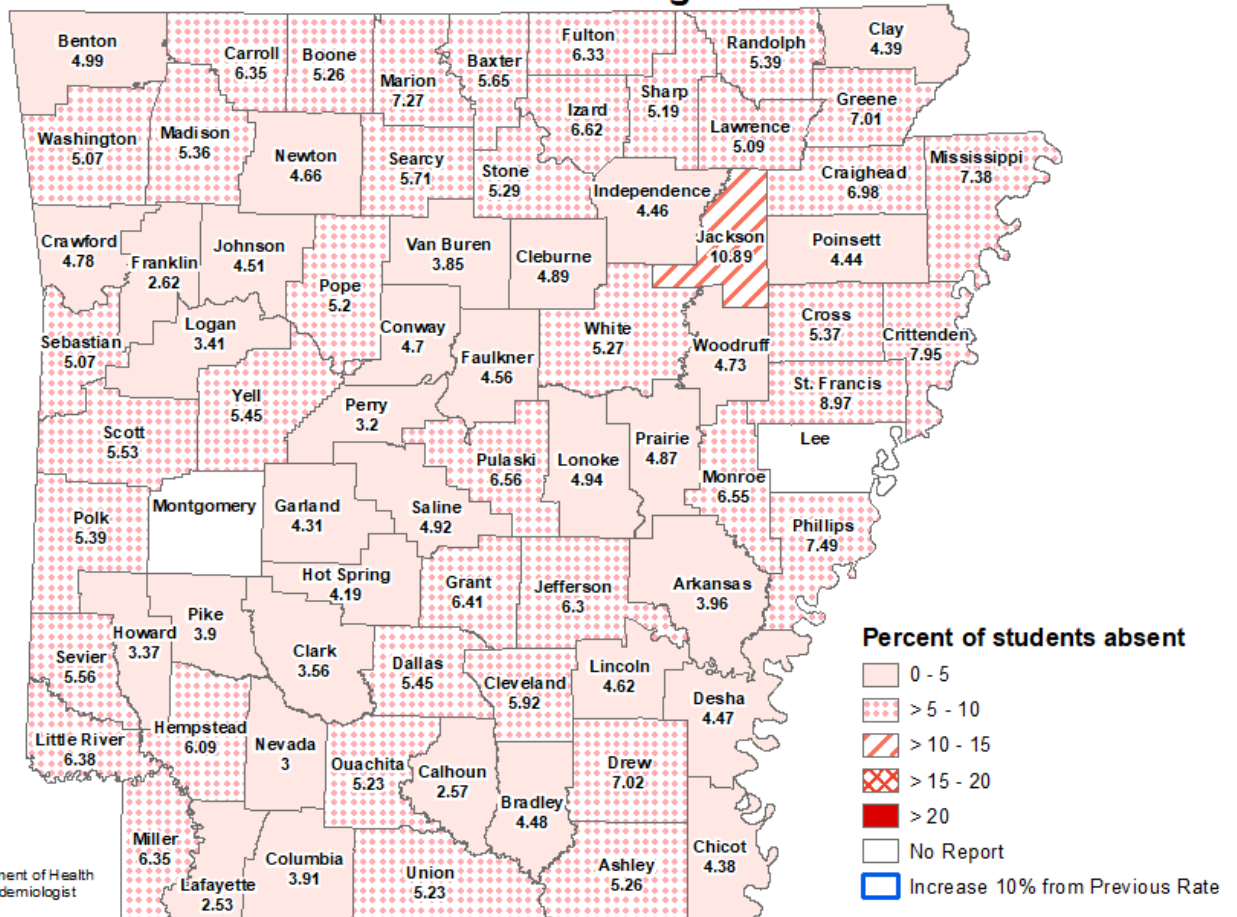


School Report

Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools



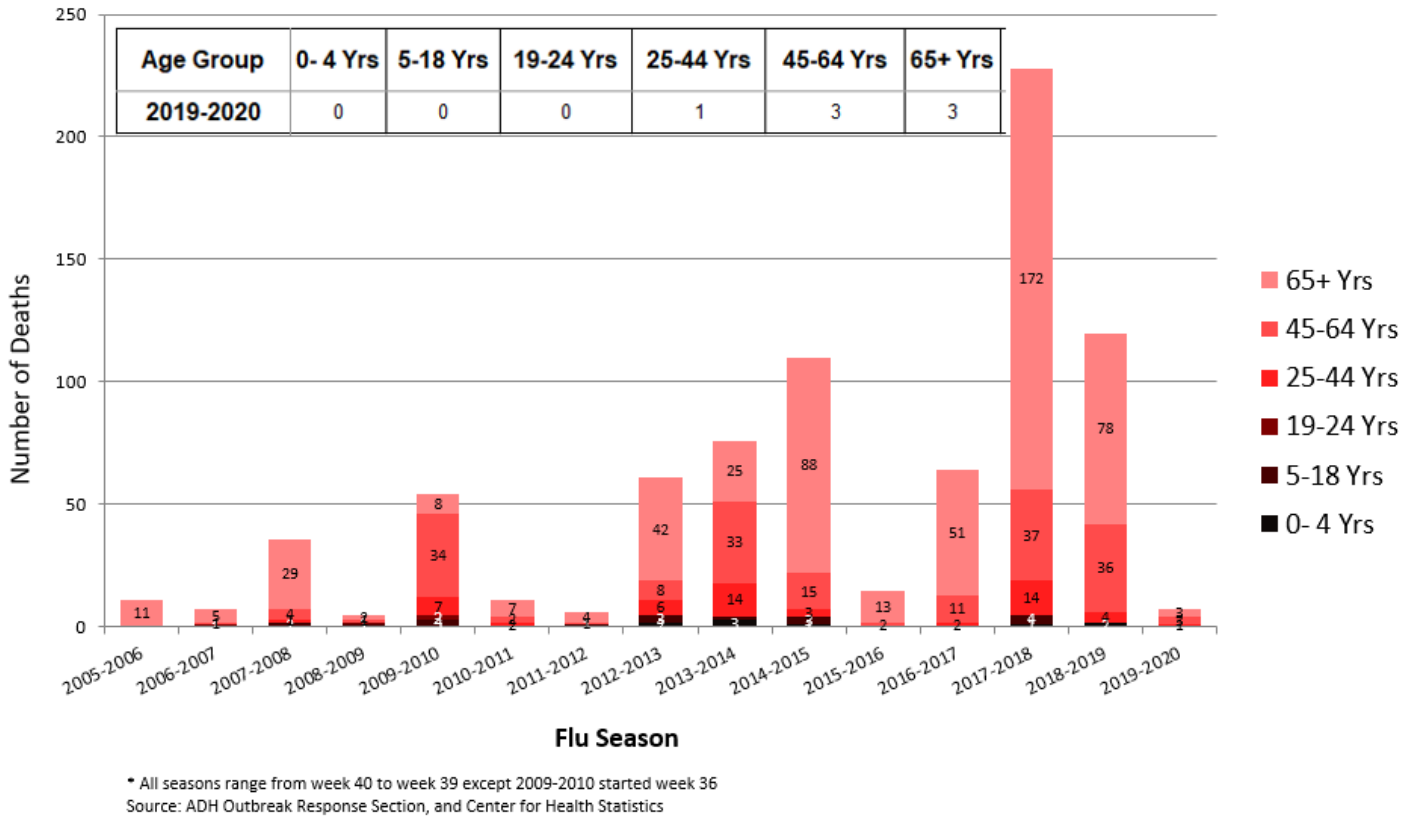
School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2019-2020 Percent Absent for Week Ending 12/6/2019



Date: December 9, 2019
Source: Arkansas Department of Health
Author: Haytham Safi, Epidemiologist

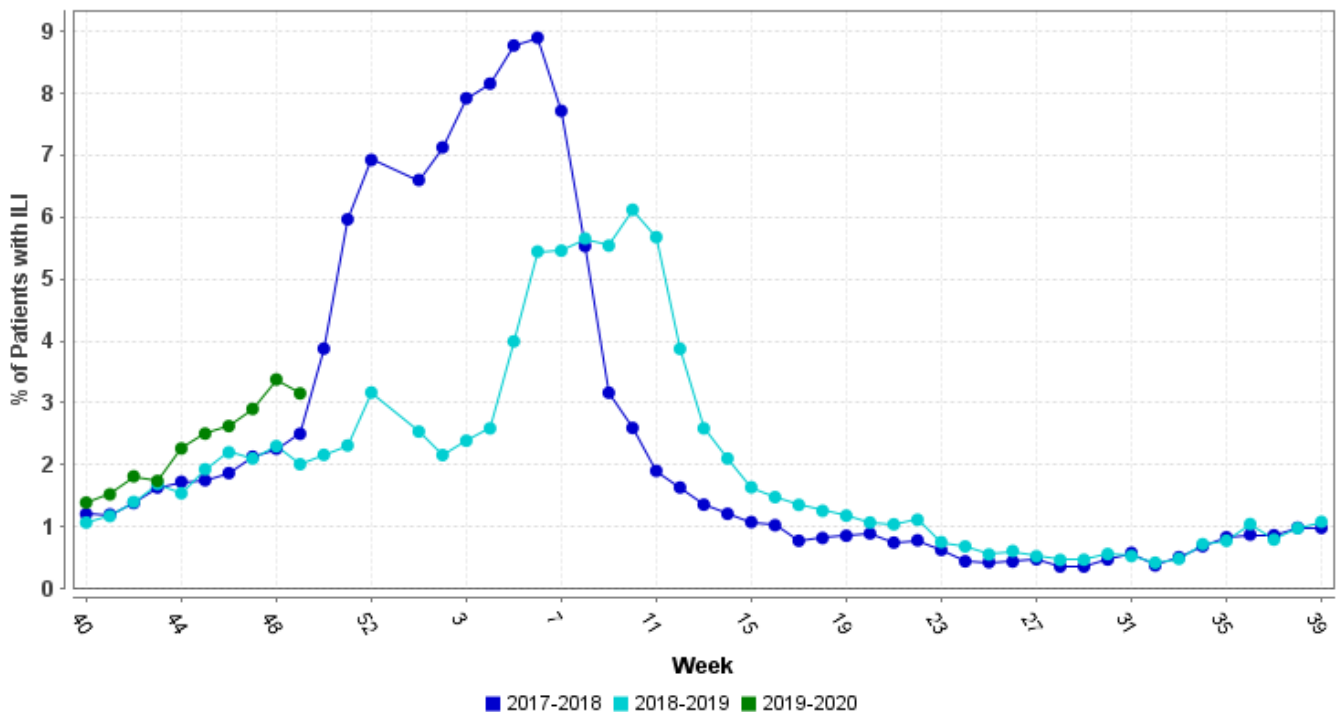
Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2005-2020 (Provisional)

Report Updated: 12/10/2019

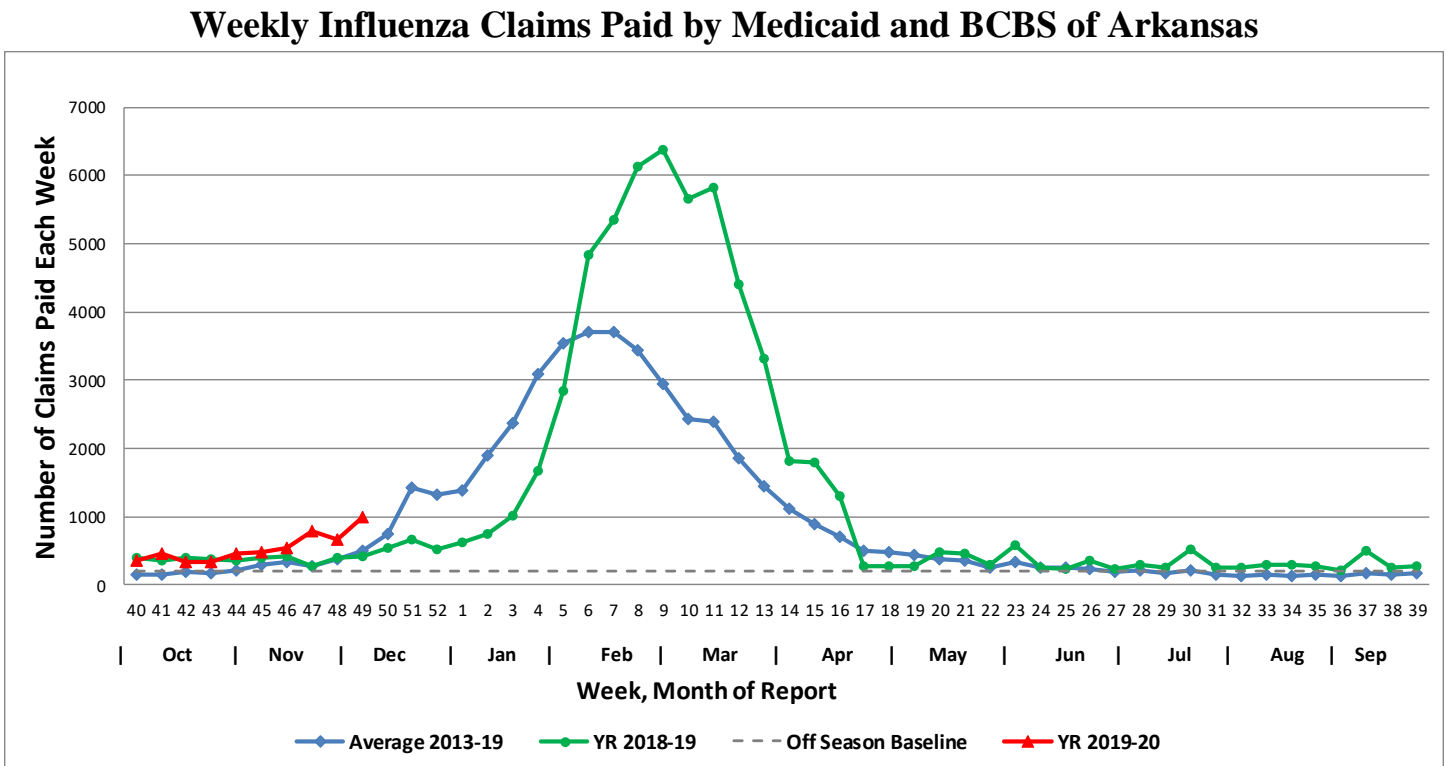
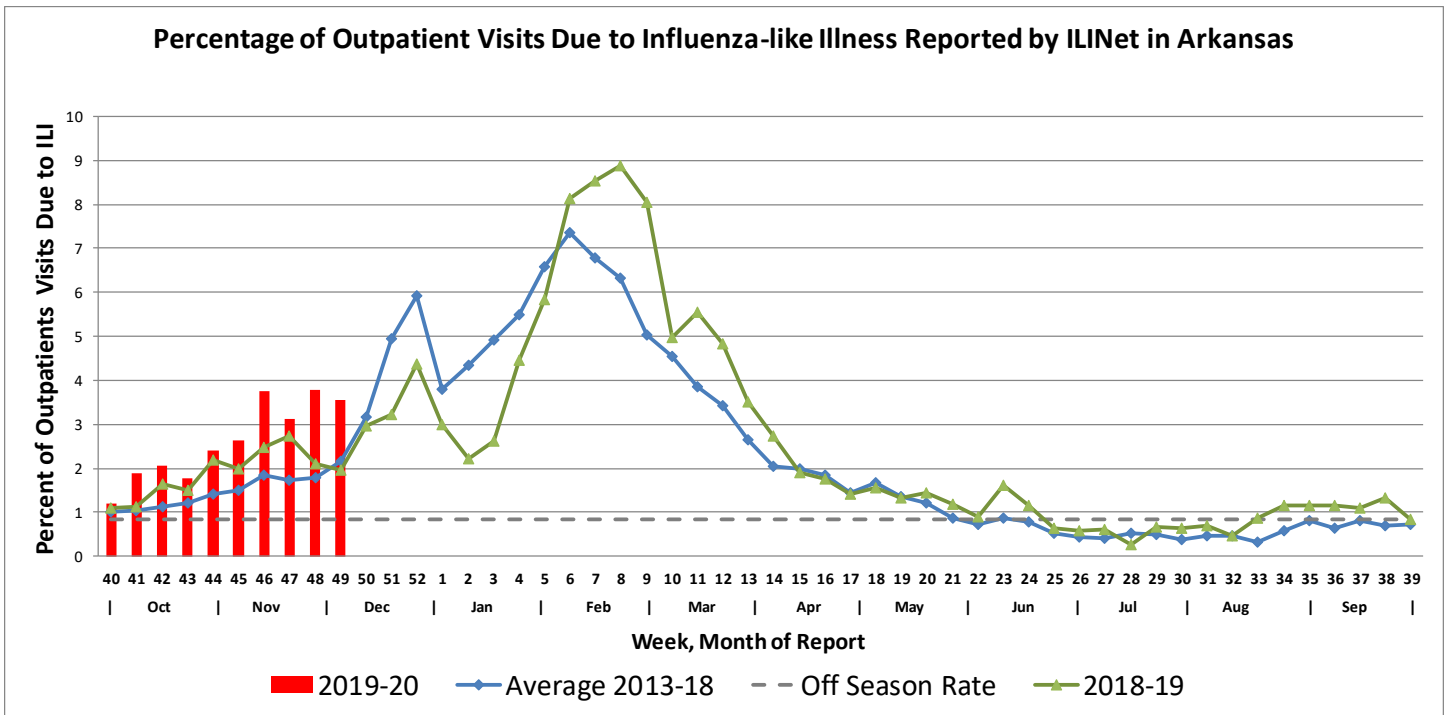


Hospital Report – Downloaded from ESSENCE (Syndromic Surveillance)

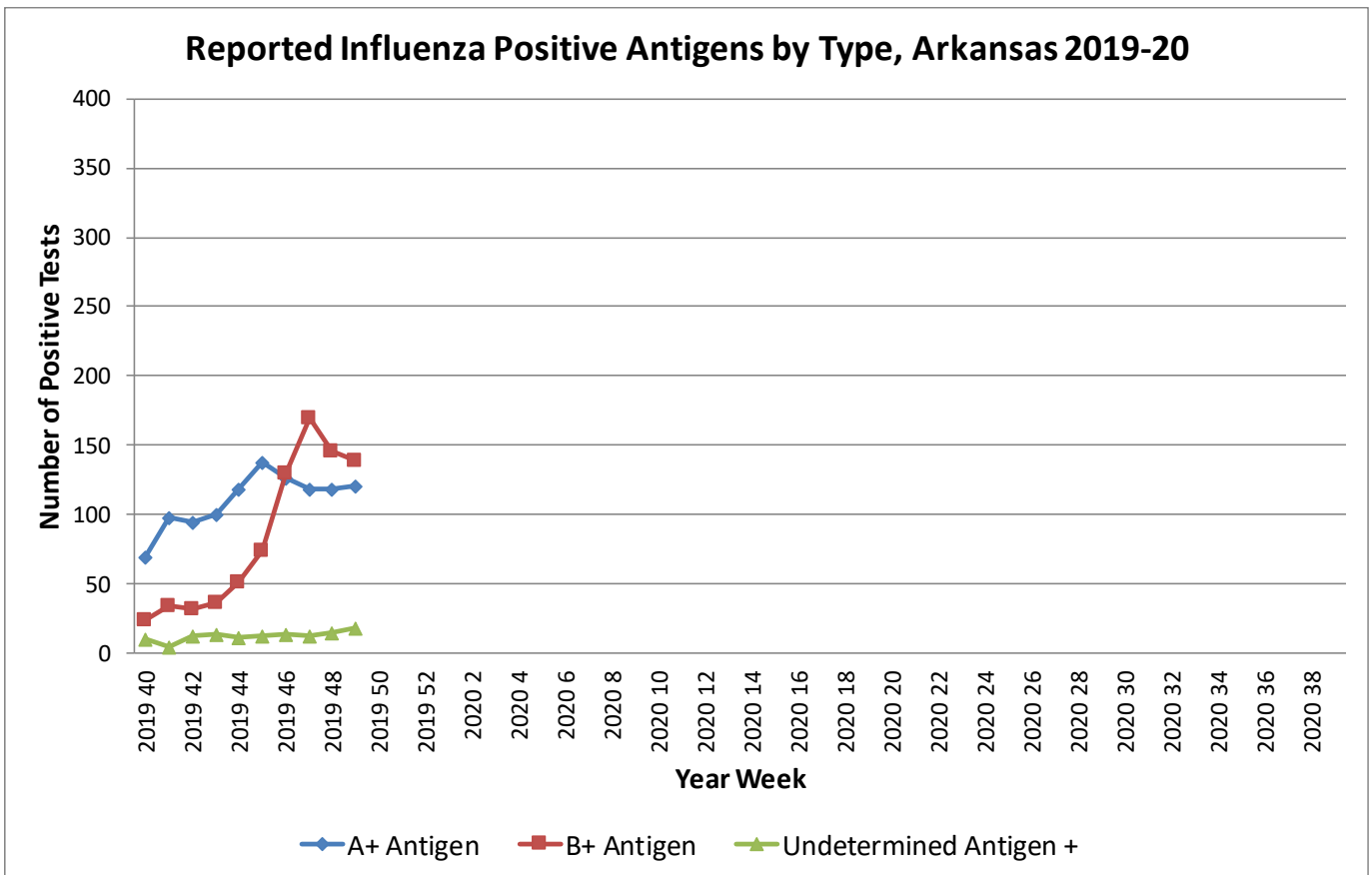
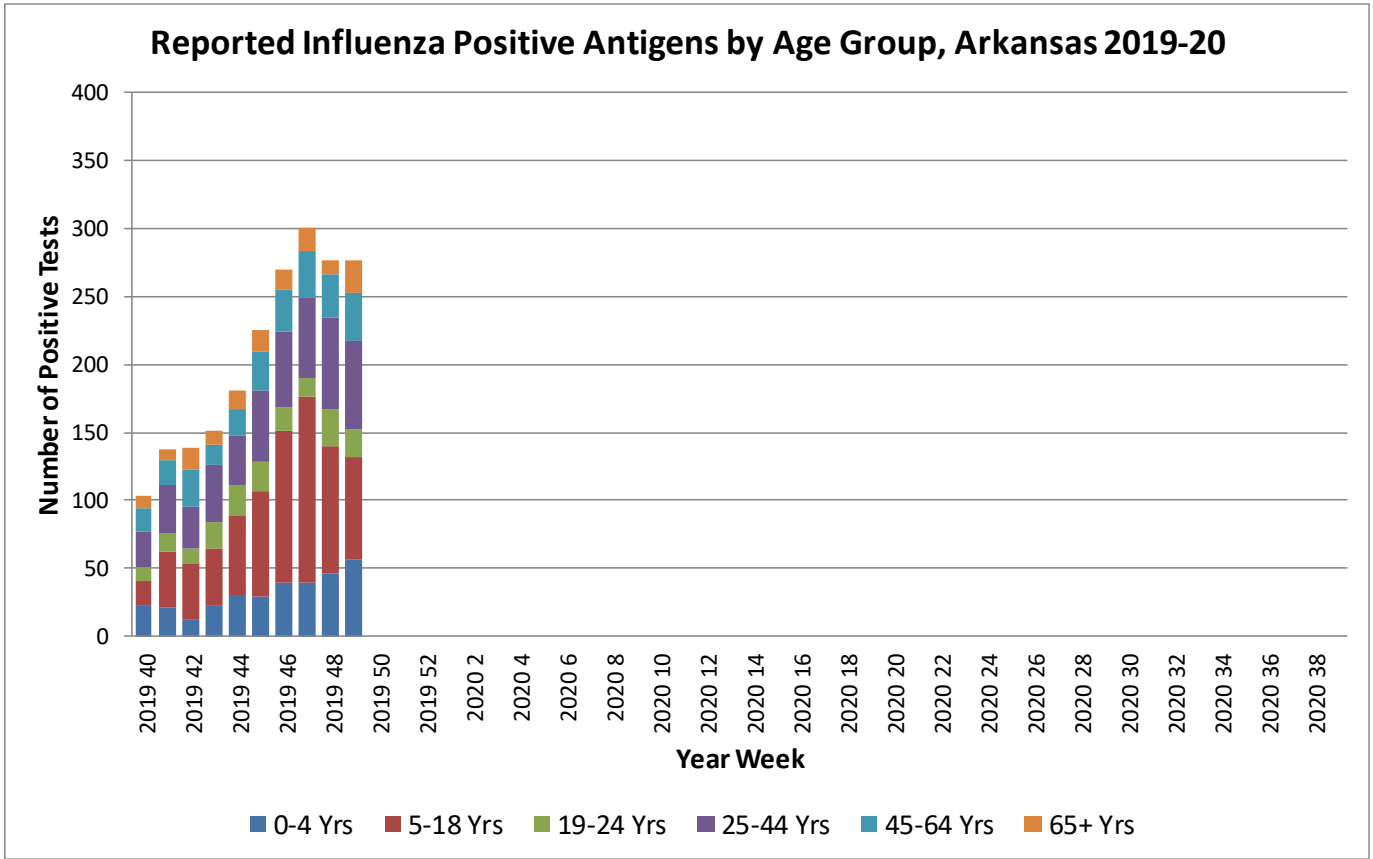
Percent ER Visits with ILI



Arkansas Subset of US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)

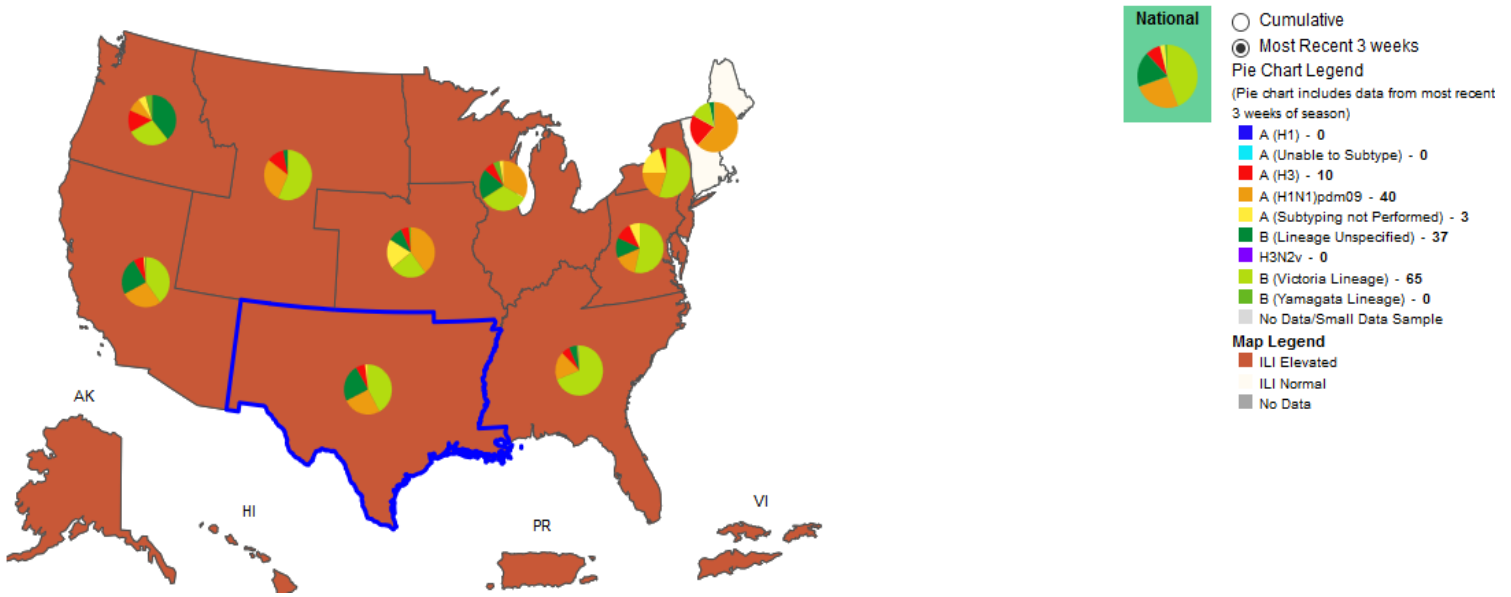


Antigen Report



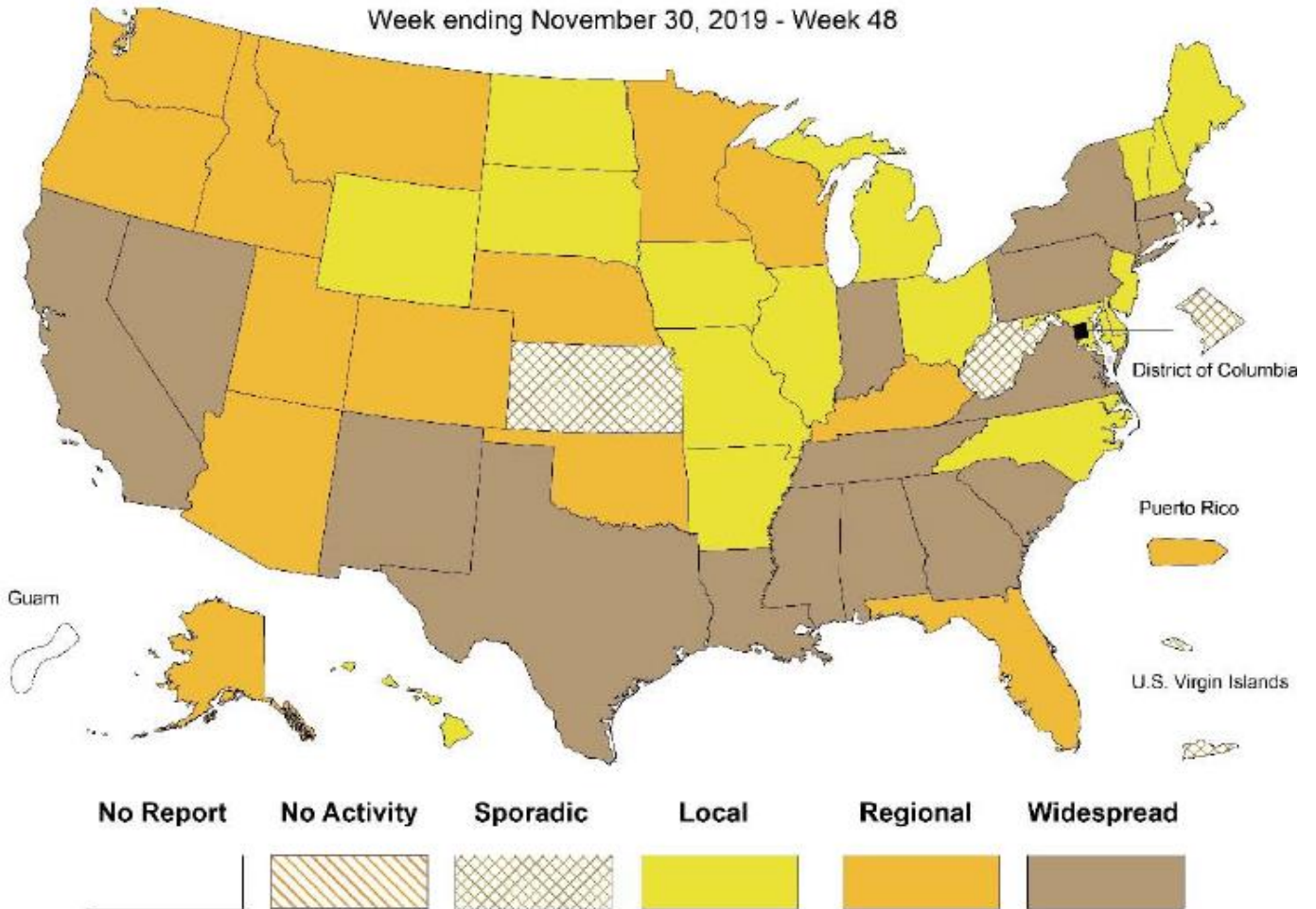
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2018-2019 Season, Week Ending November 30, 2019

Values in legend is for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6)



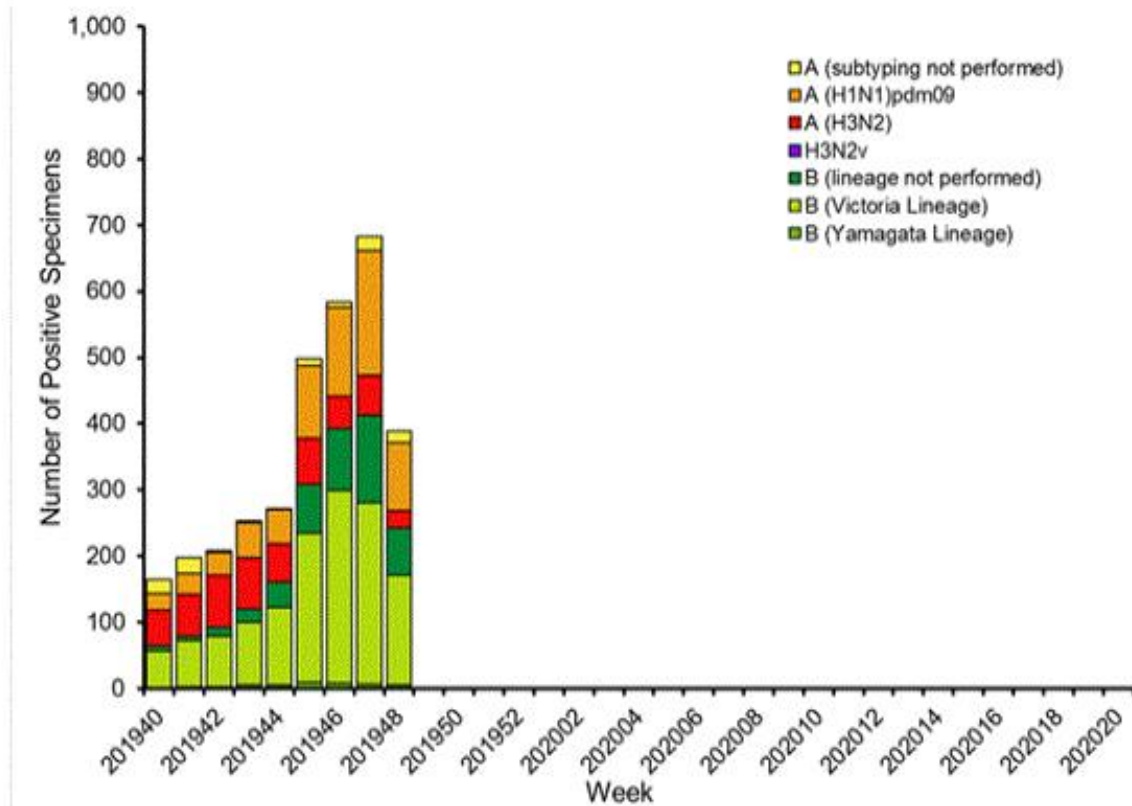
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending November 30, 2019 - Week 48



Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 49: Regional

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 November 23, 2019, as of December 5, 2019

