Week Ending Saturday 01/04/2020

Shirley Louie, MS, CIH
Acting 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
Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Medical Director, Immunizations/Outbreak Response
Mike Cima, PhD, Chief Epidemiologist, Associate Director for Science, CHP

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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 1, Arkansas reported “Widespread” 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, 7,200 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers, with over 850 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, 48 percent were influenza A, and 52 percent were influenza B.

- There were 155 positive PCR flu tests from private labs this week: 76 tested positive for influenza A, 79 tested positive for influenza B. At the ADH lab, 2 samples tested positive for influenza A, Subtype H1N1, and 1 sample tested negative for influenza this week.

- About 5.0 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms this week were there for ILI (Syndromic Surveillance). About 4.2 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI (ILINet sentinel providers).

- No school absenteeism rate last week among public schools due to the holidays.

- To date, 15 influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season, none of them were pediatric. CDC estimates a total of 2,900 flu deaths have occurred nationwide including 27 pediatric deaths reported 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 52, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as widespread in Puerto Rico and 45 states and regional in 4 states; the District of Columbia and 1 state reported local activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands 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 1
- Deaths from all causes: 614
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 36
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 2

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 09/29/2019
- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 1
- Death Certificate or Antigen only: 14
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 15

ER Visits (Syndromic Surveillance)
- Week Ending: 01/04/2020
  - Total Visits: 23,132
  - Visits with ILI: 1,167
- Previous Week
  - Total Visits: 24,159
  - Visits with ILI: 1,469

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions
- PCR Confirmed:
  - Total Visits: 79
  - Week ending 01/04/2020: 20
- Antigen Positive:
  - Total Visits: 199
  - Week ending 01/04/2020: 18

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level

PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases
- Total Cases since 09/29/2019: 1,094
- Week ending 01/04/2020: 157

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCR Tests</th>
<th>ADH Lab Week 1</th>
<th>Other Labs Week 1</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases Since 09/29/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both A and B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Victoria</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Yamagata</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H1N1+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</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>2</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>1,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>1</td>
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</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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yr.</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-18 yr.</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24 yr.</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 yr.</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 yr.</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;= 65 yr.</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,094</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

School Absenteeism*
- Week Ending: 01/04/2020
  - Percent Absent: No report - Holidays
  - Previous Week: No report - Holidays

Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 1:
Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2005-2020 (Provisional)
Report Updated: 1/7/2020

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

<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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>Average 2013-18</td>
<td>Off Season Rate</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
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Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS of Arkansas

Week, Month of Report

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<tr>
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<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
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<th>Sep</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average 2013-19</td>
<td>YR 2018-19</td>
<td>Off Season Baseline</td>
<td>YR 2019-20</td>
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Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2018-2019 Season, Week Ending December 28, 2019
Values in legend is for the highlighted HHS region (Region 6)

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Week ending December 28, 2019 - Week 52

Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 1: Widespread
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 December 22, 2019, as of January 2, 2020