Outbreak Response/Epidemiology
Influenza Weekly Report
Arkansas 2021-2022

Week Ending Saturday 05/21/2022

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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 20, Arkansas reported “Minimal” or 1 out of 13 for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) activity level indicator determined by data reported to ILINet.

- Since September 27, 2021, 14,722 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.

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

- The average school absenteeism rate last week was about 7.8 percent among public schools.

- Arkansas reported 26 influenza-related deaths this flu season. In 2020-21 season, Arkansas reported 24 influenza-related deaths.

- Nationally, CDC estimates that, so far this season, there have been at least 6.7 million flu illnesses, 69,000 hospitalizations, and 4,200 deaths from flu, 24 of the deaths are in pediatric patients.

- 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, influenza and COVID-19 (PIC) is above the epidemic threshold this week. PIC mortality is due primarily to COVID-19 and not influenza.

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/)

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2021-2022 Influenza Outbreak Response/Epi Report (Week 20: 05/15/2022 – 05/21/2022)

Death Report for Week 20
- Deaths from all causes: 701
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 53
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 1
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 1

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 10/03/2021
- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 4
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 22
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 26

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions
- Cumulative: 378
- Week ending 05/21/2022: 2

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers

PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases
- Total Cases since 10/03/2021: 2,319
- Week ending 05/21/2022: 5

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 20</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases Since 10/03/2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both A and B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</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>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3+</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubtypeable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,319</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>360</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-17 yr.</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 yr.</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 yr.</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 yr.</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 65 yr.</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,319</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Absenteeism*

Week Ending: 05/21/2022
- Percent Absent: 7.77
- Previous Week: 7.67

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

ER Visits (Syndromic Surveillance)
- Week Ending: 05/21/2022
  Weighted Average: 1.1%
  – Total Visits: 19,979
  – Visits with ILI: 210
- Previous Week
  Weighted Average: 1.2%
  – Total Visits: 19,926
  – Visits with ILI: 238
Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools

Off Season Baseline 2020-21 2021-22

Week, Month of Report

School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2021-2022
Percent Absent for Week Ending 5/21/2022

Date: May 24, 2022
Source: Arkansas Department of Health
Author: Haytham Saif, 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: 5/24/2022

Flu Season

Number of Deaths

* All seasons range from week 40 to week 52 except 2005-2010 started week 58
Source: ADH Outbreak Response Section, and Center for Health Statistics

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

Week

% or Patients with ILI

2019-2020  2020-2021  2021-2022
Arkansas Subset of US Outpatients Influenza Surveillance (ILINET)

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

Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS of Arkansas
Antigen Report

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

- Number of Positive Tests
- Year and Week

Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Type, Arkansas 2021-22

- A+ Antigen
- B+ Antigen
- Positive for Both A & B

2021-22
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region Public Health Labs, 2021-2022 Season, Week Ending May 14, 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

Outpatient Respiratory Illness Activity by Jurisdiction
Week 19, ending May 14, 2022

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 – May 14, 2022

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