Week Ending Saturday 11/02/2019

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November 5, 2019
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 44, Arkansas reported “Sporadic” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for geographic spread of influenza, and “Low” or 5 out of 10 for ILI intensity.

- Since September 29, 2019, 673 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers, with over 130 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 that can distinguish between influenza A and B virus types, 72 percent were influenza A, and 28 percent were influenza B.

- There were 18 positive PCR flu tests from private labs this week: 4 tested positive for influenza A, 8 tested positive for influenza B, and 6 tested positive for both A and B. At the ADH lab, 1 sample tested negative for influenza this week.

- About 2.3 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms were there for ILI this week. About 2.9 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI.

- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 5.5 percent among public schools.

- To date, 2 influenza-related deaths has been reported in Arkansas this flu season. CDC has reported a total of 2 pediatric deaths nationwide this season.

- To date, no nursing homes in Arkansas have reported influenza outbreaks.

- Nationally, the proportion of deaths reported to the National Center for Health Statistics attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold.

- For Week 43, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as regional in 1 state; 10 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 38 states reported sporadic activity; and 1 state reported no activity. 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/)
2019-2020 Influenza Outbreak Response/Epi Report (Week 44: 10/27/19 – 11/02/19)

Death Report for Week 44

- Deaths from all causes: 587
- 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: 0
- Death Certificate or Antigen only: 2
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 2

ER Visits

- Week Ending: 11/02/2019
  - Weighted Average: 2.3%
  - Total Visits: 20,555
  - Visits with ILI: 463
- Previous Week
  - Weighted Average: 1.8%
  - Total Visits: 21,977
  - Visits with ILI: 385

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions

- PCR Confirmed:
  - Cumulative: 10
  - Week ending 11/02/2019: 1
- Antigen Positive:
  - Cumulative: 23
  - Week ending 11/02/2019: 3

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers

PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases

- Total Cases since 09/29/2019: 78
- Week ending 11/02/2019: 18

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 44</th>
<th>Other Labs Week 44</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases Since 09/29/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both A and B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Victoria</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</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>1</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>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yr.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-18 yr.</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24 yr.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 yr.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 yr.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 65 yr.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Absenteeism*

Week Ending: 11/02/2019
- Percent Absent: 5.5%
- Previous Week: 5.9%
- Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 44:
Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools

Week, Month of Report
- Off Season Baseline
- 2018-19
- Average 2013-19
- 2019-20

School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2019-2020
Percent Absent for Week Ending 11/2/2019

Percent of students absent
- 0 - 5
- > 5 - 10
- > 10 - 15
- > 15 - 20
- > 20
- No Report
- Increase 10% from Previous Rate

Date: November 4, 2019
Source: Arkansas Department of Health
Author: Haythem Seif, Epidemiologist
Influenza Mortality by Age Group, Arkansas 2005-2020 (Provisional)
Report Updated: 11/05/2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>0-4 Yrs</th>
<th>5-18 Yrs</th>
<th>19-24 Yrs</th>
<th>25-44 Yrs</th>
<th>45-64 Yrs</th>
<th>65+ Yrs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Flu Season

Number of Deaths

* All seasons range from week 40 to week 39 except 2009-2010 started week 36
Source: ADH Outbreak Response Section, and Center for Health Statistics

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week, Month of Report</th>
<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>1.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average 2013-18</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off Season Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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Weekly Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS of Arkansas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week, Month of Report</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
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<th>Aug</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YR 2018-19</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>4000</td>
<td>5000</td>
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<td>Average 2013-19</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>4000</td>
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<td>7000</td>
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<td>Off Season Baseline</td>
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<tr>
<td>YR 2019-20</td>
<td>1000</td>
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<td>7000</td>
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</table>
Antigen Report

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

Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Type, Arkansas 2019-20
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending October 26, 2019 - Week 43

Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 44: Sporadic
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, September 30, 2018 – October 26, 2019

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System Data through the week ending October 19, 2019, as of October 31, 2019