Week Ending Saturday 11/23/2019

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November 26, 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 47, Arkansas reported “Local” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for geographic spread of influenza, and “Moderate” or 7 out of 10 for ILI intensity.
- Since September 29, 2019, 1,558 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers, with over 260 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, 61 percent were influenza A, and 39 percent were influenza B.
- There were 31 positive PCR flu tests from private labs this week: 17 tested positive for influenza A, 14 tested positive for influenza B. At the ADH lab, 3 tested positive for influenza B subtype Victoria; 2 samples tested negative for influenza this week.
- About 2.9 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms were there for ILI this week. About 3.2 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI.
- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 5.6 percent among public schools.
- To date, 4 influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season. CDC has reported a total of 4 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 epidemic threshold this week.
- For Week 46, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as widespread in 6 states and regional in 9 states; Puerto Rico and 23 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 11 states reported sporadic activity; and 1 state reported no activity. Guam did not report.

For Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information:

Death Report for Week 47
- Deaths from all causes: 683
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 49
- 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: 4
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 4

ER Visits
- Week Ending: 11/23/2019
  Weighted Average: 2.9%
  – Total Visits: 22,810
  – Visits with ILI: 658
- Previous Week
  Weighted Average: 2.6%
  – Total Visits: 21,575
  – Visits with ILI: 565

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions
- PCR Confirmed:
  – Cumulative: 19
  – Week ending 11/23/2019: 3
- Antigen Positive:
  – Cumulative: 43
  – Week ending 11/23/2019: 5

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level Reported by Sentinel Providers

PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases
- Total Cases since 09/29/2019: 173
- Week ending 11/23/2019: 34

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PCR Tests</th>
<th>ADH Lab Week 47</th>
<th>Other Labs Week 47</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases Since 09/29/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both A and B</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/Victoria</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</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>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unsubtypeable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>2</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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4 yr.</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-18 yr.</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-24 yr.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 yr.</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 yr.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;= 65 yr.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Absenteeism*
- Week Ending: 11/23/2019
  - Percent Absent: 5.6
  - Previous Week: 6.9
    - Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 47:
Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools

School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2019-2020
Percent Absent for Week Ending 11/23/2019

Date: November 25, 2019
Source: Arkansas Department of Health
Author: Haytham Saif, Epidemiologist
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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Apr</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Average 2013-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Off Season Rate</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018-19</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>Number of Claims Paid Each Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Average 2013-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>YR 2018-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>– Off Season Baseline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>YR 2019-20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2018-2019 Season, Week Ending November 16, 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 16, 2019 - Week 46

Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 47: Local
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 9, 2019, as of November 21, 2019