Week Ending Saturday 10/12/2019

Shirley Louie, MS, CIH
Acting State Epidemiologist; Director, Center for Public Health Practice

Marisha DiCarlo, PhD, MPH
Director, Center for Health Protection

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
Jennifer Dillaha, MD, Medical Director, Immunizations
Mike Cima, PhD, Chief Epidemiologist
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 41, Arkansas reported “Sporadic” activity to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for geographic spread of influenza, and “Minimal” or 3 out of 10 for ILI intensity.

- Since September 29, 2019, over 180 positive influenza tests have been reported to the ADH online database by health care providers, with over 80 positive tests reported this week. 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, 78 percent were influenza A, and 22 percent were influenza B.

- There were 8 positive PCR flu tests from private labs this week: 3 tested positive for influenza A and 5 tested positive for influenza B. At the ADH lab, no samples were tested for influenza this week.

- About 1.5 percent of patients visiting emergency rooms were there for ILI this week. About 2.0 percent of outpatient visits were for ILI.

- The average school absenteeism rate last week was 5.1 percent among public schools.

- To date, no influenza-related deaths have been reported in Arkansas this flu season. A total of 120 deaths were reported last flu 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 40, the geographic spread of influenza was reported as local in 4 states. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 40 states reported sporadic activity, and 6 states reported no activity. 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](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:
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 41: 10/06/19 – 10/12/19)

Death Report for Week 41
- Deaths from all causes: 599
- Deaths due to Pneumonia: 34
- PCR confirmed Flu Deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Flu Antigen only: 0

Cumulative Flu Deaths since 09/29/2019
- PCR confirmed Flu deaths: 0
- Death Certificate or Antigen only: 0
- Cumulative Flu deaths: 0

ER Visits
- Week Ending: 10/12/2019
  Weighted Average: 1.5%
  – Total Visits: 21,819
  – Visits with ILI: 330
- Previous Week
  Weighted Average: 1.4%
  – Total Visits: 22,725
  – Visits with ILI: 316

Total Flu-Related Hospital Admissions
- PCR Confirmed:
  – Cumulative: 4
  – Week ending 10/12/2019: 3
- Antigen Positive:
  – Cumulative: 6
  – Week ending 10/12/2019: 5

Weekly Arkansas ILI Intensity Level
Reported by Sentinel Providers

PCR Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases
- Total Cases since 09/29/2019: 20
- Week ending 10/12/2019: 8

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 41</th>
<th>Other Labs Week 41</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases Since 09/29/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</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>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H3+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsubtypeable</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</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>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-18 yr.</td>
<td>8</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>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 yr.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 65 yr.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Absenteeism*

Week Ending: 10/12/2019
- Percent Absent: 5.1
- Previous Week: 5.5
  - Average daily absenteeism for all public schools during this reporting week.

Geographic ILI Activity Level Reported for Week 41:
Weekly School Absenteeism Rates, Arkansas Public Schools

School Absenteeism Rate per County, Arkansas 2019-2020
Percent Absent for Week Ending 10/12/2019

Data: October 15, 2019
Source: Arkansas Department of Health
Author: Haygham Staff, Epidemiologist
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

Influenza Claims Paid by Medicaid and BCBS of Arkansas
Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Age Group, Arkansas 2019-20

Year Week

Number of Positive Tests

0-4 Yrs 5-18 Yrs 19-24 Yrs 25-44 Yrs 45-64 Yrs 65+ Yrs

Reported Influenza Positive Antigens by Type, Arkansas 2019-20

Year Week

Number of Positive Tests

A+ Antigen B+ Antigen Undetermined Antigen +
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC and ILI Activity, by HHS Region, 2018-2019 Season, Week Ending October 05, 2019

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

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending October 5, 2019 - Week 40

Arkansas Flu Activity Level Reported for Week 41: Sporadic
Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2018-19 Season

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System Data through the week ending September 28, 2019, as of October 10, 2019

[Graphs and charts showing influenza and pneumonia mortality data]