Influenza Activity in Holmes County
February 24 – March 2, 2019 (week 9)

Summary:

Public health surveillance data indicate elevated levels of influenza like illness (ILI) in Holmes County. The percentages of ILI outpatient and emergency department (ED) visits are higher than the statewide average (See Figures 1 and 2). Most ILI outpatient and ED visits have occurred among individuals less than 50 years of age (Figure 4). The number of influenza associated hospitalizations has exceeded the 5-year historical average for 2 consecutive weeks (Figure 3). Nine influenza associated hospitalizations and one influenza death have been reported to the Holmes County General Health District this flu season.

Dashboard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Current Week</th>
<th>Previous Week</th>
<th>Trend (# of weeks)</th>
<th>Season to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of ILI Outpatient visits¹</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>down 1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of ILI ED visits²</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>up 1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Influenza Hospitalizations³</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>up 3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Novel Influenza Infections³</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of deaths⁴ associated with:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Percentage of ILI Outpatient Visits by Week:

![Figure 1. Percentage of Influenza related Outpatient Visits among Holmes County Residents by Week, 2018-2019 Flu Season](image)

Source: Holmes County Influenza Surveillance System

Percentage of ILI ED Visits by Week:

![Figure 2. Percentage of Influenza related ED Visits among Holmes County residents by Week, 2018-2019 Flu Season](image)

Source: Holmes County Influenza Surveillance System

Updated: 3/7/2019
Number of Influenza Associated Hospitalizations by Week:

Figure 3. Number of Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations among Holmes County residents by week, 2018-2019 Flu Season

Source: Ohio Disease Reporting System

Age Distribution of Influenza Like Illness:

Figure 4. Age Distribution of ILI Outpatient and ED Visits among Holmes County residents, 2018-2019 Flu Season
**State, Regional, and National Data:**

**Ohio Surveillance Data:**

- **ODH lab** has reported 725 positive influenza tests from specimens sent from various submitters. 2018-2019 influenza season positive results: (382) A/pdmH1N1; (224) A/H3N2; (1) Influenza B; (through 02/23/2019).

- The **National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)** has reported 48,666 influenza tests performed at participating facilities. 2018-2019 influenza season positive results: (240) A/pdmH1N1, (157) A/H3N2, (6099) Flu A Not Subtyped, and (92) Flu B (through 02/23/2019).

- 3 pediatric influenza-associated mortalities have been reported during the 2018-2019 season (through 02/23/2019).

- No novel influenza A virus infections have been reported during the 2018-2019 season (through 02/23/2019).


**HHS Regional Surveillance Data**: During week 7 (February 10th - February 16th, 2019), the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI in Region 5 (Ohio is in Region 5) was 2.5%, which is above the regional baseline of 1.8%. West Virginia reported Regional Activity; Michigan, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky reported Widespread Activity.

**National Surveillance Data**: During week 7 (February 10th - February 16th, 2019) Most U.S. States reported Moderate or High influenza activity, though some are reporting Low or Minimal activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI was 5.1%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above their region-specific baseline level.

**Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09** and **influenza A(H3)** viruses are both circulating widely on a national level. In some regions, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 is most frequently reported, in other regions influenza A(H3) is most frequently reported. Still other regions report nearly equal numbers if each virus in circulation.

*National-level and regional-level data are reported one week later than Ohio state-level data.
Data Sources:

1. **Outpatient Influenza Like Illness Visits**: The Holmes County General Health District collects and monitors data on the percentage of outpatient visits seen for influenza like illness. The data collection is part of a national effort to track the occurrence and severity of the influenza season in the United States. Two outpatient providers in Holmes County are voluntarily participating during 2017-2018 influenza season.

2. **Emergency Department Visits**: Local data is based on data reported by Pomerene Hospital. Pomerene collects data on the disease diagnosis of patients presenting at the emergency department. ILI data is based on laboratory confirmed diagnosis of influenza. Aggregate numbers are voluntarily reported to the Holmes County General Health District. Statewide data is gathered by the Epi Center Syndromic Surveillance System and is based on the chief complaint of patients presenting at the ED.

3. **Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations (ODRS)**: Influenza-associated hospitalizations and novel influenza infections are reported by the Holmes County General Health District and hospitals using the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). Hospitalizations can be used as an indicator of the severity of illness during a particular influenza season. This condition became reportable in January 2009.

4. **Office of Vital Statistics**: The Holmes County General Health District Office of Vital Statistics receives reports on the causes of death that occur within the county. Influenza and pneumonia deaths were included in this report if they were listed as the immediate or underlying cause of death on the death certificate.