



Epidemiology and Response Division

NEW MEXICO INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

Weekly Report ending December 4, 2004

Weekly Summary of Influenza Activity in NM:

Eighteen of the eighteen sentinel sites reported a total of 4259 patient visits during the week ending December 4, 2004, of which 0.19 % were for an influenza-like illness. The week ending November 27 reported 0.14 % influenza-like illness. During the week ending December 4, 2004 there have been no laboratory confirmed influenza cases reported to the Epidemiology and Response Division of the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH). **NO ACTIVITY** was reported by NMDOH to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (see table below for definitions).

Laboratory Activity in NM:

To date this season, there have been no influenza virus isolates identified by culture at the Department of Health Scientific Laboratory Division (SLD) or at TriCore laboratory. Though CDC uses culture confirmed influenza to define the level of influenza activity, the New Mexico Department of Health has received reports of 2(0.6%) positive influenza B results out of 301 rapid tests performed at 15 clinical laboratories since October 24, 2004. Viral cultures were not performed on these two patients. For the week ending December 4, 2004, 15 clinical laboratories reported performing 57 rapid tests, none of which were positive. This information is collected by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau, Epidemiology Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health. For questions, please call 505-827-0006. For more information on influenza go to the NMDOH web page: <http://www.health.state.nm.us/flu/> or the CDC web page: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/fluvirus.htm>

Influenza-related Pediatric Mortality

As of the week ending November 27, 2004, no cases of influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported to NMDOH or the CDC.

Flu Activity in the Region

For the week ending November 27, 2004 (the most recent data available), influenza activity was reported as sporadic in 6 states (Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Texas and Utah) in our area. Three specimens culture tested for influenza virus were positive for Influenza B in the Mountain region (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming).

National Flu Surveillance and Laboratory Activity:

For the week ending November 27, 2004, 29 (2.1%) of 1,383 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. Of these, 3 were influenza A (H3N2) virus, 15 were influenza A that were not subtyped and 11 were influenza B viruses. Nationwide 1.8% of patient visits to U.S. sentinel providers were due to influenza-like-illness. One state reported regional activity, two states reported local activity and 35 states reported

sporadic flu activity nationally. More information on national surveillance can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

Activity Level	ILI activity*/Outbreaks		Laboratory data
No activity	Low	And	No lab confirmed cases [†]
Sporadic	Not increased	And	Isolated lab-confirmed cases
	OR		
Local	Not increased	And	Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution [‡]
	Increased ILI in 1 region**; ILI activity in other regions is not increased	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with increased ILI
	OR		
Regional (doesn't apply to states with ≤4 regions)	2 or more institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in 1 region; ILI activity in other regions is not increased	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with the outbreaks; virus activity is no greater than sporadic in other regions
	Increased ILI in ≥2 but less than half of the regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
Widespread	OR		
	Institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in ≥2 and less than half of the regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
	Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least half of the regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.

* ILI activity can be assessed using a variety of data sources including sentinel providers, school/workplace absenteeism, and other syndromic surveillance systems that monitor influenza-like illness.

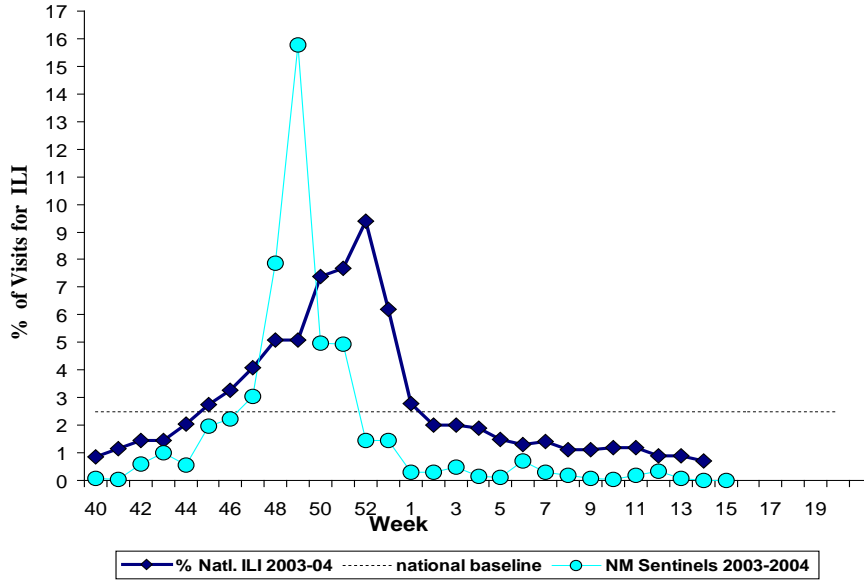
[†] Lab confirmed case = case confirmed by rapid diagnostic test, antigen detection, culture, or PCR. Care should be given when relying on results of point of care rapid diagnostic test kits during times when influenza is not circulating widely. The sensitivity and specificity of these tests vary and the predictive value positive may be low outside the time of peak influenza activity. Therefore, a state may wish to obtain laboratory confirmation of influenza by testing methods other than point of care rapid tests for reporting the first laboratory confirmed case of influenza of the season.

[‡] Institution includes nursing home, hospital, prison, school, etc.

**Region: population under surveillance in a defined geographical subdivision of a state. A region could be comprised of 1 or more counties and would be based on each state's specific circumstances. Depending on the size of the state, the number of regions could range from 2 to approximately 12. The definition of regions would be left to the state but existing state health districts could be used in many states. Allowing states to define regions would avoid somewhat arbitrary county lines and allow states to make divisions that make sense based on geographic population clusters. Focusing on regions larger than counties would also improve the likelihood that data needed for estimating activity would be available.

* Influenza-like Activity (ILI) is defined as Fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ [37.8°C], oral or equivalent) AND cough and/or sore throat in absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

**Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness
Reported by Sentinel Providers 2003 – 2004**



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