

Summary & Highlights

Columbus and Franklin County influenza activity indicators show decreases in week 44 compared to the previous weeks. However, it's important to note that we normally see very little activity this time of year and have yet to enter the part of the season where we usually start to see increases.

- Local Geographic Activity Designation (Click [here](#) for definitions) = WIDESPREAD
- Hospital labs reported 930 tests run with 178 positive results (19.1%) for week 44 (178 type A; 0 Type B); 16% lower than the previous week. The 2nd weekly decrease after 10 consecutive weekly increases.
- Hospital emergency department (ED) and pediatric urgent care (PUC) ILI indicators and respiratory related visits continue to be elevated overall for this time of year. The indicators with the most recent complete week (44) all show decreases (some indicators have decreased for 3 consecutive weeks).
- School absences decreased in week 44 for the 3rd week in a row.
- In week 44, all of over-the-counter medication sales have seen decreases (Cough & cold medication, electrolytes, thermometers, chest rubs, pediatric and adult anti-fevers, and throat lozenges). A decrease in antiviral prescriptions has also been reported in week 43 (most recent week available).
- Nationally, during week 43, over 99% of all sub-typed influenza A viruses reported to CDC this week were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses.

Local Flu Activity Dashboard *(All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.)*

Indicators	Most Complete Week Available	Current Week Value	% Change Chart from Last Week (-) (+)	# Weeks ▲▼	General Trend Chart
Hospital Lab Data	44	19.1% Pos.	-16%	2 ▼	
ILI Outpatient Data (Sentinel Medical Sites)	44	2.3% of All Visits	-1%	2 ▼	
Hospital ED Data†:					
Coded as ILI	43	12.1% of All ED Visits	-14%	2 ▼	
Complaint Defined as ILI‡	44	25.3% of All ED Visits	-11%	3 ▼	
Categorized as Respiratory	44	20.6% of All ED Visits	-12%	3 ▼	
Pediatric Urgent Care Data†:					
Complaint Defined as ILI‡	44	55.5% of All PUC Visits	-10%	3 ▼	
Categorized as Respiratory	44	48.6% of All PUC Visits	-9%	3 ▼	
School Absences	44	6.9% Absent	-4%	3 ▼	
Death Certificate Pneumonia & Influenza Deaths†	44	8.9% of All Deaths	-23%	1 ▼	
Medication Data:					
OTC Cough & Cold Sales	44	8,396 Total Sales	-12%	2 ▼	
Thermometer	44	361 Total Sales	-31%	2 ▼	
Antiviral Prescriptions	43	7.9% of All Anti-Infectives	-15%	1 ▼	

Reportable Conditions**	Cumulative Numbers as of August 1 - Nov. 11, 2009*, 12:00 PM	
	Suspected	Confirmed
Influenza Clusters/Outbreaks Reported	1	0
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations (IAH) Reported	4	392
IAH Confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009§	Not Available	209
Pediatric Influenza Associated Death Reported	0	1

*Numbers subject to fluctuations as lab results are received and suspects are determined confirmed or not a case. Due to reporting variations, these numbers may represent an undercount.

**Based on assigned jurisdiction being Franklin County or City of Columbus and date case was created on the Ohio Disease Reporting System.

§Information provided for references (Reportable condition is any influenza associated hospitalization, regardless of influenza type).

†Franklin County, OH residents only (based on zipcode); ‡Broader definition used than initial weekly reports to encompass more potential ILI.

Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality

In week 44 of 2009 (Nov. 1st, 2009 – Nov. 7th, 2009), 8 % of all Columbus deaths were reported as due to pneumonia or influenza (Figure 1). Nationally, 7.4% of deaths reported were due to pneumonia or influenza in week 43. This national percentage was above to the national epidemic threshold of 6.7%.

Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports

Outpatient visits for ILI at sentinel medical practice reporting sites (2.3% of all visits reported) stabilized/decreased slightly in week 44 compared to the previous week. The week 43 percentage of Franklin County resident BioSense ED hospital encounters is 12.1% for ILI coded chief complaints and 9.9% for ILI diagnosis (Figure 2). Specific complaints of influenza and defined influenza like illness symptoms have decreased in both EDs and Pediatric Urgent Care sites for a number of consecutive weeks (Figures 2-4). Despite the decrease, the overall percentages continue to be higher than what is normally seen this time of year.

Nationally, during week 43 of 2009, 7.7% of patient visits reported through the US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This is the 1st time in 4 weeks that the national percentage has stabilized or decreased. This percentage is still above the national baseline of 2.3%.

Laboratory Surveillance

During week 44 of 2009, reporting Franklin County sentinel laboratories tested 930 specimens, with 178 (19.1%) positive (Figure 5). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 through week 44 is 10,316, with 1,945 positives (1,936 type A, 9 type B). Nationally, during week 43, WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 14,151 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 5,258 (37.2%) of which were positive (Figures 3). During week 43, seasonal influenza A (H1), A (H3), and B viruses co-circulated at low levels with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. Over 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC this week were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. See <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/> for a comprehensive national report.

The table below shows 2009-10 (starting August 30th, 2009) cumulative PCR and culture influenza lab results from ODH lab (totals as of 11/2/2009).

Location	# Seasonal A (H1)	# Seasonal A (H3)	# Seasonal B	# Pandemic A (H1)	# PCR Influenza Not Detected
Franklin County	0	0	0	106*	230
Ohio	1	0	0	653*	664

Source: ODH Lab (based on county of provider submitting specimen, not county of patient's residence)

*Not an official count of Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) in Franklin County or Ohio. Similar to the CDC and ODH, individual case counts are no longer being tracked. See <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/> or <http://www.cdrinfo.com/H1N1flu.html> for more details.

ED and Pediatric Urgent Care Respiratory Visits

In the 44th week of 2009, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as *respiratory* (20.6%) decreased compared to the previous week (-12%). Similarly, the percentage of reporting Pediatric Urgent Care visits categorized as *respiratory* (48.6%) decreased compared to the previous week (-9%) (Figure 6).

Over-the-Counter Medication Sales and Antiviral Prescriptions

In week 44 of 2009, there were decreases in all over-the-counter medication sales being tracked, including cough & cold medication, electrolytes, thermometers, chest rubs, pediatric and adult anti-fever, and throat lozenges (Figure 7). In week 43 (latest week available), the percentage of Franklin County pharmacy prescriptions for antivirals, out of all anti-infective prescriptions, decreased for the 1st time in 9 weeks (Figure 8). During week 43, the national antiviral prescription percentage also decreased.

Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:

National Pandemic H1N1 Situation Updates: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>

International Pandemic H1N1 Activity Map: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/updates/international/map.htm>

World health Organization Situation Updates: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/updates/en/index.html>

Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 44 (11/1/09-11/7/09)

**Figure 1: Percentage of Deaths due to Pneumonia and Influenza
Columbus, Ohio 2009-10**

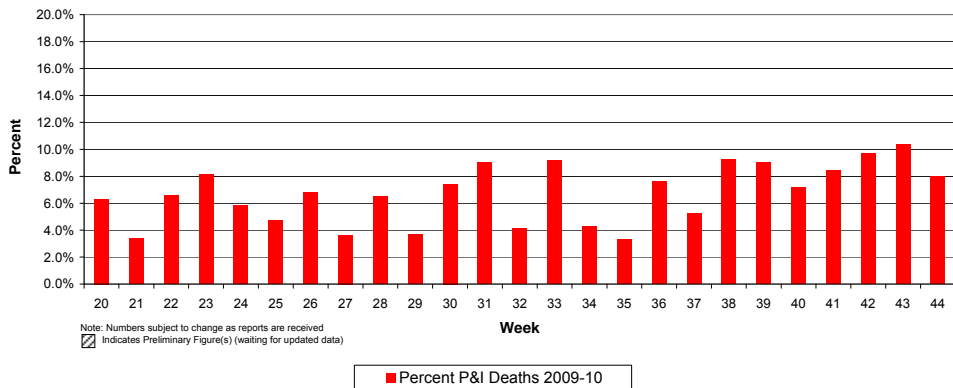
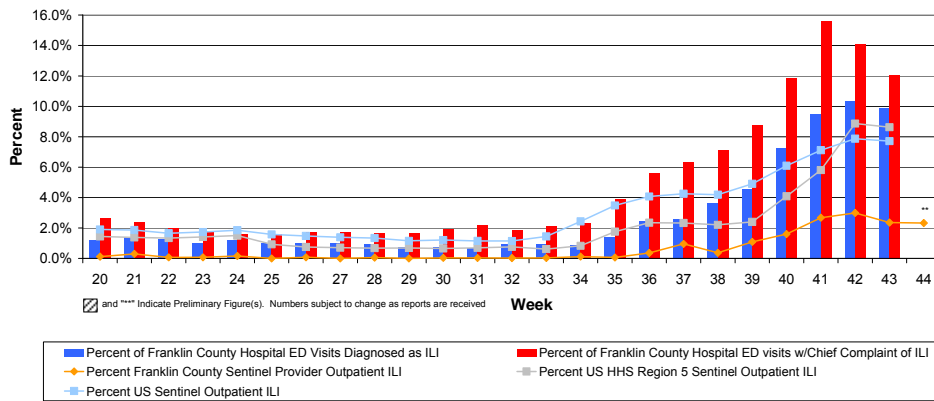


Figure 2: Percentage of Local, National, and HHS Region 5 ILI Outpatient visits and Percentage of Franklin County Resident BioSense Hospital ILI ED Visits, 2009-10



**Figure 3: Franklin County Resident ILI Specific Complaint ED and Pediatric Urgent Care Visits,
2009-10, Franklin County, OH**

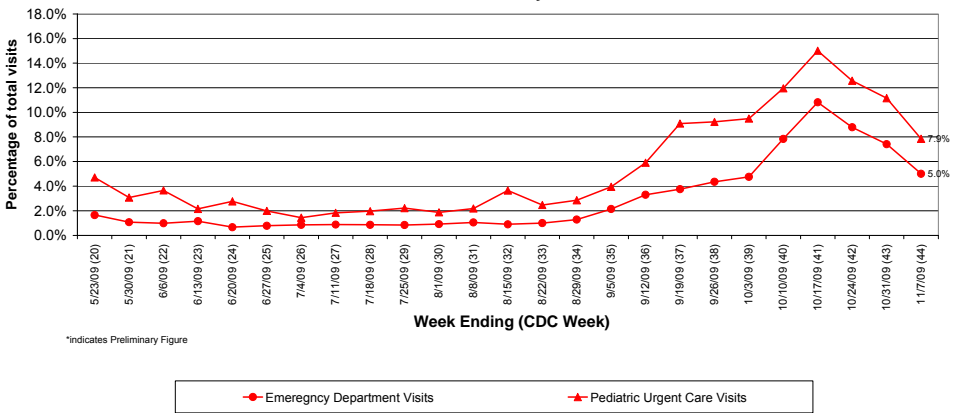
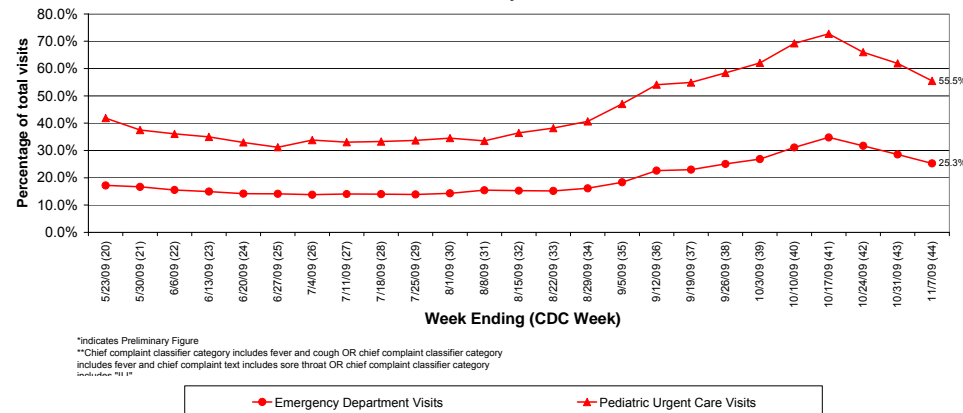


Figure 4: Franklin County Resident ILI Defined ED and Pediatric Urgent Care Visits, 2009-10,
Franklin County, OH**



Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 44 (11/1/09-11/7/09)

Figure 5: Percentage of Local Reporting and National Laboratory Positive Influenza Tests by Week, 2009-10

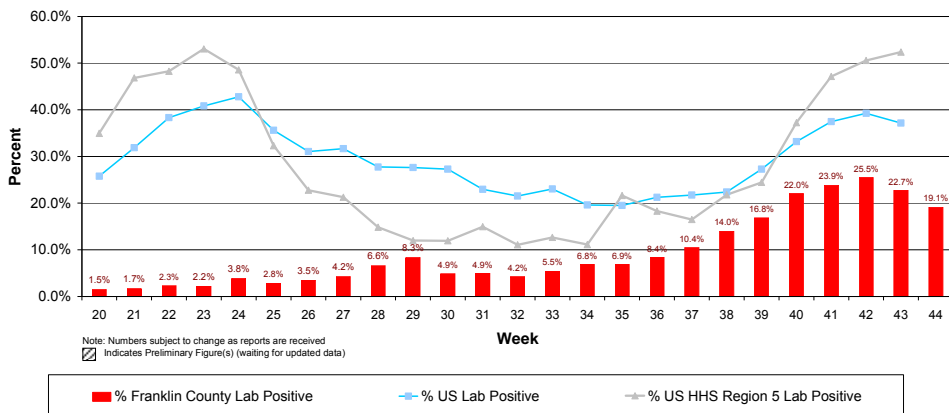


Figure 6: Franklin County Resident Respiratory ED and Pediatric Urgent Care Visits, 2009-10, Franklin County, OH

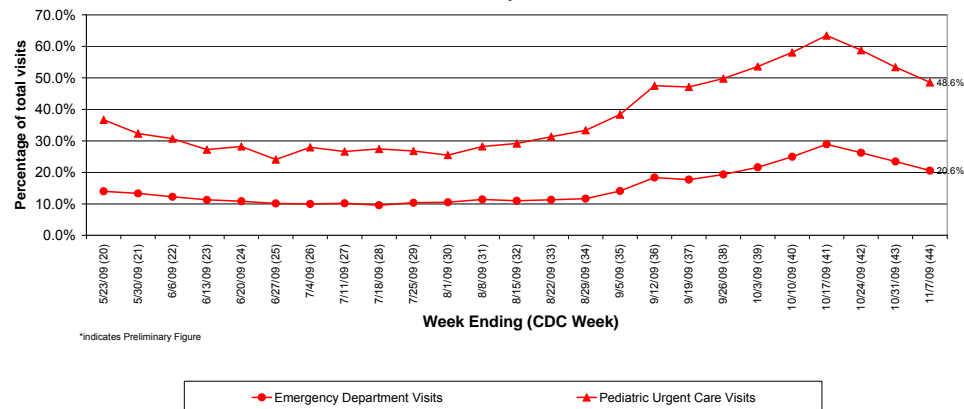


Figure 7: Selected Number of Over-the-Counter Medication Sales and Weekly Baseline Averages and Medians, 2009-10, Franklin County, OH

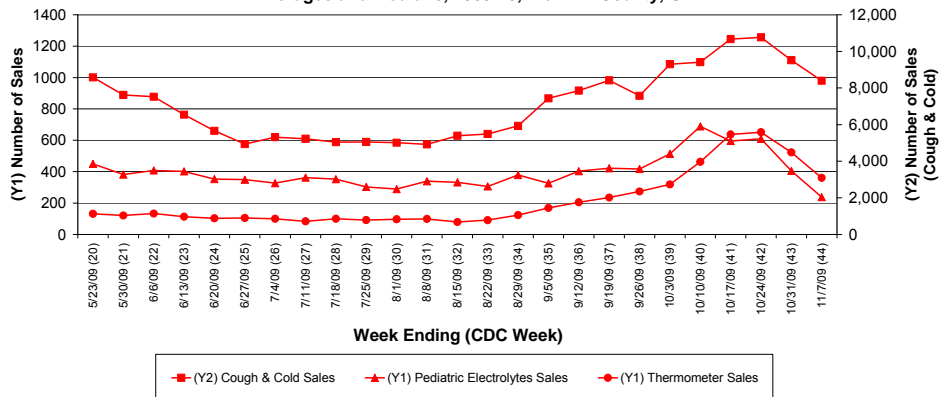


Figure 8: Percentage of Antiviral Prescriptions out of Total Number of Anti-Infective Prescriptions (Selected Pharmacies)

