

## Summary & Highlights

Columbus and Franklin County influenza activity indicators show decreases in week 45 compared to the previous weeks. However, it's important to note that overall flu activity remains high. 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 811 tests run with 118 positive results (14.5%) for week 45 (118 type A; 0 Type B); 24% lower than the previous week.
- 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 (45) continuous to show a decreasing trend.
- School absences decreased slightly in week 45.
- In week 45, most of the over-the-counter medication sales being tracked have decreased (Cough & cold medication, thermometers, pediatric and adult anti-fevers, and throat lozenges). A decrease in antiviral prescriptions has also been reported in week 44 (most recent week available).
- Nationally, during week 44, influenza B viruses co-circulated at low levels with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. 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 <sup>‡</sup> ▲ ● ▼	General Trend Chart
Hospital Lab Data	45	14.5% Pos.	-24.0%	3 ▼	
ILI Outpatient Data (Sentinel Medical Sites)	45	2.0% of All Visits	-2.5%	3 ▼	
Hospital ED Data†:					
Coded as ILI	44	7.4% of All ED Visits	-38.7%	3 ▼	
Complaint Defined as ILI‡	45	23.5% of All ED Visits	-7.1%	4 ▼	
Categorized as Respiratory	45	19.7% of All ED Visits	-4.3%	4 ▼	
Pediatric Urgent Care Data†:					
Complaint Defined as ILI‡	45	53.7% of All PUC Visits	-2.8%	2 ▼	
Categorized as Respiratory	45	46.6% of All PUC Visits	-5.2%	4 ▼	
School Absences	45	6.7% Absent	-2.2%	4 ▼	
Death Certificate Pneumonia & Influenza Deaths†	45	7.9% of All Deaths	-1.7%	1 ●	
Medication Data:					
OTC Cough & Cold Sales	45	7,686 Total Sales	-8.5%	3 ▼	
Thermometer	45	342 Total Sales	-5.3%	3 ▼	
Antiviral Prescriptions	44	5.9% of All Anti-Infectives	-26.0%	2 ▼	

Cumulative Numbers as of August 1 - Nov. 18, 2009*, 12:00 PM		
Reportable Conditions**	Suspected	Confirmed
Influenza Clusters/Outbreaks Reported	1	0
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations (IAH) Reported	5	423
IAH Confirmed Pandemic (H1N1) 2009§	Not Available	234
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.

‡ Number of weeks "▲" = Increase (>2%), "▼" = Decrease (>2%), "●" = Stable (-2% to +2%)

### Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality

In week 45 of 2009 (Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 – Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009), 7.9% of all Columbus deaths were reported as due to pneumonia or influenza (Figure 1). Nationally, 7.7% of deaths reported were due to pneumonia or influenza in week 44. This national percentage was above to the national epidemic threshold of 6.8%.

### Influenza Morbidity and Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Reports

Outpatient visits for ILI at sentinel medical practice reporting sites (2.0% of all visits reported) decreased slightly in week 45 compared to the previous week. The week 44 percentage of Franklin County resident BioSense ED hospital encounters is 7.4% for ILI coded chief complaints and 6.4% 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 44 of 2009, 6.7% of patient visits reported through the US Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in a row that the national percentage has decreased. This percentage is still above the national baseline of 2.3%.

### Laboratory Surveillance

During week 45 of 2009, reporting Franklin County sentinel laboratories tested 811 specimens, with 118 (14.5%) positive (Figure 5). The total number of tests done by local reporting labs from week 35 through week 45 is 11,127, with 2,063 positives (2,054 type A, 9 type B). Nationally, during week 44, WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 14,151 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 3,834 (30.1%) of which were positive (Figures 3). During week 44, influenza B viruses co-circulated at low levels with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses. All subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC this week were 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009) cumulative PCR and culture influenza lab results from ODH lab (totals as of 11/16/2009).

Location	# Seasonal A (H1)	# Seasonal A (H3)	# Seasonal B	# Pandemic A (H1)	# PCR Influenza Not Detected
Franklin County	0	0	0	123*	251
Ohio	1	0	0	971*	831

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. Testing at ODH is limited to those meeting criteria. See <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/> or <http://www.cdrcinfo.com/H1N1flu.html> for more details.

### ED and Pediatric Urgent Care Respiratory Visits

In the 45<sup>th</sup> week of 2009, the percentage of all ED visits categorized as *respiratory* (19.7%) decreased compared to the previous week (-4.3%). Similarly, the percentage of reporting Pediatric Urgent Care visits categorized as *respiratory* (46.0%) decreased compared to the previous week (-5.2%) (Figure 6).

### Over-the-Counter Medication Sales and Antiviral Prescriptions

In week 45 of 2009, there were decreases in most of the over-the-counter medication sales being tracked, including cough & cold medication, thermometers, pediatric and adult anti-fever, and throat lozenges (Figure 7). Both electrolytes and chest rubs increased. In week 44 (latest week available), the percentage of Franklin County pharmacy prescriptions for antivirals, out of all anti-infective prescriptions, decreased for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in a row (Figure 8). During week 44, the national antiviral prescription percentage also decreased.

### Additional Influenza Activity Web Links:

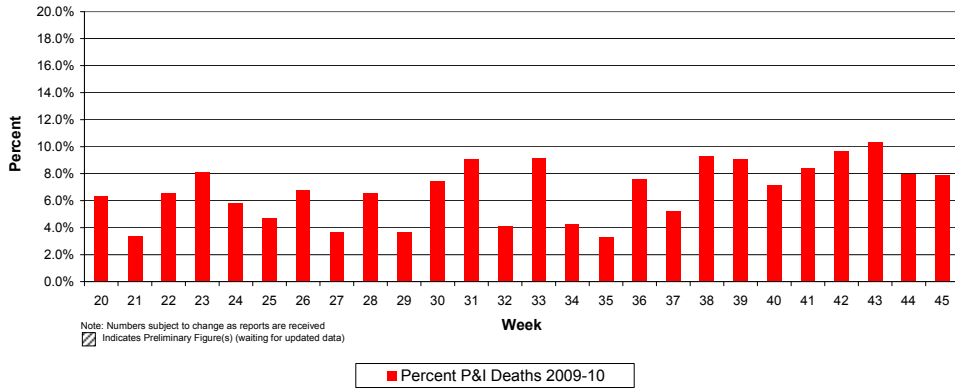
National Pandemic H1N1 Situation Updates: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>

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

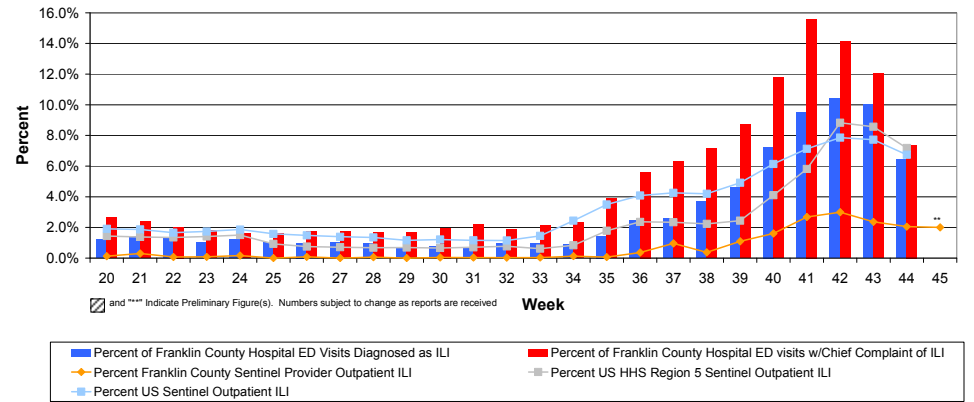
World health Organization Situation Updates: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/updates/en/index.html>

# Columbus & Franklin County Influenza Monitoring Summary – Week 45 (11/8/09-11/14/09)

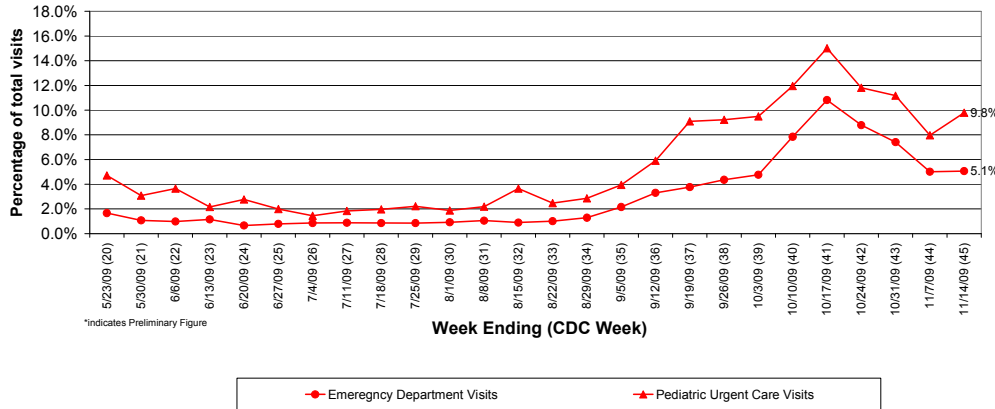
**Figure 1: Percentage of Deaths due to Pneumonia and Influenza  
Columbus, Ohio 2009-10**



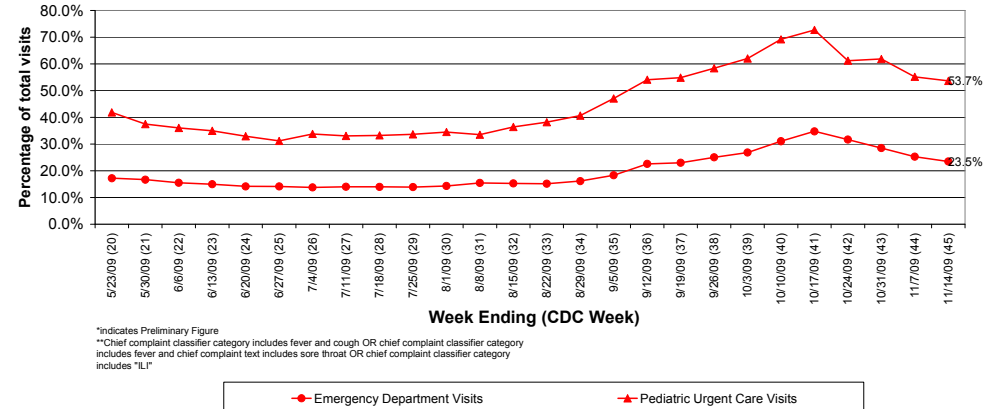
**Figure 2: Percentage of Local, National, and HHS Region 5 ILI Outpatient visits and Percentage of Franklin County Resident BioSense Hospital ILI ED Visits, 2009-10**



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

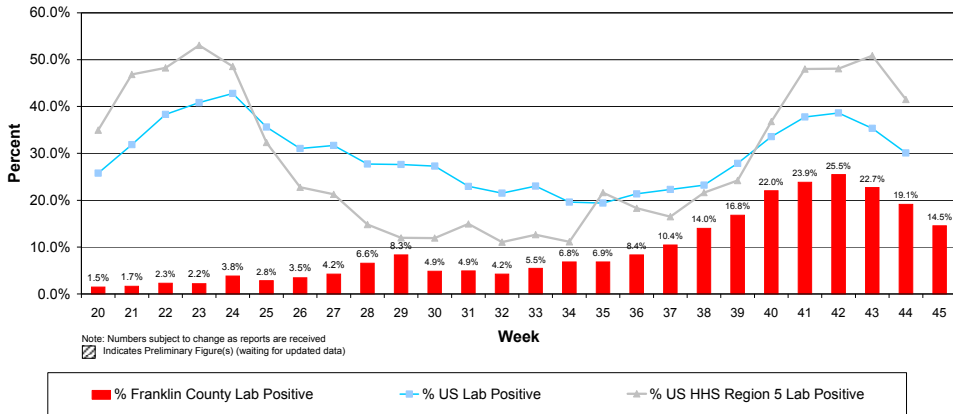


**Figure 4: Franklin County Resident ILI Defined\*\* ED and Pediatric Urgent Care Visits, 2009-10,  
Franklin County, OH**

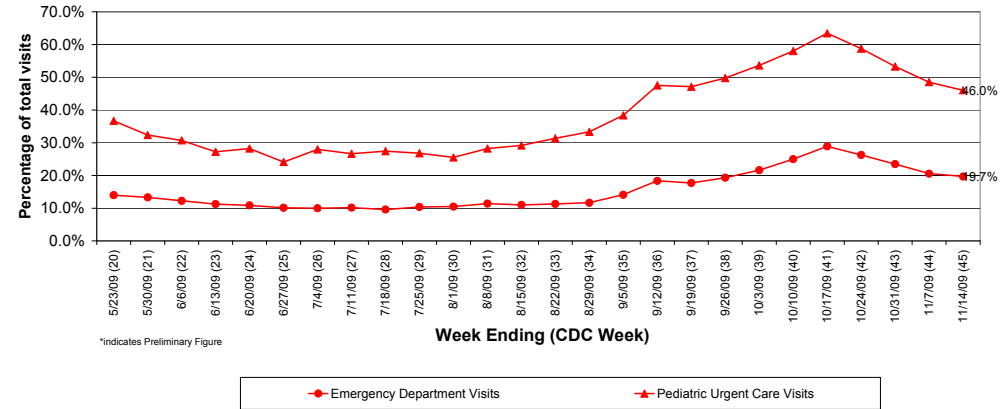


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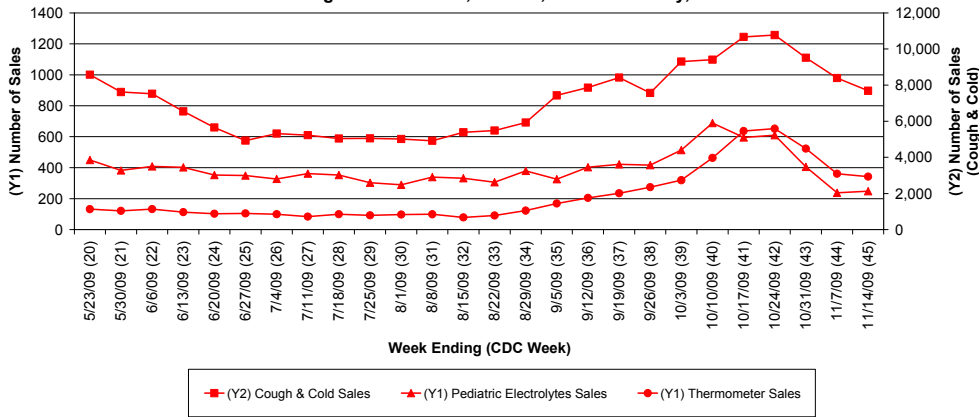
**Figure 5: Percentage of Local Reporting and National Laboratory Positive Influenza Tests by Week, 2009-10**



**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)**

