National Influenza Synopsis 2020-2021:

National data are updated Friday of each week. Please visit https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/ for the most current information. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive decreased to 0.2% this week. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported to the CDC. For this flu season, geographic spread of influenza will not be reported per official CDC communication.

Summary of International Influenza Activity:

- The current influenza surveillance data should be interpreted with caution as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have influenced to varying extents health seeking behaviors, staffing/routines in sentinel sites, as well as testing priorities and capacities in Member States. The various hygiene and physical distancing measures implemented by Member States to reduce SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission have likely played a role in reducing influenza virus transmission.
- Globally, despite continued or even increased testing for influenza in some country’s influenza activity remained at lower levels than expected for this time of the year.
- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained below inter-seasonal levels, though influenza detections were reported in some countries.
- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, the influenza season remained low or below baseline overall. Very few influenza detections were reported across countries.
- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, there were no influenza detections reported. Severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) activity, likely due to COVID-19, decreased in most reporting countries.
- In tropical South America, there were no influenza detections across reporting countries.
- In tropical Africa, influenza activity was reported in Côte d’Ivoire and Mali.
- In Southern Asia there were sporadic influenza detections across reporting countries.
- In South East Asia, increased influenza detections were reported in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).
- Worldwide, of the very low numbers of detections reported, seasonal influenza A(H3N2) viruses accounted for the majority of detections.

Sources:

Delaware Influenza Surveillance 2020-2021:

During MMWR Week 44, there were no (n=0) laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza reported among Delaware Residents. Reports of influenza-like-illness (ILI) received from participating providers, facilities, and institutions in Delaware show ILI is 0.58% compared to Delaware’s 2020-2021 baseline of 1.9%. Nationally, 1.3% of visits to a healthcare provider were for ILI, which is below the 2020-2021 national baseline of 2.6%. All regions were below baselines.

Level of Influenza Activity in Delaware, MMWR Week 44:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

CDC Definitions:

**No Activity:** No laboratory-confirmed cases² of influenza and no reported increase in the number of cases of ILI.

**Sporadic:** Small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI.

**Local:** Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in a single region of the state.

**Regional:** Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in at least two but less than half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in those regions.³

**Widespread:** Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in at least half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in the state.

*Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as patients presenting with fever of 100°F or greater, cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.*

² Laboratory-confirmed case = case confirmed by viral culture or PCR.

³ Region = population under surveillance in a defined geographical subdivision of a state. Regions typically include several counties. Regional does not apply to states with ≤ four counties.
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### Table 1: Comparison of the 2019-2020 MMWR Week 44 and the 2020-2021 MMWR Week 44 Confirmed Influenza Cases Reported Statewide by County and Age Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmed Flu Cases by Age Group</th>
<th>2019-2020 Influenza Season</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>2020-2021 Influenza Season</th>
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<td>County Percentage (%)</td>
<td>YTD²</td>
<td>County Percentage (%)</td>
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<td>Total Counts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

¹Influenza Cases are confirmed via PCR testing

²YTD stands for “Year to Date” and represents the cumulative number of cases through the current MMWR Week being assessed for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 influenza seasons, respectively.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmed Flu Cases by Subtype / Lineage</th>
<th>2019-2020 Influenza Season</th>
<th>2020-2021 Influenza Season</th>
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<td>Total Counts</td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

1Influenza Cases are confirmed via PCR testing
Figure 1: Confirmed Cases of Influenza by Type and Subtype/Lineage, Delaware 2020-2021 Influenza Season

During MMWR Week 44 for the 2020-2021 Influenza season, there were zero confirmed cases of Influenza reported by ILINet providers.

Table 3: Comparison of the 2019-2020 MMWR Week 40 and the 2020-2021 MMWR Week 44 Influenza-related Hospitalizations and Deaths Statewide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitalizations and Deaths due to Influenza</th>
<th>2019-2020 Influenza Season</th>
<th>2020-2021 Influenza Season</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Week 44</td>
<td>YTD Totals</td>
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<td>Hospitalizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
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</table>

1YTD stands for “Year to Date” and represents the cumulative number of cases through the current MMWR Week that were hospitalized or died
2Percentage of cases confirmed during the single MMWR Week
3Percentage of cases for the cumulative count of confirmed cases through the influenza season to the current MMWR Week.
**Table 4:** Annual Number of Influenza Cases Reported by Flu Season, Delaware 2004-05 through 2020-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Influenza Season</th>
<th>Total Annual Influenza Cases</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2004 – 2005</td>
<td>995</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005 – 2006</td>
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<td>2006 – 2007</td>
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<td>2011 – 2012</td>
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<td>2012 – 2013</td>
<td>1,781</td>
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<td>2013 – 2014</td>
<td>1,843</td>
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<td>1,843</td>
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<td>2016 – 2017</td>
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<td>2017 – 2018</td>
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<td>2018 – 2019</td>
<td>6,387</td>
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<td>2019 – 2020</td>
<td>7,075</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2020-2021 (YTD)</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**U.S. Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) Sentinel Providers**

An ILINet (sentinel) provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the Division of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by ILINet providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provide a national and statewide picture of influenza activity in the U.S.
Figure 2: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-Line Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers\(^1\) participating in the U.S. Outpatient ILI Surveillance Network (ILINet), Delaware 2020-2021

Delaware’s regional baseline\(^2\) for healthcare visits relating to ILI symptoms in the 2020-2021 Influenza Season is 2.0% and the national baseline\(^3\) is 2.6%. In MMWR Week 44, the amount of ILI related visits reported by sentinel provider was 0.58%.

\(^1\)six of twelve sentinel providers reported
\(^2\)The regional baseline is calculated by the CDC using non-influenza weeks from the previous three influenza seasons. Delaware is in Region 3, which also includes DC, MD, PA, VA, and WV.
\(^3\)The National baseline is calculated by the CDC using non-influenza weeks from the previous three influenza seasons.
Figure 3: Percentage of Emergency Care Visits Due to ILI/Influenza by MMWR Week 44, Delaware 2020-2021

Syndromic data collected from ESSENCE shows in the weeks preceding the start of the 2020-2021 Influenza season and through MMWR Week 44, the percentage of ED visits due to ILI/Flu symptoms has been low.

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NOTE: Data provided do not reflect the total number of individuals who have been infected with the influenza virus in Delaware during the reporting period due to the following factors:

- Many people ill with influenza-like symptoms do not seek medical care.
- Many who do seek medical care are not tested for influenza.
- The Delaware Public Health Laboratory is limited by capacity to processing a maximum of three specimens per day from each reporting entity.

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is committed to serving you better by providing the most accurate, up-to-date influenza data available.

- For general information on influenza, visit flu.delaware.gov or http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/imunize-flu.html.
- For specific information on DPH flu clinics, visit http://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/fluclinics.html.
- For questions on Delaware’s weekly flu report, call the DPH Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at 302-744-4990.
- For questions regarding influenza vaccination, please call 302-744-1060.