About our flu activity reporting

MSDH relies upon selected sentinel health practitioners across the state to report the percentage of total patient visits consistent with an influenza-like illness (ILI: fever of 100°F or higher AND cough and/or sore throat). Also, providers are supplied with specimen collection kits. Samples are submitted to the Mississippi Public Health Laboratory for influenza PCR testing. Reports are used to estimate the state’s ILI rate and the magnitude of the state’s influenza activity. Reports represent only the distribution of flu in the state, not an actual count of all flu cases statewide. Information is provisional only and may change depending on additional reporting from sentinel providers.

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State ILI Surveillance

During week 07 (02/10/19-02/16/19), the overall state ILI rate (9.9%) increased from the previous week (8.8%), and was above this time last year (8.8%). The state ILI rate has been steadily increasing since week 3 (ending January 19th). | Figure 1

Total number of patients treated by sentinel providers in the last three weeks. | Table 1

During week 07, six districts (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9) had an increase in ILI activity, while one district (7) had a decrease. Two districts (1 and 8) remained about the same. Information is provisional only and may change depending on additional reporting from sentinel providers. | Table 2
Overall, the percentage of reported ILI cases has been highest among those in the 0-4 and 5-24 years of age groups. During week 07, the percentage of ILI cases decreased in the 5-24 years of age group, but increased in the 25-49 and 50-64 years of age groups. The percentage of ILI cases in the remaining age groups remained constant when compared to the previous week. | Figure 2

The 2018-19 state ILI rate was above the national, Region 4, and Mississippi baselines during week 07. | Figure 3
Syndromic ILI Surveillance

The Mississippi State Department of Health also collects influenza syndromic surveillance data through the CDC BioSense Platform. This data is comprised of chief complaints and diagnosis codes and is submitted electronically by participating hospitals and clinics throughout the state in near real-time. The BioSense data is an additional tool to monitor influenza activity in Mississippi.

The percentage of patients with a chief complaint or diagnosis of influenza-like illness during week 06 increased from the previous week, as did the statewide ILI rate. The BioSense ILI rate appears to be following the same trend as the statewide ILI rate. BioSense ILI data for week 07 was not available at the time of this report. | Figure 5
Influenza Outbreaks

Outbreaks are reportable in Mississippi as a Class 1A event and must be reported by telephone within 24 hours of first knowledge or suspicion to the Mississippi State Department of Health. For more information on reportable diseases and conditions, please refer to the MSDH List of Reportable Diseases and Conditions.

Between week 40 (week ending October 6th) and week 07 (week ending February 16th), 37 outbreaks were reported to MSDH. MSDH investigates all reported outbreaks, and of the 37 reported outbreaks, complete information was available for 16 of them. One (7%) of the outbreaks was attributed to influenza A/H1, 11 (79%) were attributed to influenza A/H3, one (7%) was due to an influenza A virus, unknown subtype, and one (7%) was due to an unknown influenza type. | Figure 6

The influenza outbreaks occurred in the following counties: Bolivar (1), DeSoto (1), Forrest (1), Greene (1), Hinds (3), Jones (4), Kemper (1), Lafayette (2), Lauderdale (1), Lincoln (2), Madison (1), Marion (2), Monroe (1), Newton (1), Oktibbeha (1), Pearl River (2), Perry (1), Pike (2), Rankin (2), Smith (2), Tate (1), Tishomingo (1), Tunica (1), Union (1), and Yazoo (1).

For additional information on infection control measures in health care facilities and managing influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities, please refer to the CDC’s webpages: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/index.htm and https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm, respectively.
Flu Testing Reports

Since week 40 (week ending October 6th), 141 laboratory confirmed influenza samples have been identified by the MSDH Public Health Laboratory. Thirteen (9%) were identified as influenza A/H1, 127 (90%) were identified as influenza A/H3, and one (1%) was identified as an influenza B/Yamagata.  

Figure 7

The influenza cases were identified from the following counties: Attala (10), Calhoun (1), Carroll (1), Choctaw (1), Copiah (2), Covington (1), DeSoto (1), Forrest (7), George (1), Greene (2), Hancock (3), Harrison (17), Hinds (17), Jones (7), Kemper (2), Lafayette (1), Lamar (1), Leake (3), Leflore (2), Lincoln (4), Madison (3), Marion (6), Marshall (2), Monroe (2), Neshoba (3), Newton (2), Oktibbeha (2), Pearl River (6), Pike (7), Rankin (9), Smith (2), Tate (1), Tishomingo (1), Union (2), and Winston (7). The county of residence for two of the cases was unknown.

National and Mississippi Pediatric Mortality Surveillance

Nationally, seven influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 07. Four deaths were associated with an influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus and occurred during weeks 2, 6, and 7 (weeks ending January 12, February 9 and February 16, 2019, respectively). Two deaths were associated with an influenza A virus for which no subtyping was performed and occurred during weeks 5 and 6 (weeks ending February 2 and February 9, 2019, respectively). One death was associated with an influenza B virus and occurred during week 52 (week ending December 29, 2018). Forty-one influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported to CDC for the 2018-2019 season.  

Figure 8

Mississippi has had one influenza-associated pediatric death reported during this influenza season.
Of the 41 influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported nationally during the 2018-2019 season, 39 (95%) have been attributed to influenza A viruses and two (5%) to an influenza B virus. | Figure 9

For additional information on influenza-associated pediatric deaths, please refer to the CDC’s FluView.
National ILI Surveillance

During week 07, the Mississippi ILI rate (9.9%) increased, while the national (5.1%) and Region 4 (5.6%) ILI rates remained about the same when compared to the previous week. All were above their respective baselines. | Figure 10
During week 07, influenza activity increased in the United States.¹ | Figure 11

¹For up-to-date information on flu activity nationwide, please refer to the CDC’s website: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm.

Mississippi reported “Widespread” for the influenza activity during week 07. | Table 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Level of Flu Activity</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<td>No Activity</td>
<td>Overall clinical activity remains low and there are no lab confirmed cases.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sporadic</td>
<td>Isolated cases of lab confirmed influenza in the state; ILI activity is not increased OR A lab-confirmed outbreak in a single institution in the state; ILI activity is not increased.</td>
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<td>Local</td>
<td>Increased ILI within a single region AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) laboratory evidence of influenza in that region. ILI activity in other regions is not increased OR two of more institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) within a single region AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in that region. Other regions do not have increased ILI and virus activity is no greater than sporadic in those regions</td>
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<td>Regional</td>
<td>Increased ILI in at least 2 regions but fewer than half of the regions AND recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions OR Institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least 2 regions but fewer than half of the regions AND recent lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td>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.</td>
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### Additional influenza information:

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Appendix

Figure 1

Statewide ILI Data, Week 07 ending Feb. 16, 2019
Current Season compared to Previous Season

% of ILI Patients

Week Ending

2018-2019
2017-2018
Figure 2

Percentage of ILI Cases by Age Group, Mississippi, August 26, 2018 - Feb. 16, 2019
(CDC Week 35, 2018 - Week 07, 2019)

- Orange: 0-4
- Red: 5-24
- Green: 25-49
- Purple: 50-64
- Blue: 65+

Week Ending

Percentage of ILI Cases
Figure 3

Mississippi ILI Rates, 2018-2019 and Previous Influenza Seasons

% of ILI Patients vs. Week

*Region 4 consists of AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN.
Figure 4

State ILI Rates 2014-2019 (YTD)
Figure 5

Comparison of the BioSense and Statewide ILI Rates, Mississippi
August 26, 2018 - Feb. 16, 2019
(CDC Week 35, 2018 - Week 07, 2019)

% of ILI Patients

Week Ending

Statewide
BioSense
Figure 6

Number of Reported Influenza Outbreaks by Influenza Type and Subtype by Onset Week, Mississippi, 2018-2019 Flu Season

(N = 16)

Week Ending

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Figure 7

Comparison of Statewide ILI Rate to Positive Influenza Isolates by Type and Subtype, Mississippi
Sept. 30, 2018 - May 18, 2019
(CDC Weeks 40, 2018 - 20, 2019)
Figure 8

Number of Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths by Week of Death and Influenza Type, Nationwide, Sept. 30, 2018 - February 16, 2019
(CDC Week 40, 2018 - Week 07, 2019)
Figure 9

Percentage of Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths by Influenza Type, Nationwide, Sept. 30, 2018 - February 16, 2019 (CDC Week 40, 2018 - Week 07, 2019)
N = 41

- Flu A
- Flu B
- Flu A/B Not Distinguished
- Flu A/B

5%
95%
Figure 10

Comparison of Nationwide and Region 4* ILI Rates to Mississippi ILI Rates
Weeks 40-20 | 2018-2019 Flu Season

*Region 4 consists of AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, and TN.
Figure 11

A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*

Week Ending Feb 16, 2019 - Week 7

*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.