Current Season Summary:
December 1 – December 7, 2019
MMWR Week 49

This week there were 161 emergency department visits for influenza-like illnesses out of 6,732 total visits to emergency departments; there were 6 hospitalizations for influenza this week bringing the seasonal total to 15; and, there were 17 pneumonia or flu related deaths out of 340 total deaths this week. Only one of the three indicators, influenza-like illnesses, was elevated to a very high threshold this week. Therefore, the seasonal flu intensity remains Low.

Flu Intensity This Week
Flu activity this week was minimal and remains at low intensity

Seasonal Flu Intensity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>46</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flu Intensity Indicators</th>
<th>This Week n (%)</th>
<th>Season Total n (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illnesses</td>
<td>161 (2.39%)</td>
<td>1,069 (1.74%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pneumonia- &amp; Influenza-Related Deaths*</td>
<td>17 (5.0%)</td>
<td>129 (4.5%)</td>
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*Deaths represent all deaths for Cuyahoga County. All other data presented are City of Cleveland-specific
Influenza-Like Illnesses

Figure 1: 2019-2020 Proportion of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-Like Illnesses

The proportion of Emergency Room visits for influenza-like illnesses was elevated to the very high threshold. This week 50% of visits were among males. Regarding race and ethnicity, 28% of visits were Black or African American individuals; 25% were among White or Caucasian individuals; and nearly a third (29%) of visits were among other racial groups. About one fourth (23%) of visits were among Hispanic or Latino individuals. The median age was 3 years.

There have been 15 hospitalizations related to influenza to-date. The majority (60%) of these are Influenza B-related with 2 cases being typed as Influenza B (Victoria). One case tested positive for both Influenza A and Influenza B strains. Most cases (67%) occurred among Black or African Americans. Males (47%) and females (53%) were similarly affected.

This season, younger populations appear to be affected most. The median age of cases this week was 49.5 years which is substantially younger than the 5-year median age of 60 years.

Data are preliminary and subject to change as more information is gained.

The proportion of deaths due to pneumonia or influenza-related (P&I) illnesses is still within the low threshold this week. Of all P&I deaths that have occurred this season, all are associated with pneumonia and not influenza. This week, one child between the ages of 1 and 14 died from a pneumonia-related illness. The rest of deaths occurred among individuals aged 45 years and older.

Almost all P&I deaths that occurred this week were among individuals aged 45 years and older. To-date, only 3 P&I deaths have occurred among younger age groups.

Data Source: Cleveland Department of Public Health Department of Vital Statistics. Data compiled on 12/10/2019.

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