



## STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 51

Week 51 ending December 26, 2009, with updates through 01/03/2010.

All data are preliminary and may change as additional reports are received.

During week 51, (December 20 - December 26, 2009) local indicators of influenza activity continued to reveal decreasing intensity. Only one influenza associated hospitalization was reported and patient visits to area hospitals, sales of thermometers and other indicators all showed declining or nominal activity.

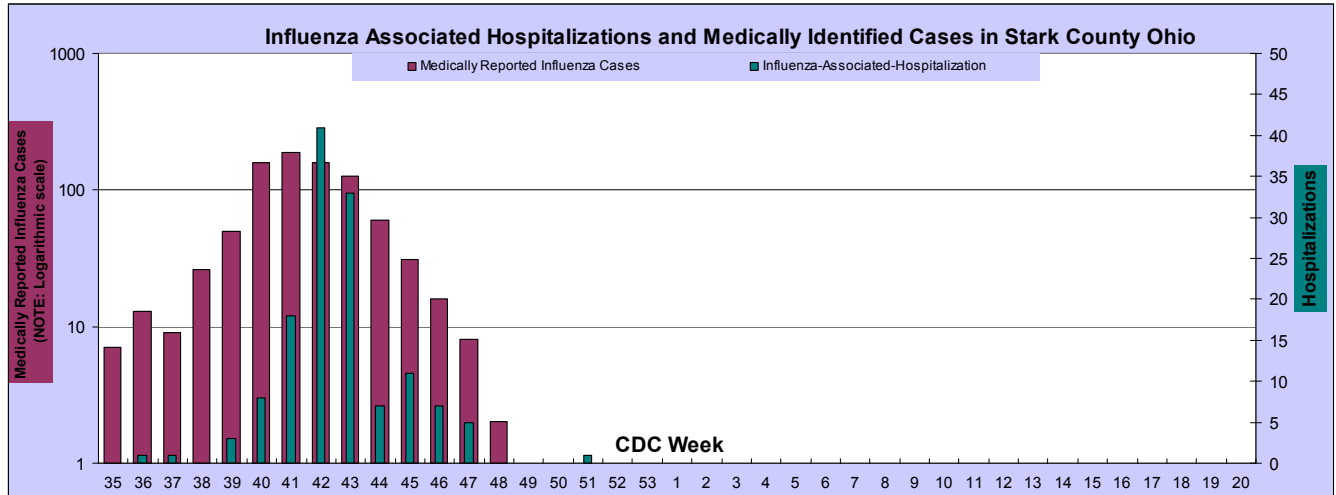
With a few notable exceptions, State and National indicators remain low for this time of year.

- One Influenza-associated hospitalization was reported during week 51. No other medically provided positive influenza cases were reported from area labs and physicians. (See graph 1 with logarithmic scale.)
- Demographic information continues to remain the same, likely due to the very low number of reports received. Demographic information for the medically reported cases, not hospitalized: the average age is 16.7 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 11 years. The majority of individuals affected by this year's influenza strain continue to be in the age group 5 to 24 years (**64%**).
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from  $\leq 1$  month to 80 years with a median of 37 years, and the age group with the highest percentage affected is the 25-50 year olds at 35%.
- Of the 137 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported since CDC Week 35, (the official beginning of the 2009-2010 influenza season) 44 have been confirmed with 2009 Influenza A (H1N1).
- With only two provider reports received during week 51, reports from local Sentinel Providers on the number of patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County are incomplete, The National level of ILI visits **increased** above the National baseline of 2.3% to 3.2%. (See Graph 2)
- Emergency department visits by Stark County residents for both Constitutional and Respiratory (C and R) visits **increased slightly** to 20.2%, just edging over our multi-year average of 20.1%. The majority of the increase was from Respiratory visits primarily on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Visits for C and R have since fallen to expected levels. The number of total patient visits by residents **remained stead** and within 3% of the expected levels for this time of year. (See Graph 3)
- For week 49, both sales of Cough/Cold (C/C) Products and Thermometers **remained steady** and are both below expected values for this time of year. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism reports are temporarily suspended, due to the winter break.
- The state of Ohio continued to report a geographic influenza activity level of **Sporadic**. Only four states across the Nation continue to report Widespread activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease.(See National Map)
- This season Ohio has identified one (1) influenza A/H1, one (1) influenza A/H3, and 1185 Pandemic A/H1 isolates. Nationally, the CDC identified **all** isolates as *2009 influenza A (H1N1)*.
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 7.7%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold, currently at 7.4%.
- The state of Ohio reported **two additional pediatric deaths**, bringing our total for this season to ten: one from Athens County, three from Cuyahoga County, one from Fayette County, two from Franklin County, one from Henry County, one from Summit County, and one from Warren County. Seven of these mortalities had confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection (through 12/30/09). As a nation, the CDC reports a total of 225 pediatric deaths just this season.

For questions, or to receive this report weekly by email, send requests to either [chenning@cantonhealth.org](mailto:chenning@cantonhealth.org) or [schanzk@starkhealth.org](mailto:schanzk@starkhealth.org).

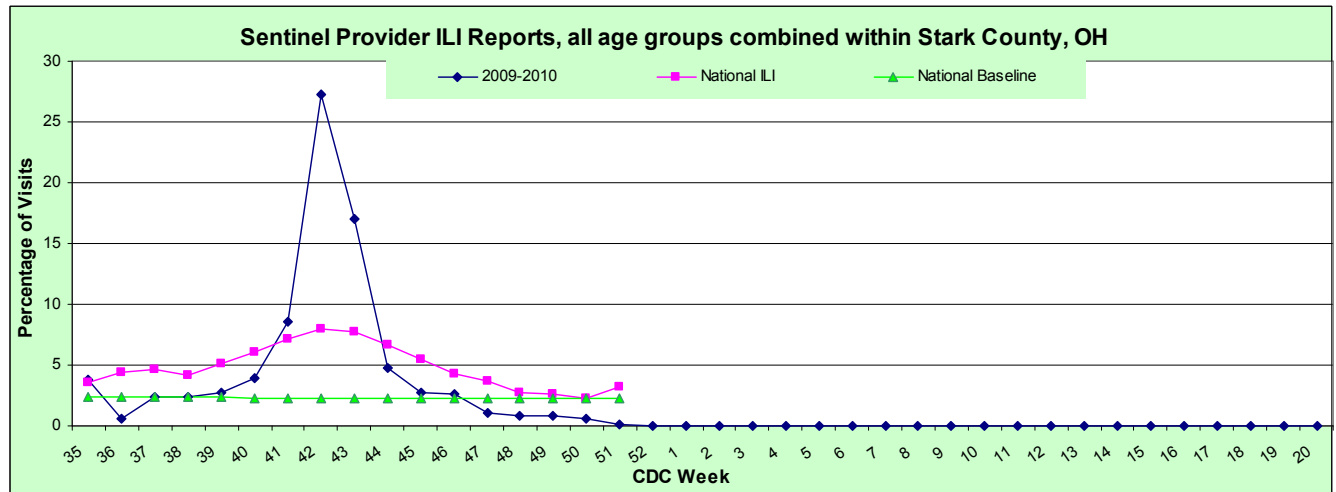
### Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

Note: Influenza is only reportable if associated with a hospitalization; therefore, this only represents a small number of actual influenza cases in Stark County.

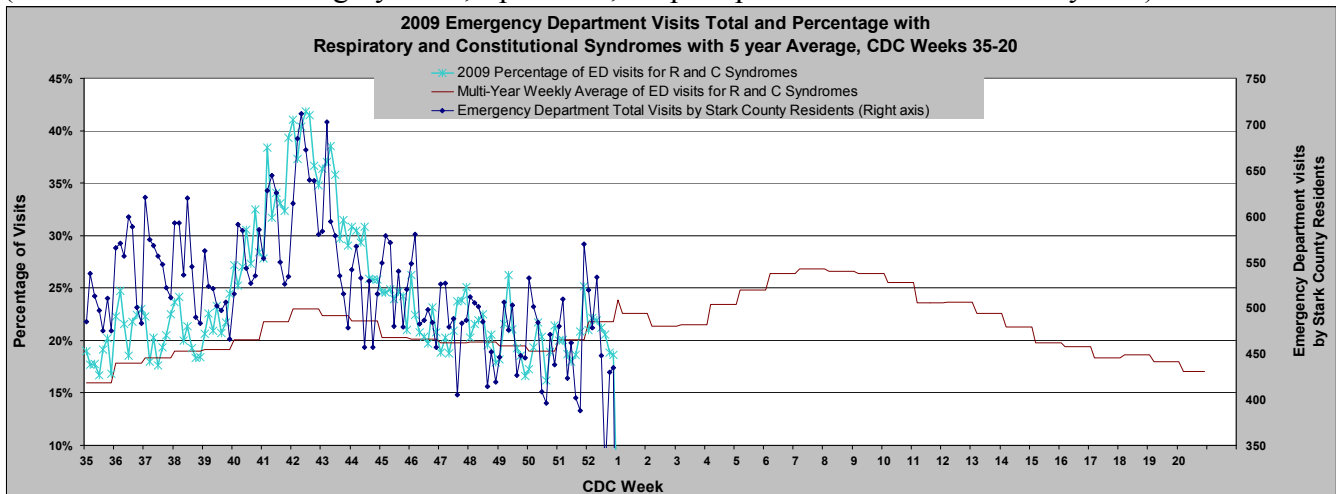


### Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

Sentinel Providers-An influenza sentinel provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the state health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by Stark Counties 4 provider's s are combined with other influenza surveillance data to provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity.

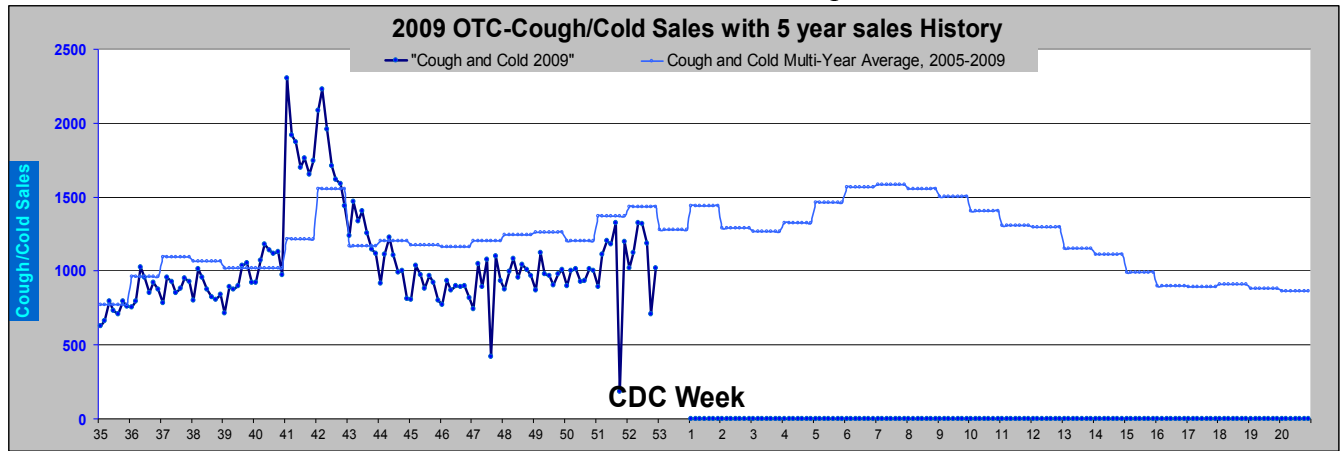


### Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



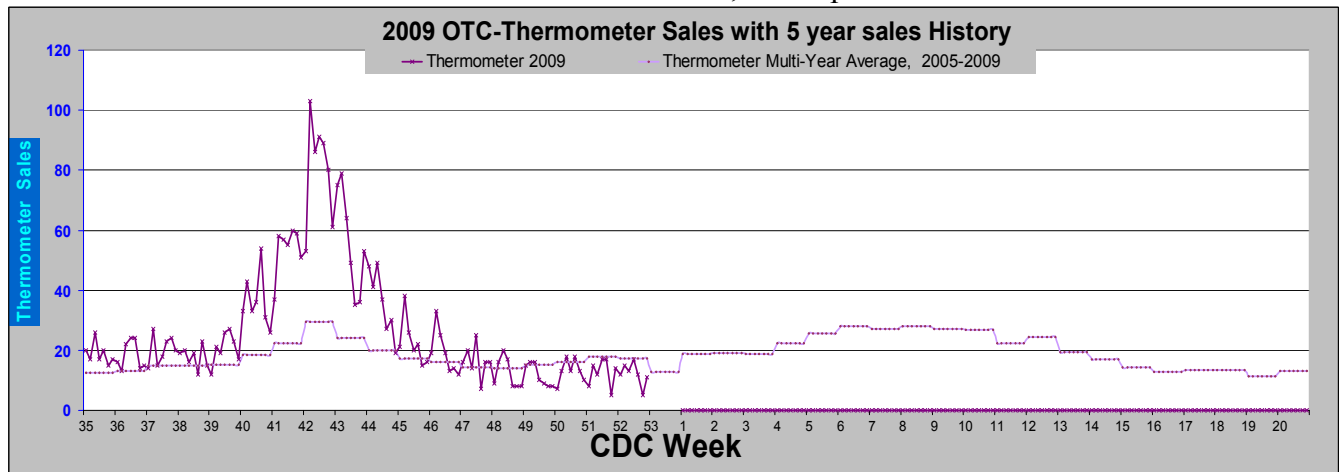
**Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County**

Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



**Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County**

Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



**Graph 6: School Absenteeism, 2009-2010, Stark County, Ohio. (Not applicable during weeks 51 and 52)** (Source: Voluntary reporting by area public and private schools. Schools report overall absenteeism and five illness categories including influenza –like-illness and gastrointestinal illness.)

# Map Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

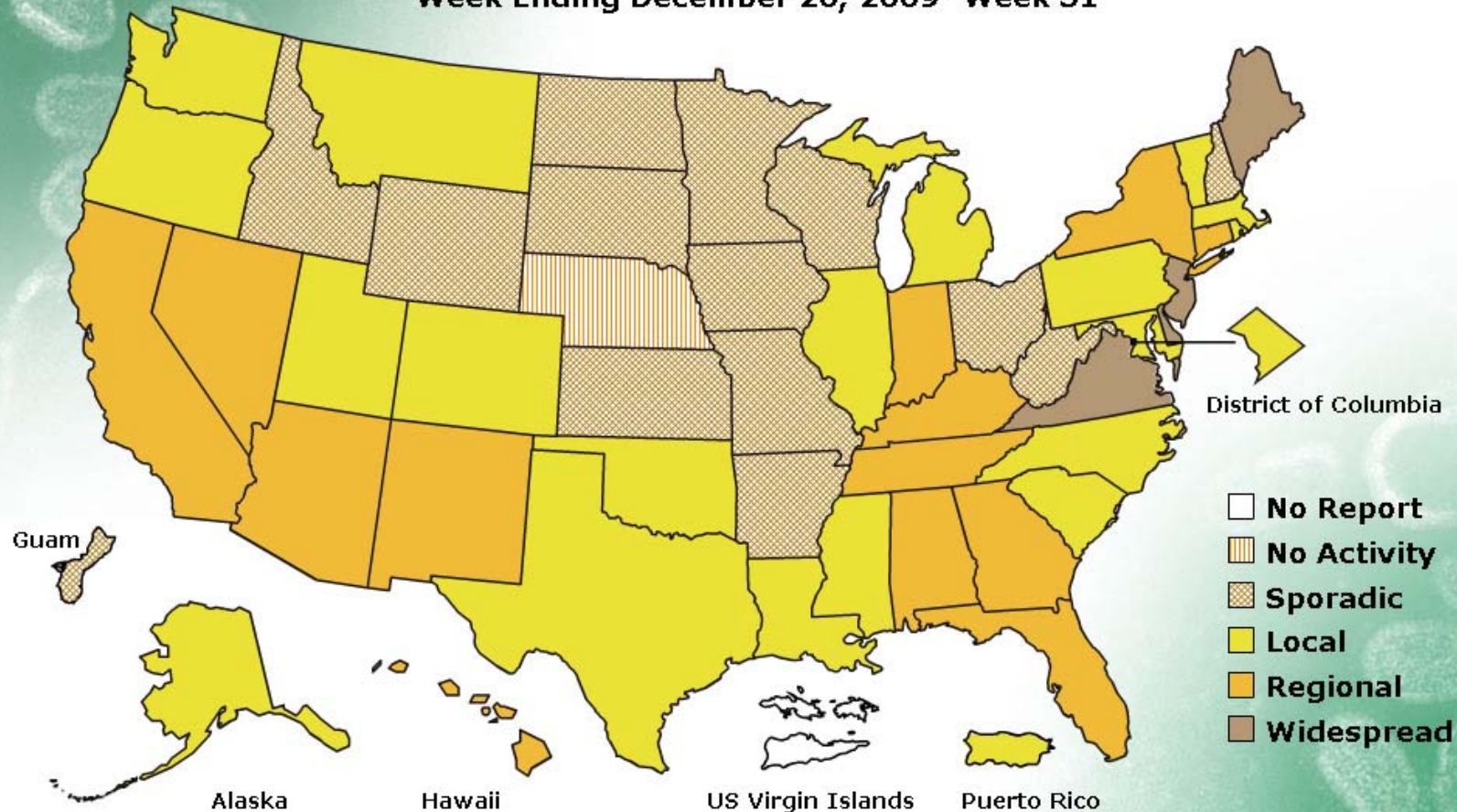
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

# FLUVIEW



**A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division**  
**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists\***

**Week Ending December 26, 2009- Week 51**



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