Influenza Surveillance Report
Week 37: September 13th – 19th, 2009

I. Influenza Summary to Date
Influenza surveillance for suburban Cook County** involves the weekly collection of data from a sample of hospitals, private physician’s offices, and laboratory data. Our sentinel participants reported the following aggregate measures: Syndromic Surveillance: 1.31% ILI1, Sentinel Sites: 3.81% ILI2. Sixty (7.32%) specimens tested by participating laboratories3 were positive for influenza, of which 100% of sub-typed influenza A viruses were 2009 H1N1. The activity of influenza is higher than the influenza-like illness rates reported this week in each of the past two years. To date, suburban Cook County has had 130 hospitalized cases of confirmed 2009 H1N1 and 4 deaths. In week 37, one 2009 H1N1 hospitalization was reported to CCDPH. In comparison, during the peak of 2009 H1N1 activity in the spring, there were as many as 23 influenza hospitalization reports per week. Thank you to all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information.

II. Syndromic Surveillance Data1

III. Syndromic Surveillance by Age Group Data1
IV. Sentinel Provider Data

V. Laboratory Surveillance Data

VI. 2009 H1N1 Hospitalization and Death Data
VII. Regional Data

[Graph showing trends for Cook, Chicago, DuPage, and Kane regions over weeks]

VIII. Illinois and U.S. Data

1. Syndromic surveillance influenza-like-illness (ILI) syndrome is defined as a symptom complex of fever and cough or sore throat from ESSENCE. 25 hospital EDs participate in ESSENCE. ILI = # of ED visits for ILI / total # of ED visits.
2. ILI is defined as fever $\geq 100^\circ F$, cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza. 5 hospital EDs and 8 physician offices are participating CDC sentinel sites.
3. Laboratory surveillance includes viral culture, RT-PCR, and the rapid antigen test. Not all cases are suburban Cook County Residents. Participating laboratories: IDPH, NSUHS, and ACL.
4. Hospitalization and death data are only for suburban Cook County residents (excludes Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park, and Stickney).
5. [Link to CDC website]

† No activity: no laboratory confirmed cases of influenza and no reported increase in cases of ILI.
Sporadic: small number of laboratory confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory confirmed influenza in a single region of the state.
Local: Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI 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 region of the state.
Widespread: Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in at least half the region in the state.

(All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.)