Sentinel Influenza Surveillance Report
Week 10: March 8th – 14th, 2009

Influenza Summary to Date
Influenza surveillance for suburban Cook County** involves the weekly collection of data from a sample of hospitals and private physician’s offices. Our sentinel participants reported the following aggregate measures: Hospital ED: 5.85% ILI, Physicians: 1.74% and ESSENCE: 1.53% ILI. We use these data to help us determine the presence of influenza in distinct geographic populations throughout suburban Cook County**, and to guide our prevention activities. Thank you to all of our surveillance partners for their help in collecting this information.

Emergency Department (ED) Data
There were 3,644 ED visits to four sentinel hospitals in suburban Cook County** of which, 215 individuals presented with ILI. The percentage of ED patients with ILI was 5.85% for the past week. ILI activity at sentinel hospital sites ranged from 1.97 to 12.63%.

Physician Office Data
At this time one of eight sentinel physician offices in suburban Cook County** have reported that 1.74% patients reported symptoms consistent with ILI. All sentinel physicians are CDC sentinel providers; the aggregate CDC data from sentinel physician offices in suburban Cook County** is provided.
ESSENCE Surveillance Data

ESSENCE is a syndromic surveillance system that electronically tabulates the number of emergency department (ED) visits that present with a specific combination of symptoms (syndrome). During this surveillance period, ESSENCE recorded 20,526 ED visits of which, 315 individuals presented with symptoms consistent with influenza-like illness (ILI). The percentage of ED patients with ILI was 1.53% for week 10.

Reported Laboratory Confirmed Cases

From September 28th, 2008 – March 14th, 2009 hospitals reported 289 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza in suburban Cook County residents (138 pediatric cases). The distribution of the isolates for this time period was: influenza A (not subtyped) – 204 isolates, influenza A (H3N2) – 1 isolate, influenza B – 86 isolates, based on viral culture, EIA, or PCR. Seven outbreaks of influenza B have been reported to CCDPH at this time (6 schools; 1 LTCF). There has been one pediatric death due to influenza reported in Cook County for 2009.

Regional Data

Regional ILI activity for week 10 included reports from Cook and DuPage County sentinel providers. The percentage of ED visits presenting with ILI was 5.85% in Cook County and 4.31% in DuPage County for week 10. (sentinel physicians)
Illinois and U.S. Data

Influenza activity in Illinois week 10 has been designated as regional† activity. Flu activity throughout the USA is presented in the map for week of March 8th - 14th, 2009. Thirty states reported widespread activity, eighteen states reported regional activity, two states reported local activity, and no states reported sporadic activity at this time.

WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 5,076 specimens tested for influenza viruses and 1,102 were positive (21.7%) for week 10. The distribution of isolates for week 10 was: influenza A (H1) – 107 isolates, influenza A (H3) – 13 isolates, influenza A (not subtyped) – 402 isolates and influenza B – 580 isolates.

Nationally, the proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for ILI (2.9%) was above baseline. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the epidemic threshold for week 10.

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

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1. **ILI** (influenza-like-illness) is defined as fever ≥ 100°F, cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.
2. **ILI ESSENCE** syndrome is defined as a symptom complex fever and cough or sore throat.
4. **Excludes Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park & Stickney**

† 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.