

Baltimore City Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report:

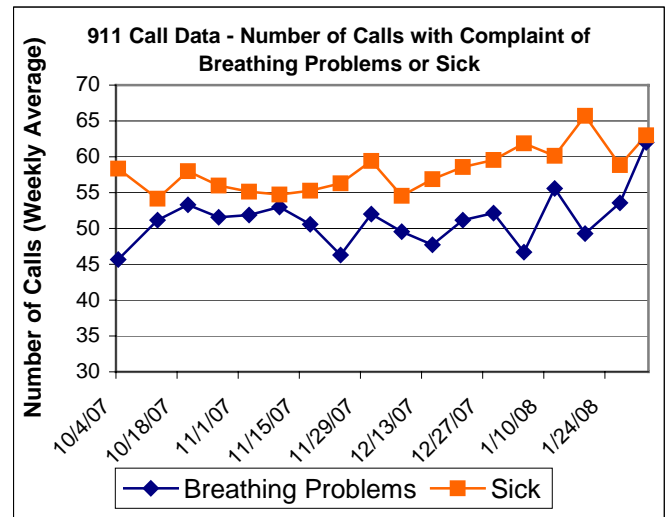
Week 6 - Week ending February 9, 2008



This week's level: **Flu Alert**

- 9% of "rapid" influenza tests reported by Baltimore City sentinel laboratories this week were positive
- An Influenza A outbreak at a long-term care facility in Baltimore City was reported during week 6
- Maryland and 43 other States reported "Widespread" influenza activity to the Centers for Disease Control during week 6
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>
- For information on preventing the flu (including vaccination), visit the Health Department website at <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/flu> or call 311

"breathing problems" and "sick" complaints have been increasing steadily over the past several weeks. These numbers are consistent with this time period in previous years.



SUMMARY

Syndromic surveillance:¹ 11.2% of visits reported by sentinel healthcare providers² this week in Baltimore City were due to influenza-like-illness (ILI),⁴ similar to the previous week when the proportion of visits was also 11.2%.

Documented influenza: 8.7% of "rapid" influenza tests reported by Baltimore City sentinel laboratories⁵ tests were positive, a decrease from last week when the percent positive was 20.3%. There were no deaths due to influenza⁶ and the number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza were consistent with this same time period in past years.

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE

911 Call Data

Weekly averages of daily 911 calls for "breathing problems" and "sick" complaints are graphed below (Data for week 6 are not included, but will be added during week 7). The average numbers of calls for

Emergency Department Data

During the past week, the number of patients presenting with a chief complaint⁸ of fever was elevated. However, numbers of these complaints and complaints of flu-like symptoms were consistent with this time period in previous years.

ILI Cases at Doctor's Offices

Table 1: Proportion of patient visits due to ILI from sentinel providers in Baltimore City and the Baltimore Metro Region

Week	No. of Reporting Sentinel Providers (Total)	Cases of ILI	Patients seen by reporting providers	% of patient visits due to ILI
Baltimore City				
6	2 (3)	196	1753	11.2%
Baltimore Metro Region³				
6	5 (14)	265	2516	10.5%