Geographic Spread

South Carolina reported widespread activity this week. This is the fourth week at widespread activity.

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

A total of 268 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported by 51 hospitals. The cumulative hospitalization rate is 16.7 per 100,000. There were 6 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated death reported; however, 3 of the deaths occurred in previous weeks. The cumulative mortality rate is 0.30 per 100,000. Compared to the previous week, the number of reported hospitalizations increased by 125 (87.4%). In the current flu season, there have been 830 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 15 influenza-associated deaths reported.

Virologic Surveillance

A total of 4,831 influenza cases (4,718 positive rapid antigen detection tests; 113 lab-confirmed tests) were reported from 43 counties representing all four DHEC Public Health regions. Influenza A was most frequently reported by clinical labs and Influenza A(H3) was most frequently reported by the public health lab. Compared to the previous week, this is an increase of 1,395 cases (40.6%). In the current flu season, there have been 17,004 influenza cases (16,528 positive rapid antigen detection tests; 476 lab-confirmed tests) reported.

Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

The percent of patient visits to sentinel providers for an influenza-like illness (ILI) was 10.12%, which is above South Carolina’s baseline (3.13%). Compared to the previous week, this is an increase of 2.47%.

The ILI activity level was high.

For a description of South Carolina’s influenza surveillance components and definitions go to:
http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/FluData/

For national surveillance, please visit:
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/
This week, 113 lab-confirmed cases and 4,718 positive rapid influenza detection tests were reported by public health and clinical labs.

The percentage of specimens sent to the state public health lab that tested positive for influenza was 90.5%.

Influenza A was most frequently reported by clinical labs and influenza A (H3) was most frequently reported by the public health lab.
Virologic Surveillance

Map of Influenza Cases (n)*
and Influenza Case Rate/100,000 By County
For Week Ending 1/6/2017

Weekly Influenza Case Rate per 100K

0 to 25 persons

26 to 50 persons

51 to 75 persons

Greater than 75 persons

*Includes all lab-confirmed and positive rapid cases

Flu Watch  MMWR Week 1  December 31, 2017 – January 6, 2018
Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

This week, the ILI activity level was **high** and **10.12%** of patient visits to SC ILINet providers was attributed to an influenza-like illness. This is **above** the state baseline, **3.13%**.

Reports were received from providers in 10 counties, representing all 4 DHEC Public Health regions.

**ILI percentage is dependent upon the number of reporting providers and/or can vary by disease activity or the number of providers submitting reports.**

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**State ILI Activity Level 2017-18 Calendar by Week of the Year**

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**ILI ACTIVITY LEVELS:** MINIMAL LOW MODERATE HIGH

Flu Watch   MMWR Week 1   December 31, 2017 – January 6, 2018
The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 5.3%. This is below the epidemic threshold for the week ending December 16, 2017.