Flu Watch
MMWR Week 49: December 3 to December 9, 2017
All data are provisional and subject to change as more reports are received.

Geographic Spread
South Carolina reported regional activity this week. This is the sixth consecutive week at regional activity.

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths
A total of 50 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported by 49 hospitals. The cumulative hospitalization rate is 3.8 per 100,000. There were 3 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated deaths reported; however, 2 deaths occurred in previous weeks. The cumulative mortality rate is 0.10 per 100,000. Compared to the previous week, the number of reported hospitalizations increased by 9 (22.0%). In the current flu season, there have been 192 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 5 influenza-associated deaths reported.

Virologic Surveillance
A total of 917 influenza cases (893 positive rapid antigen detection tests; 24 lab-confirmed tests) were reported from 38 counties representing all four DHEC Public Health regions. Influenza A was most frequently reported by clinical labs. Compared to the previous week, this is an increase of 247 cases (36.9%). In the current flu season, there have been 3,503 influenza cases (3,396 positive rapid antigen detection tests; 107 lab-confirmed tests) reported.

Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance
The percent of patient visits to sentinel providers for an influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.82%, which is above South Carolina’s baseline (3.13%). Compared to the previous week, this is a decrease of 0.01%. 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, **24 lab-confirmed cases and 893** positive rapid influenza detection tests were reported by clinical labs.

The percentage of specimens sent to the state public health lab that tested positive for influenza was **57.1%**.

**Influenza A** was most frequently reported by clinical labs.
This week, the ILI activity level was **high** and **3.82%** 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 11 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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**ILI ACTIVITY LEVELS:** MINIMAL LOW MODERATE HIGH

No color fill indicates either no reporting or does not participate.
Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This Week</td>
<td>Rate per 100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 49</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 64</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 &amp; older</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>17.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 5.4%. This is below the epidemic threshold for the week ending November 18, 2017.