Geographic Spread

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

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

A total of 129 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported by 42 hospitals. The cumulative hospitalization rate is 7.7 per 100,000. There was 1 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated death reported. The cumulative mortality rate is 0.20 per 100,000. Compared to the previous week, the number of reported hospitalizations increased by 68 (111.5%). In the current flu season, there have been 382 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 8 influenza-associated deaths reported.

Virologic Surveillance

A total of 3,032 influenza cases (2,977 positive rapid antigen detection tests; 55 lab-confirmed tests) were reported from 41 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 1,445 cases (94.3%). In the current flu season, there have been 8,119 influenza cases (7,924 positive rapid antigen detection tests; 195 lab-confirmed tests) reported.

Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

The percent of patient visits to sentinel providers for an influenza-like illness (ILI) was 6.43%, which is above South Carolina’s baseline (3.13%). Compared to the previous week, this is an increase of 2.09%.

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, 55 lab-confirmed cases and 2,977 positive rapid influenza detection tests were reported by clinical and public health labs.

The percentage of specimens sent to the state public health lab that tested positive for influenza was 40%.

**Influenza A** was most frequently reported by clinical labs.
This week, the ILI activity level was **high** and **6.43%** 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 8 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.**

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 This Week</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Season Total</th>
<th>Deaths This Week</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000</th>
<th>Season Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 17</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>--</td>
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</tr>
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<td>18 to 49</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 to 64</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 &amp; older</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>33.2</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was 6.3%. This is below the epidemic threshold for the week ending December 2, 2017.