Influenza Activity in New Mexico for Week Ending December 6, 2014 (MMWR Week 49)

Influenza in the state was at low activity by several indicators:

- **Outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI):** Twenty-six of the 28 sentinel outpatient provider sites reported a total of 10,648 patient visits, of which 219 (2.1%) were identified as visits for ILI\(^2\); which is above national baseline and an increase from last week (1.9%). Nationally, the percentage of ILI visits slightly decreased to 2.5%; which is also above baseline (see graph below).

---

\(^1\) Weekly ILI and lab data may change as additional reports are compiled.

\(^2\) Influenza-like Activity (ILI) is defined as Fever (≥ 100°F [37.8°C], oral or equivalent) AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.
ILI Activity by State Health Regions: by NM DOH regions within the state (refer to page 4 table footnote defining the regions by county). Weekly ILI ranged from 0.8% (NE Region) to 3.7% (SE Region). All regions saw an increase in ILI except the SE Region. See graph below for the current season's weekly ILI by region.

- Laboratory tests for influenza: The graph below illustrates the circulating influenza types and subtypes and the weekly percent of positive specimens by week/data of collection during the 2014-2015 season. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has characterized the first New Mexico influenza positive of the season, which was identified in a Bernalillo County resident, as A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like. Of the H3N2 viruses that have been characterized nationally, 67.5% are different (or “drifted”) from the 2014-2015 Northern Hemisphere A (H3N2) vaccine component.
Influenza-related deaths: There have been no laboratory confirmed influenza-related deaths, adult or pediatric, among New Mexico residents during the week ending December 6, 2014.
• **Geographic Spread of Influenza in the State:** NMDOH reported the state influenza activity level as “Local” to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). See the table on page 5 for the activity level definitions. The map below displays New Mexico activity in comparison to influenza activity in bordering states, regions, and nationally for the week ending December 6, 2014.

*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.*

******************************************************************************************************
This information is collected by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau, Epidemiology Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health.

For questions, please call 505-827-0006.
For more information on influenza go to the NMDOH web page: [http://www.health.state.nm.us/flu/](http://www.health.state.nm.us/flu/) or the CDC web page: [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/)
# TABLE OF INFLUENZA ACTIVITY LEVELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Level</th>
<th>ILI activity*/Outbreaks</th>
<th>Laboratory data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No activity</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>And No lab confirmed cases†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sporadic</td>
<td>Not increased</td>
<td>And Isolated lab-confirmed cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Increased ILI in 1 region**: ILI activity in other regions is not increased</td>
<td>And Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with increased ILI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution‡</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Increased ILI in less than half of the regions (2 or less)</td>
<td>And Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td>Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least 3 of the 5 regions</td>
<td>And Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activity Level ILI activity*/Outbreaks**

- **No activity**: Low
- **Sporadic**: Not increased
- **Local**: Increased ILI in 1 region**: ILI activity in other regions is not increased
- **Regional**: Increased ILI in less than half of the regions (2 or less)
- **Widespread**: Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least 3 of the 5 regions

**Laboratory data**

- No lab confirmed cases†
- Isolated lab-confirmed cases
- Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution‡
- Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with increased ILI
- Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
- Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.

---

Influenza-like illness: Fever (≥ 100°F [37.8°C], oral or equivalent) and cough and/or sore throat (in the absence of a known cause other than influenza).

† Lab confirmed case = case confirmed by rapid diagnostic test, antigen detection, culture, or PCR. Care should be given when relying on results of point of care rapid diagnostic test kits during times when influenza is not circulating widely. The sensitivity and specificity of these tests vary and the predicative value positive may be low outside the time of peak influenza activity. Therefore, at the start of the season, NMDOH uses lab confirmation by PCR or culture to declare the presence of lab-confirmed influenza in the state. Positivity by other lab methods is recognized and tracked as another influenza activity indicator as the season progresses.

‡ Institution includes nursing home, hospital, prison, school, etc.

**Region**: population under surveillance in a defined geographical subdivision of a state. A region could be comprised of 1 or more counties and would be based on each state’s specific circumstances. In New Mexico, the NMDOH regions are: **Northwest Region**: San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola counties; **Northeast Region**: Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Taos, Cofax, Union, Mora, Harding, Santa Fe, San Miguel and Guadalupe counties; **Metro Region**: Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties; **Southwest Region**: Quay, Curry, DeBaca, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Chaves, Eddy and Lea counties, and **Southeast Region**: Socorro, Catron, Grant, Sierra, Otero, Dona Ana, Luna and Hidalgo counties.