Influenza Surveillance Report

October 14, 2009

Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

- For the week ending 10/10/09, visits to doctors for influenza-like illness (ILI) in New Mexico rose from 10.3% to 16.1% (Figure 1). The ILI visit percentage is dramatically higher than what is expected during this time of year for both New Mexico and the United States.

- For the week ending 10/10/09, the percentage of outpatient visits for ILI in New Mexico regions were 4.1% in Northeast, 7.1% in Southwest, 17.9% in Northwest, 27.1% in Central, and 30.4% in Southeast. ILI visits increased in all regions compared to last week.

Laboratory-confirmed Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance

- Starting 10/12/09 the case definition for laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations was expanded to include patients with positive rapid influenza and influenza fluorescent antibody tests. Previously the case definition only considered positive RT-PCR and viral culture results as confirmatory. This change was made to more accurately represent the burden of influenza-related hospitalizations in New Mexico.

- As of 10/14/09, there have been 221 hospitalizations related to laboratory-confirmed influenza infection in New Mexico. The number of hospitalizations has remained steady since last week. Table 1 summarizes hospitalizations by county of residence.

Laboratory-confirmed Influenza Death Surveillance

- As of 10/12/09, there have been 12 deaths related to laboratory-confirmed influenza infection in New Mexico. Three new deaths were reported this week: a 47 year-old female from Chaves County, a 59 year-old male from San Juan County and a 63 year-old male whose county of residence has not yet been determined. Table 2 summarizes deaths by county of residence.
Figure 1: Percent of sentinel provider outpatient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) 
New Mexico and United States

Dashed line indicates national baseline value of 2.4%. Reporting of US data is delayed a week.

Prepared by NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team on 14OCT2009
Dashed line indicates national baseline value of 2.4%. The Southeast region consistently reports ILI visit percentages that are higher than other regions so differences between regions should be interpreted with caution.
Figure 3: Laboratory-confirmed influenza hospitalizations by admission date
New Mexico

Report date substituted for admission date for 32 hospitalizations for which admission date has not yet been determined.

Prepared by NMDOH Influenza Surveillance Team on 14OCT2009