NEW MEXICO INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE UPDATE
2012 - 2013 Influenza Season

Epidemiology and Response Division, New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)

Influenza Activity in New Mexico for Week Ending November 24, 2012 (MMWR Week 47)

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

- Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like illness (ILI): twenty-six of the 26 sentinel outpatient provider sites reported a total of 7,284 patient visits, of which 165 (2.3%) were identified as visits for ILI. The previous week ending November 17th reported 2.1% influenza-like illness. See graph below displaying the comparison of statewide ILI activity to national ILI activity percentage.

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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.
By NMDOH regions within the state (refer to page 4 table footnote defining the regions by county), activity was at low to slightly increased levels with a range of 0.7% ILI (Northeast Region) to 4.8% ILI (Southeast Region). See graph below for the current season’s ILI by region.

Sentinel outpatient reporting sites by Region:
Region 1 (NW region of state): San Juan Regional Medical Center, Farmington; Acoma-Canoncito- Laguna Indian Health Service Hospital, Acoma; and Albuquerque Health Partners Urgent Care, Rio Rancho.
Region 2 (NE region of state): Raton Family Practice Associates, Raton; Taos-Picuris Indian Health Clinic, Taos; Pecos Valley Medical Center, Pecos; La Familia Medical Clinic, Santa Fe; Los Alamos Family Care Clinic, Los Alamos; Jicarilla Apache Indian Health Clinic, Dulce and Espanola Family Care Clinic, Espanola.
Region 3 (Bernalillo County): Lovelace Downtown Medical Center and University of New Mexico Student Health Clinic, both in Albuquerque.
Region 4 (SE region of state): Carlsbad Medical Center, Carlsbad; Lea Regional Medical Center, Hobbs; Eastern New Mexico Medical Center, Roswell and Roosevelt General Hospital in Portales.
Region 5 (SW region of state): Gila Regional Medical Center, Silver City; Hidalgo Medical Services Clinic, Lordsburg; Ben Archer Health Center, Deming; Ben Archer Health Center, Dona Ana; La Clinica de Familia, Sunland Park; Ben Archer Health Center, Columbus; Mescalero Apache Indian Health Hospital, Mescalero; Sierra Vista Hospital, Truth or Consequences; Ruidoso Medical Associates, Ruidoso and the New Mexico Mining and Technology Institute, Socorro.
• Laboratory tests for influenza: the Scientific Lab Division (SLD) has reported six positive samples for influenza by polymerase-chain reaction (PCR) testing, collected between 11/3/12 and 11/23/12. Three of the positive samples were influenza A type (not subtyped) and three were influenza B type. These samples originated from McKinley, Lincoln, Bernalillo and Santa Fe counties.

• Influenza-related deaths: there have been no reports of adult or pediatric deaths caused by lab-confirmed influenza in New Mexico since early October, the beginning of the 2012-2013 season.

• NMDOH reported the state influenza activity as “Sporadic” to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). See the table on page 3 for full definitions of activity levels. Below is a map of the U.S displaying New Mexico activity in comparison to influenza activity in bordering states, regions and nationally. This map is produced by the CDC Influenza Division.

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This information is collected by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau, Epidemiology Response Division of NMDOH. 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/ or the CDC web page: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/fluivirus.htm
### Activity Level | ILI activity*/Outbreaks | Laboratory data
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No activity | Low | No lab confirmed cases†
Sporadic | Not increased | Isolated lab-confirmed cases
| Not increased | Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution‡
Local | Increased ILI in 1 region**: ILI activity in other regions is not increased | Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with increased ILI
| 2 or more institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in 1 region; ILI activity in other regions is not increased | Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with the outbreaks; virus activity is no greater than sporadic in other regions
Regional | Increased ILI in less than half of the regions (2 or less) | Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
| Institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in less than half of the regions (2 or less) | Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
Widespread | Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least 3 of the 5 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 predictive 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: **Northeast Region**—Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, Union, Mora, Harding, Santa Fe, San Miguel and Guadalupe counties; **Metro Region** — Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance and Valencia counties; **Southeast Region** — Quay, Curry, DeBaca, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Chaves, Eddy and Lea counties, and **Southwest Region** — Socorro, Catron, Grant, Sierra, Otero, Dona Ana, Luna and Hidalgo counties.