NEW MEXICO INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE UPDATE
2015 - 2016 Influenza Season

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

Influenza Activity in New Mexico for Week Ending October 31 2015 (MMWR Week 43)

Influenza in the state was at no activity by several indicators:

1. **Outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI):** Twenty-one sentinel outpatient provider sites reported a total of 9,162 patient visits, of which 111 (1.2%) were identified as visits for ILI; which is below the national baseline of 2.1%. Nationally, the percentage of ILI visits was 1.4%; which is also below baseline (see graph below).

![Graph showing Sentinel Provider Site ILI Visits, New Mexico and United States, 2015 - 2016]

2. **ILI Activity by State Health Regions:** by NMDOH regions within the state (refer to page 4 table footnote defining the regions by county). Weekly ILI ranged from 0.5% (SW Region) to 1.8% (Metro Region). See graph below for the current season’s weekly ILI by region.

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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.
3. Laboratory tests for influenza: For the week ending October 31, 2015, the New Mexico Scientific Laboratory Division reported no respiratory specimens tested positive for influenza.

4. Influenza and pneumonia-related deaths: There have been no influenza-related deaths and no pneumonia-related deaths among New Mexico residents reported since the start of the 2015-2016 influenza season.

- Geographic Spread of Influenza in the State: NMDOH reported the state influenza activity level as “Sporadic” to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). See the table on page 4 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 October 31, 2015.
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>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>OR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not increased</td>
<td>And 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></td>
<td>OR</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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: Northwest Region: San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola counties; 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.