

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

January 23, 2008

Synopsis

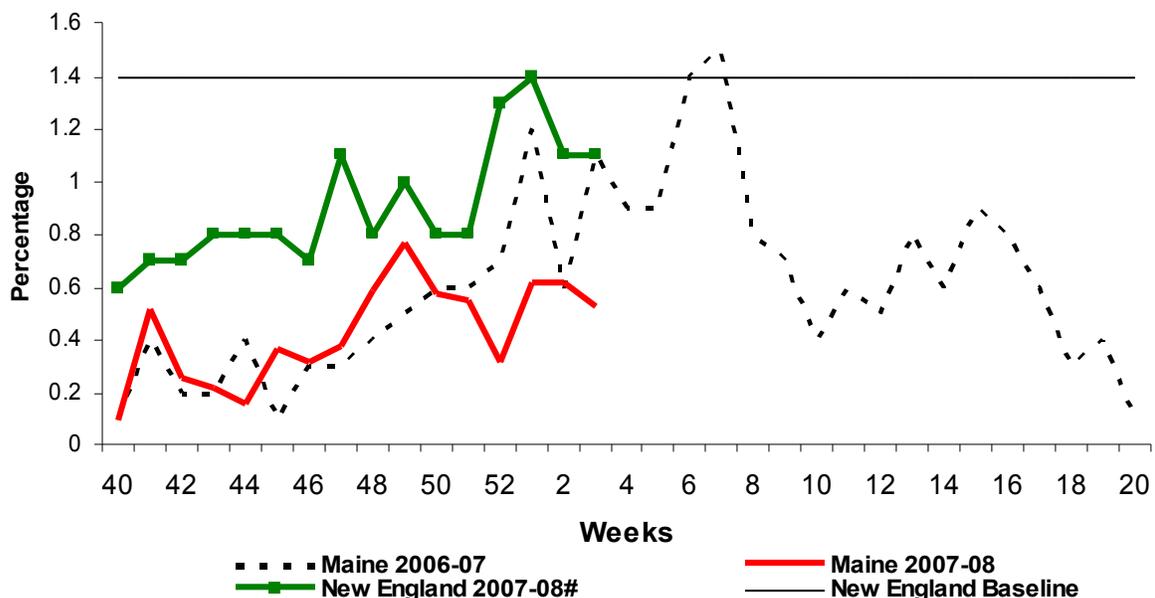
During the week ending January 19, 2008 (MMWR week 3)*, Maine reported sporadic influenza activity.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending January 19, 2008 (week 3), 0.5% of outpatient visits reported by seven Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}$ F / $\geq 37.8^{\circ}$ C) and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 1.1% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 3.

Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness -- Maine, 2006-08



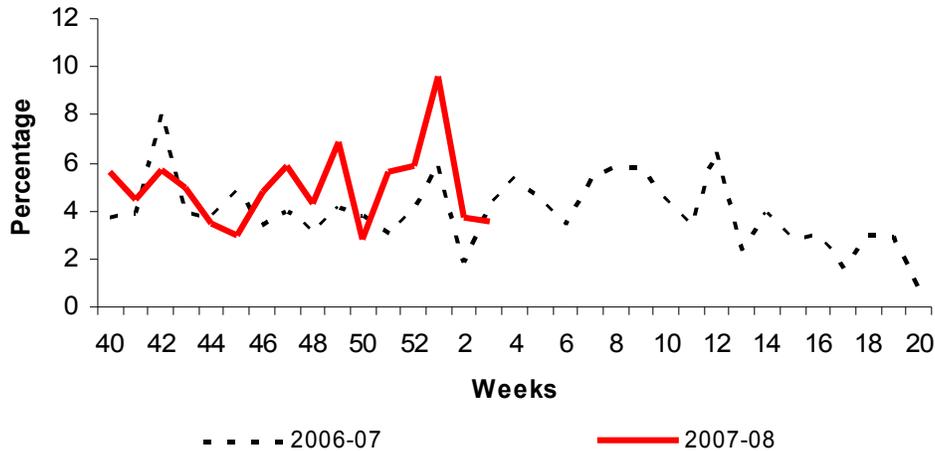
New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending January 19, 2008 (week 3), 3.6% of hospital admissions reported by four hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza. This is similar to week 2 when 3.7% of hospital admissions were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.

Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza -- Maine, 2006-08

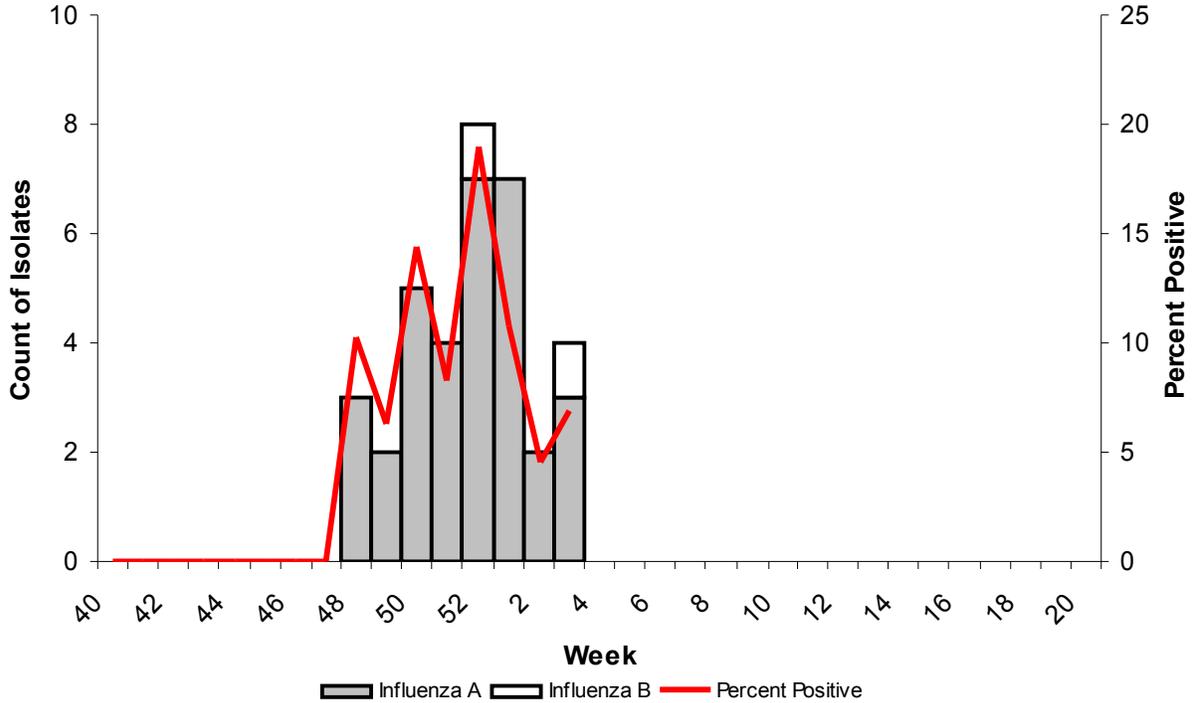


Laboratory Reporting

Data from the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) are not available for the week ending January 19 (week 3). As of January 12, 2008 (week 2), a cumulative total of 92 respiratory specimens had been submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing. To date, four (4.3%) specimens were positive for influenza A, two (2.2%) specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, and one (1.1%) specimen was positive for parainfluenza-1. Results are pending on 13 specimens; the remaining specimens tested negative.

Two private reference laboratories in Maine reported for the week ending January 19, 2008 (week 3). Three (5.2%) of 58 specimens were positive for influenza A and one (1.7%) was positive for influenza B. In addition 25 specimens were positive for RSV. As of January 19, 2008, a cumulative total of 494 respiratory specimens had been submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 33 (6.7%) specimens were positive for influenza A and two (0.4%) was positive for influenza B. Seventy specimens were positive for RSV, nine specimens were positive for parainfluenza-1, nine specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, three specimens were positive for parainfluenza-3, five specimens was positive for adenovirus, three specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza from Two Reference Laboratories – Maine, 2007-08



Outbreaks

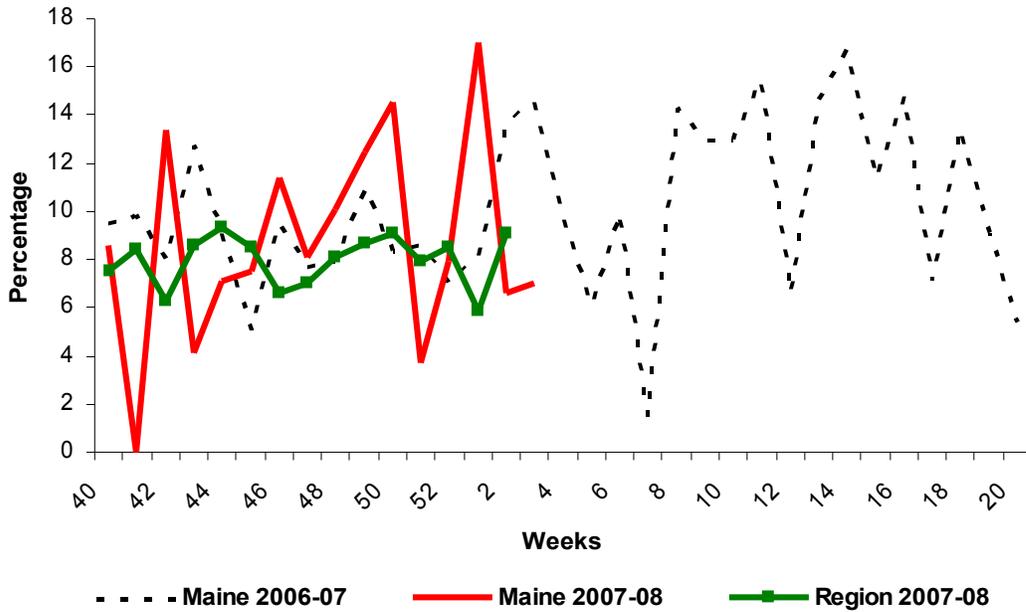
The only outbreak of the season was reported on December 27 in a long-term care facility in the Midcoast region. Approximately 9% of residents were ill. None were hospitalized. No staff were reported to be ill. Influenza immunization for residents was 100%; approximately 55% of staff were immunized. Influenza type A was identified by a rapid antigen test.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending January 19, 2008 (week 3), 7.0% of deaths reported by two city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.

**Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza –
Maine, New England and the United States, 2006-08**



^ New England includes the following reporting areas: Boston, MA; Bridgeport, CT; Cambridge, MA; Fall River, MA; Hartford, CT; Lowell, MA; Lynn, MA; New Bedford, MA; New Haven, CT; Providence, RI; Somerville, MA; Springfield, MA; Waterbury, CT; Worcester, MA.

Pediatric Fatalities

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Maine this season.

National Influenza Activity

State health departments report the estimated level of influenza activity in their states each week. States report influenza activity as: 1) no activity, 2) sporadic, 3) local, 4) regional, or 5) widespread (definitions of these levels can be found at: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm). Maine reported sporadic influenza activity for the week ending January 12, 2008 (week 2). For the week ending January 19, 2008 (week 3), Maine reported sporadic activity.

