

# Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

October 31, 2007

## Synopsis

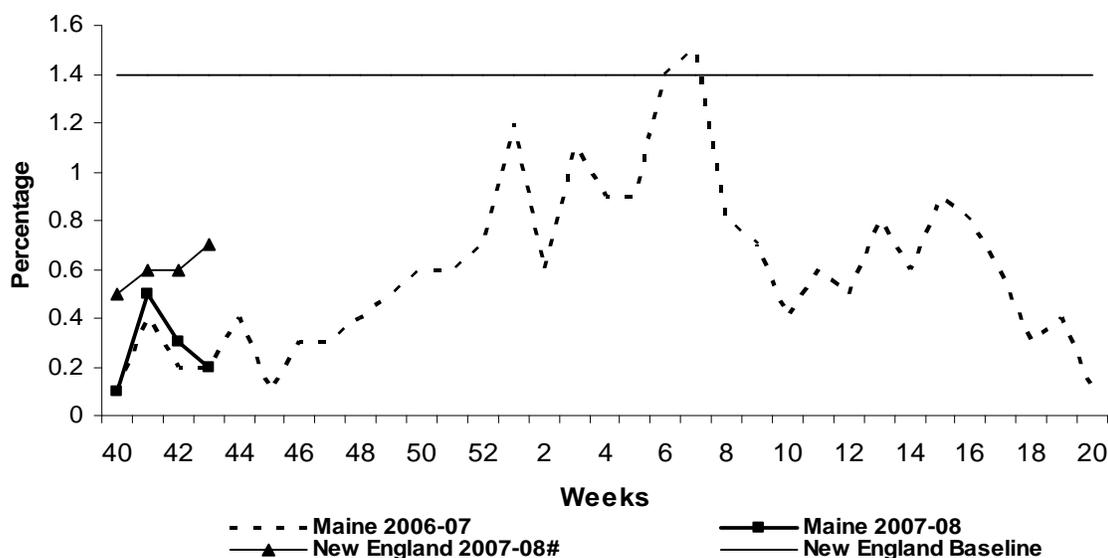
During the week ending October 27, 2007 (MMWR week 43)\*, Maine Influenza Sentinel Providers reported low levels of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness and partner hospitals and municipal vital records offices reported moderate levels of influenza and pneumonia-associated hospital admissions and deaths. Laboratory partners, including the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory, report an increase in influenza testing, though no specimens have tested culture or PCR-positive for influenza yet this season.

## Moderate Disease Surveillance

### Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending October 27, 2007 (week 43), 0.2% of outpatient visits reported by seven Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. This is a slight decrease from the previous week previous when 0.3% of outpatient visits were for ILI. In the New England States, 0.7% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness.

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



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

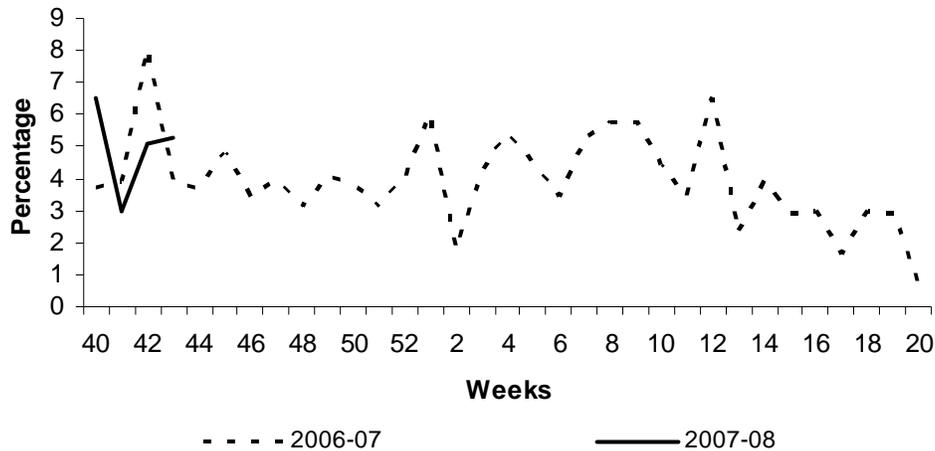
\* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

## Severe Disease Surveillance

### *Hospital inpatients*

During the week ending October 20, 2007 (week 43), a total of 5.3% of hospital admissions reported by three hospital partners were attributable to influenza or pneumonia. Pneumonia and influenza hospital admissions at this time appear to be consistent with last year's rate.

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



### *Laboratory Reporting*

As of October 27, 2007 (week 43), a total of 19 respiratory specimens were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing. Of these, 12 specimens were negative for influenza by PCR, 7 were negative for influenza by culture, and culture results are pending on 12 specimens.

As of October 27, 2007, a total of 19 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, no specimens were positive for influenza. One specimen (5.3%) was positive for parainfluenza-1, two specimens (10.5%) were positive for parainfluenza-3, one (5.3%) specimen was positive for adenovirus, three (15.8%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

### *Outbreaks*

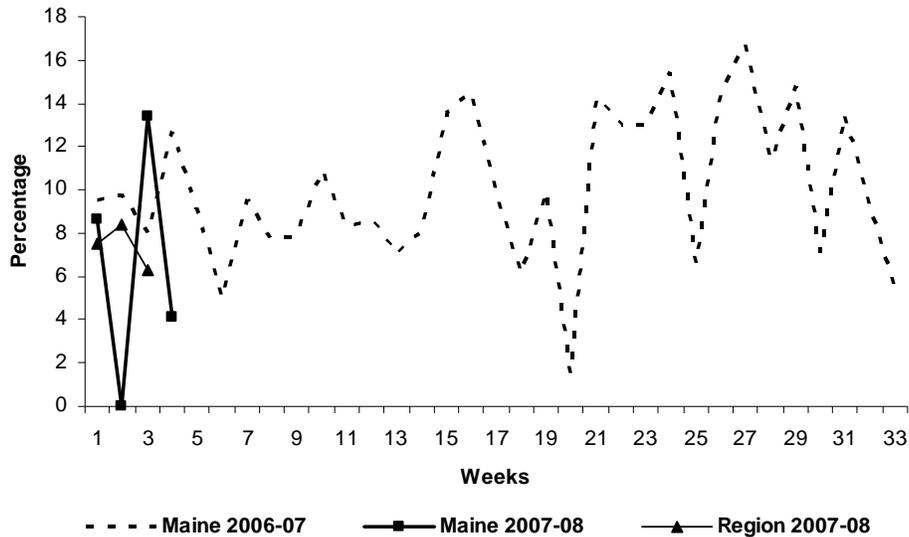
No outbreaks of influenza have been reported yet this season.

## Fatalities Surveillance

### *Death Certificates*

During the weeks ending October 27, 2007 (week 43), 4.1% of deaths reported by three city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza. This is a decrease from the week ending October 20, 2007 when 13.4% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia or 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.

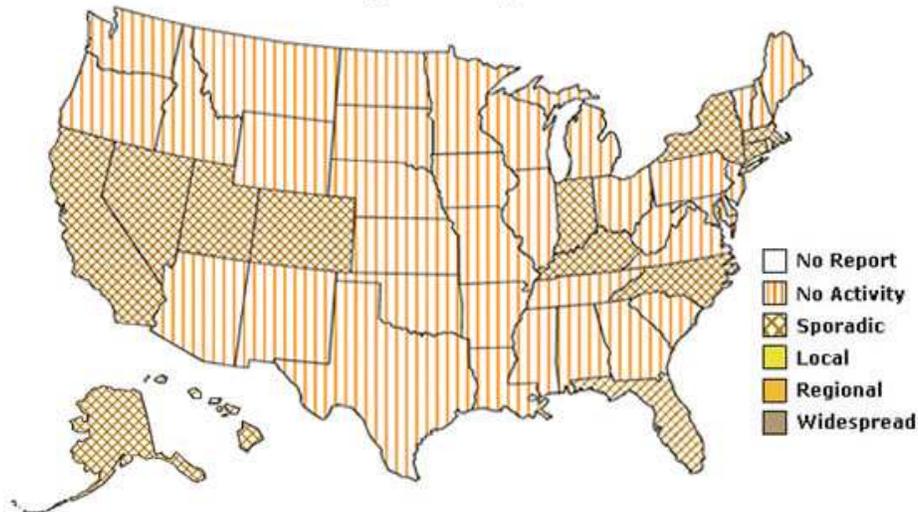
### Pediatric Fatalities

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](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)). Maine reported local influenza activity for the week ending October 20, 2007 (week 42).

Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists\*  
Week Ending October 20, 2007 - Week 42



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