

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

November 8, 2007

Synopsis

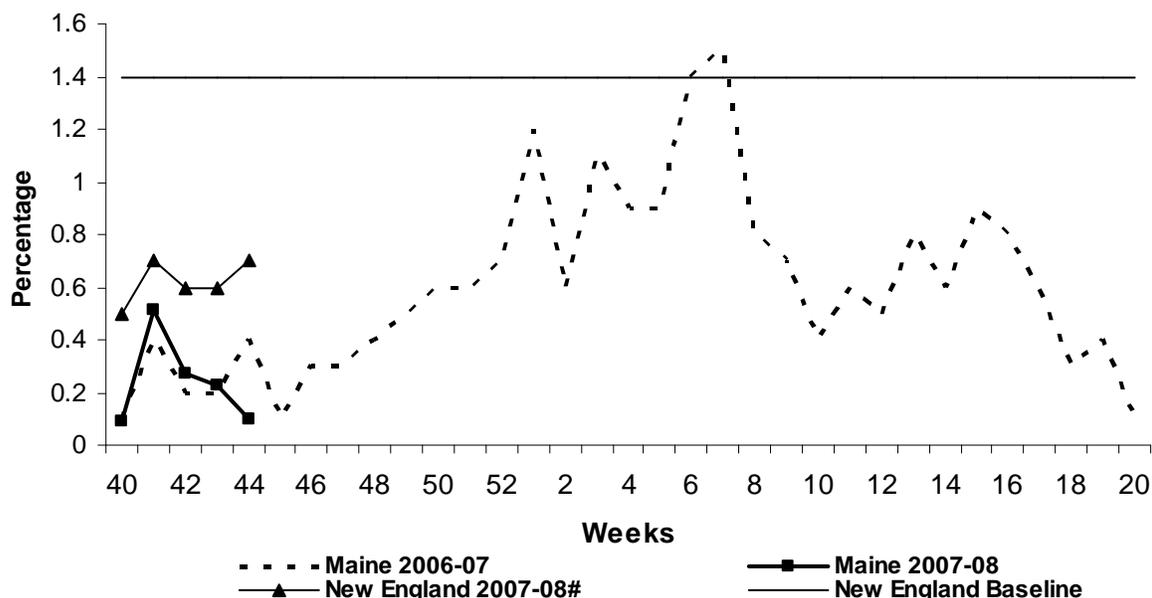
During the week ending November 3, 2007 (MMWR week 44)*, surveillance indicators suggest respiratory illnesses are present in the community. Low levels of activity are reported by Maine Sentinel Providers, and moderate levels of activity are reported by partnering hospital and municipal vital records offices. 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. RSV, para-influenza 1 and 3, and enterovirus have been detected through laboratory surveillance.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending November 3, 2007 (week 44), 0.1% of outpatient visits reported by nine 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 0.2% 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.

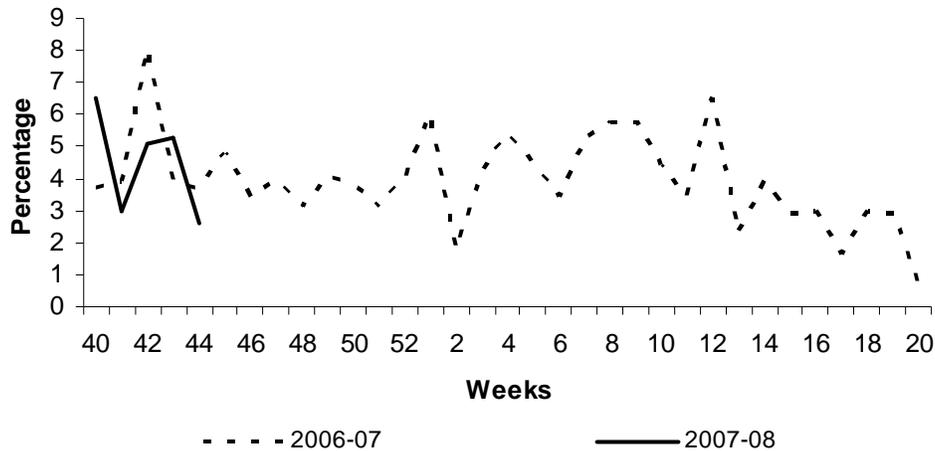
* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending November 3, 2007 (week 44), a total of 2.6% 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 November 3, 2007 (week 44), a total of 21 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, 9 were negative for influenza by culture, and culture results are pending on the remaining specimens.

As of November 3, 2007, a total of 60 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, no specimens were positive for influenza. Two specimens (3.3%) were positive for RSV, five specimens (8.3%) were positive for parainfluenza-1, two specimens (3.3%) were positive for parainfluenza-3, one (1.7%) specimen was positive for adenovirus, three (5.0%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Outbreaks

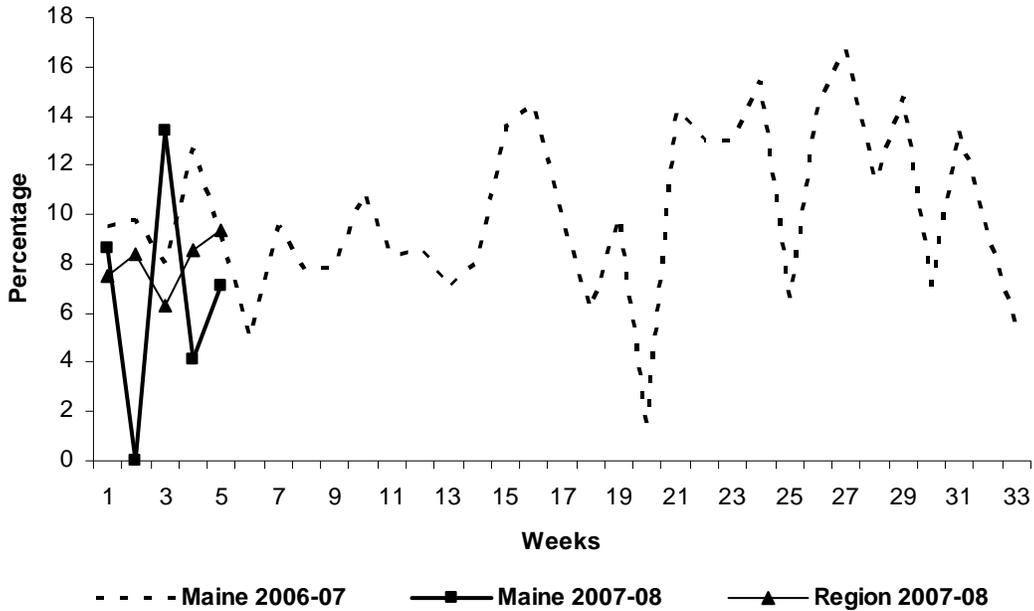
No outbreaks of influenza have been reported yet this season.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the weeks ending November 3, 2007 (week 44), 7.1% of deaths reported by two city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza. This is a slight increase from the week ending October 27, 2007 when 4.1% 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.

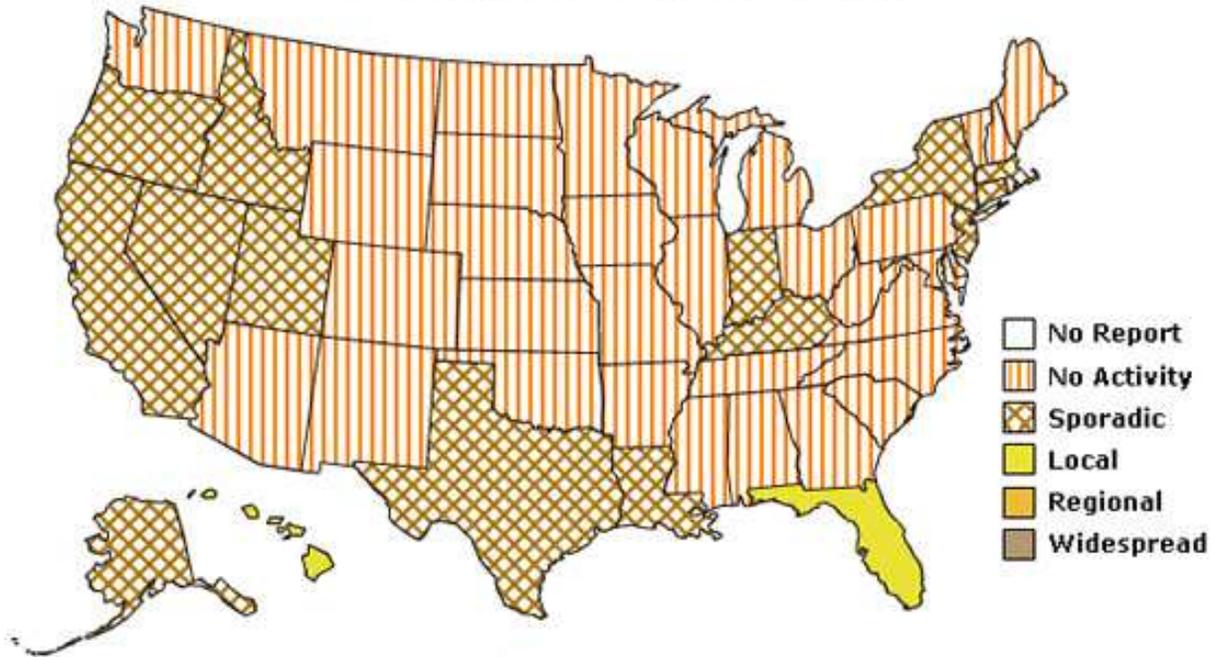
Pediatric Fatalities

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). Maine reported no influenza activity for the week ending October 27, 2007 (week 43).

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending October 27, 2007 - Week 43**



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