

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

November 28, 2007

Synopsis

During the week ending November 24, 2007 (MMWR week 47)*, an increase in outpatient visits for influenza-like illness and pneumonia and influenza hospital admissions was observed.

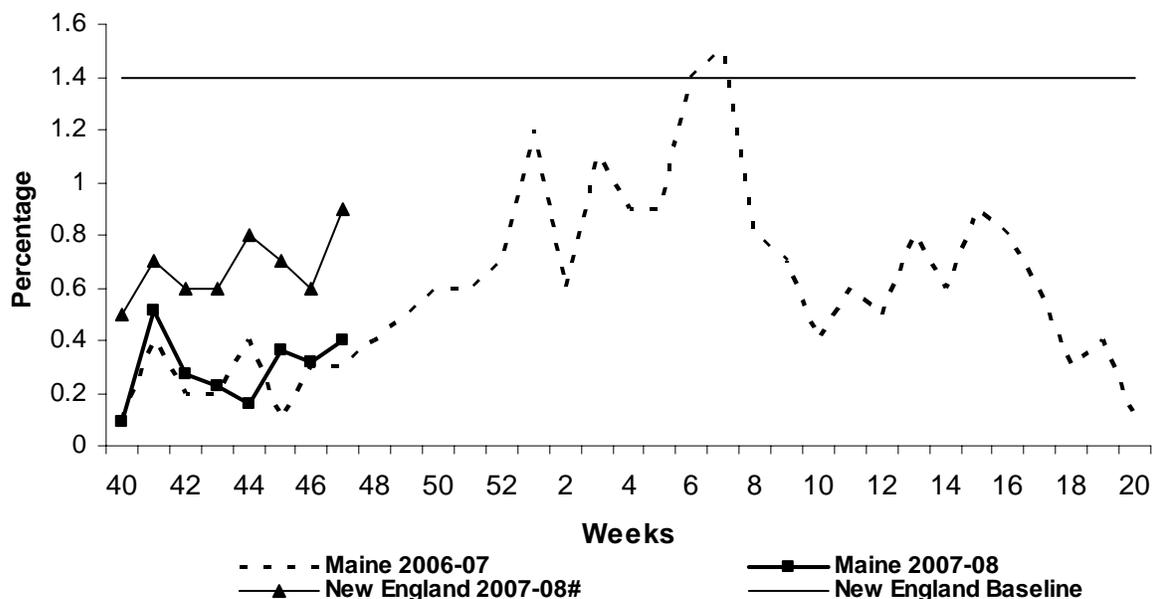
Influenza has yet to be laboratory-confirmed in the State, though surveillance indicates RSV as well as parainfluenza -1, 2, and 3 are circulating. A slight decrease in pneumonia and influenza-associated deaths was observed during week 47.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending November 24, 2007 (week 47), 0.4% 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. In the New England States, 0.9% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 47.

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

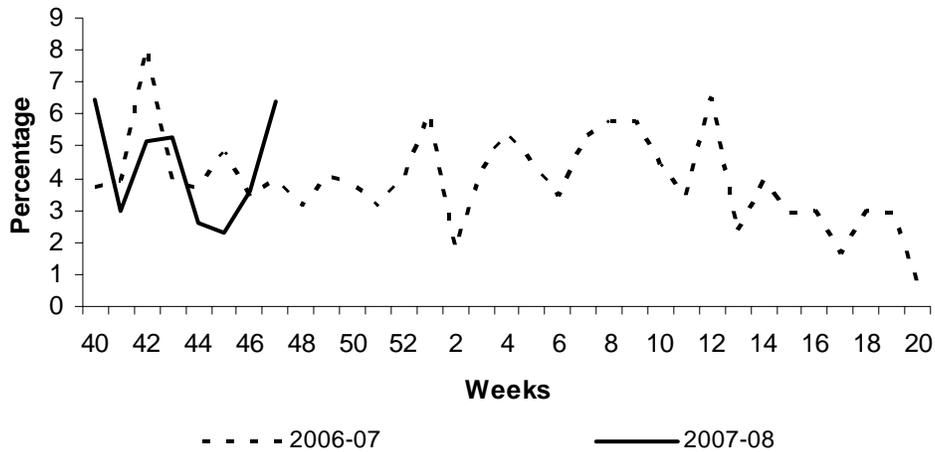
Hospital inpatients

During the week ending November 24, 2007 (week 47), a total of 6.4% of hospital admissions reported by three hospital partners were attributable to influenza or pneumonia. This is a slight

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

increase from week 46 when 3.6% of hospital admissions were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.

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

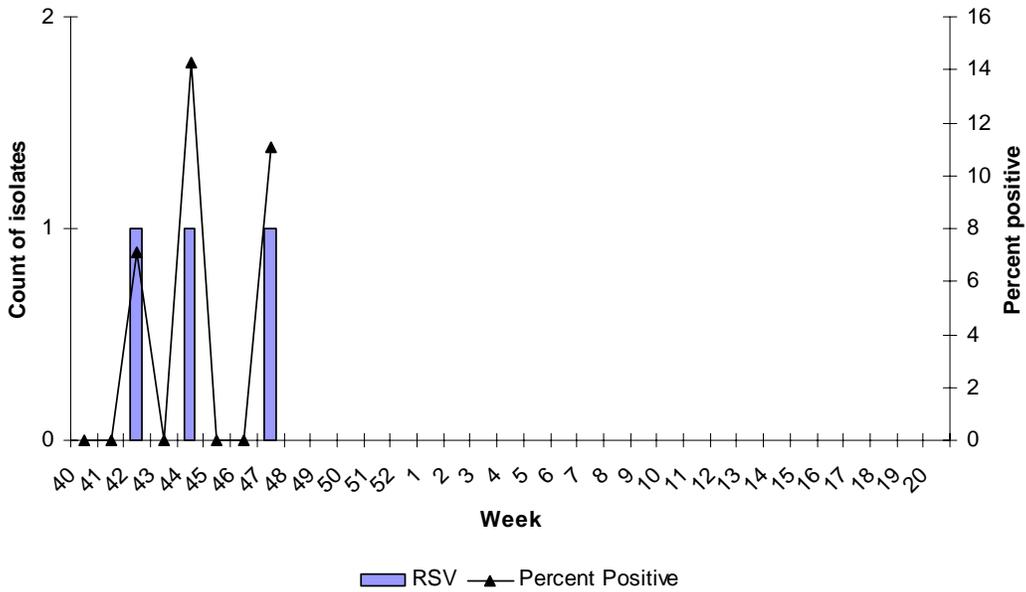


Laboratory Reporting

During the week of November 24, 2007 (week 47), three respiratory specimen were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza culture testing; results are pending on these specimens. As of November 24, 2007 (week 47), a total of 40 respiratory specimens were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing, 13 of which will also be tested by PCR. To date, 29 specimens were negative for influenza by culture, including 13 that were negative by PCR. Culture results are pending on the remaining 11 specimens.

During the week ending November 24, 2007 (week 47), a total of 33 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories. Of these, all specimens were negative for influenza, one specimen was positive for RSV, two specimens were positive for parainfluenza-1 and three specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2. As of November 24, 2007, a total of 106 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, all specimens were negative for influenza. Three specimens (2.8%) were positive for RSV, seven specimens (6.6%) were positive for parainfluenza-1, three (2.8%) specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, three specimens (2.8%) were positive for parainfluenza-3, one (0.9%) specimen was positive for adenovirus, three (2.8%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Respiratory Specimens Positive for RSV – Two Reference Laboratories -- Maine, 2006-07



Outbreaks

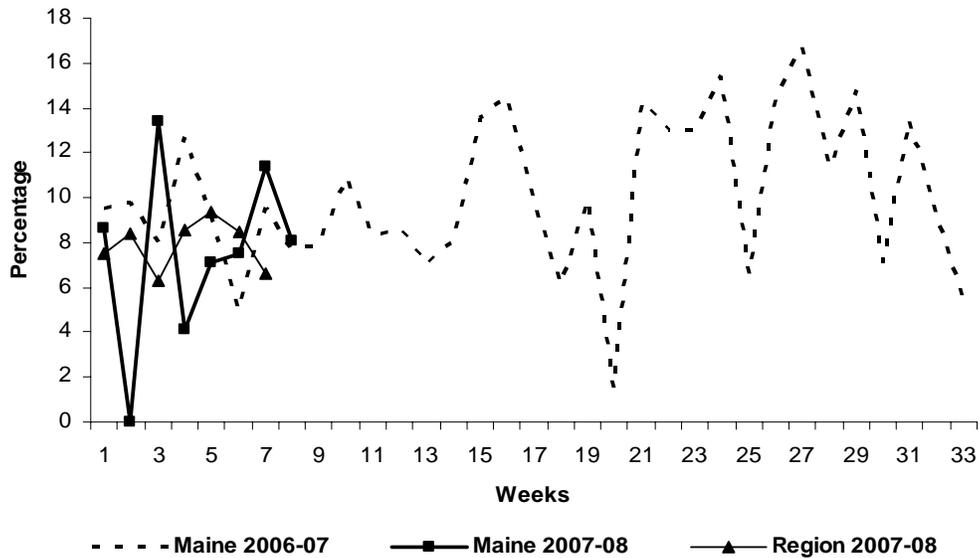
No outbreaks of influenza have been reported yet this season.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending November 24, 2007 (week 47), 8.1% 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.

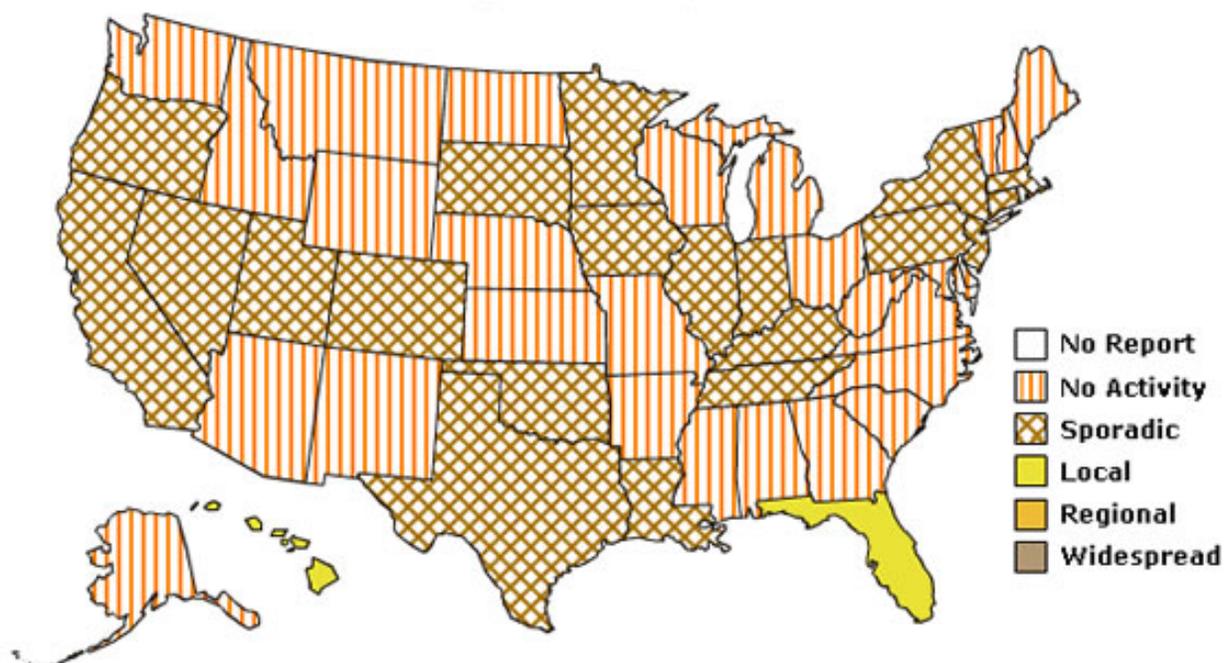
Pediatric Fatalities

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 no influenza activity for the week ending November 17, 2007 (week 46).

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending November 17, 2007 - Week 46**



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