

Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

DECEMBER 12, 2007

Synopsis

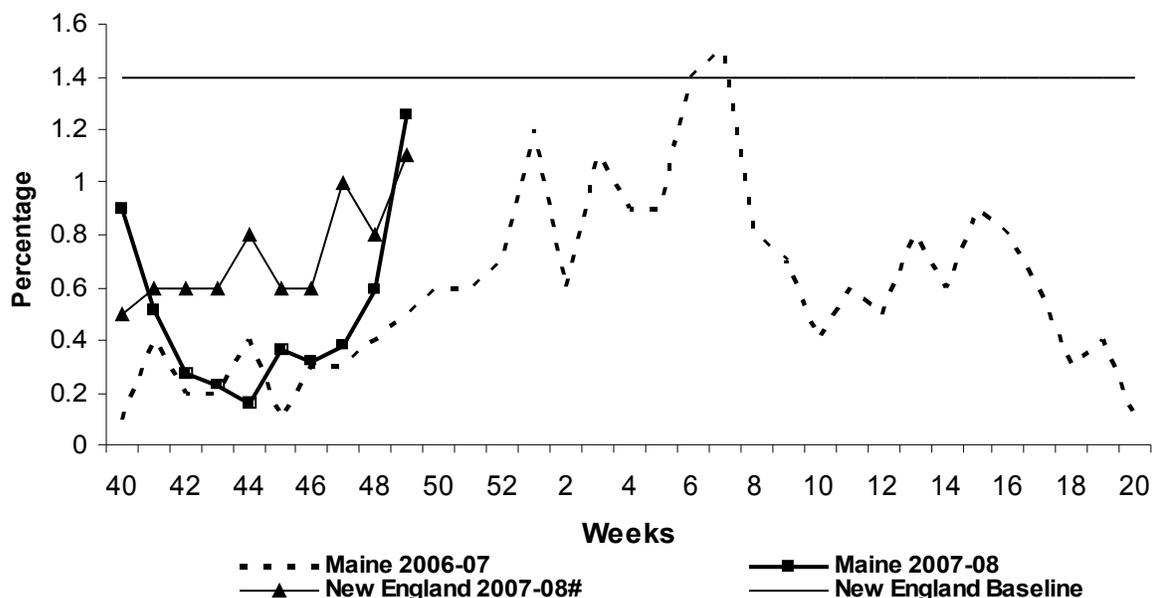
During the week ending December 8, 2007 (MMWR week 49)*, an increase in outpatient visits for influenza-like illness and in pneumonia and influenza hospital admissions was observed.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)

During the week ending December 8, 2007 (week 49), 1.3% of outpatient visits reported by six 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, 1.0% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 49.

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



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

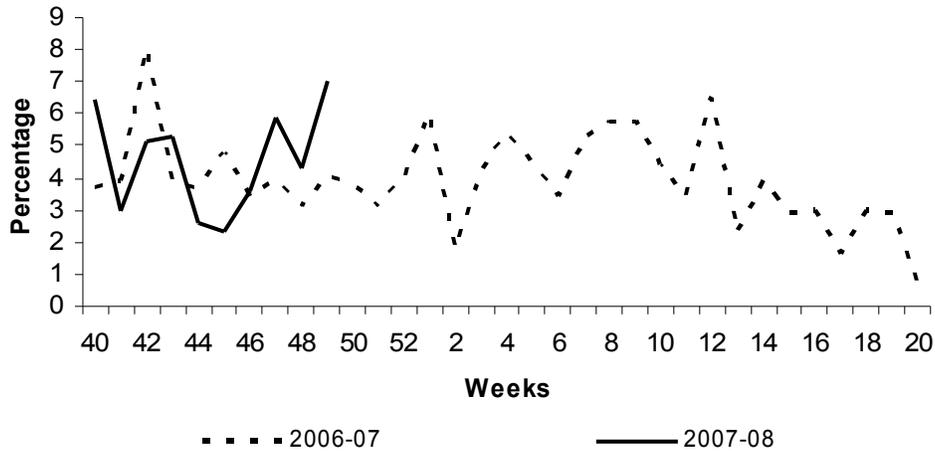
Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients

During the week ending December 8, 2007 (week 49), a total of 7.0% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals was attributable to influenza or pneumonia. This is an increase from week 48 when 4.3% of hospital admissions were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.

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

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



Laboratory Reporting

During the week ending December 8, 2007 (week 49), one respiratory specimen was submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing; results are pending on this specimen. As of December 8, 2007 (week 49), a cumulative total of 53 respiratory specimens had been submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing. To date, 44 specimens were negative for influenza by culture, including 13 that were negative by PCR. Culture results are pending on the remaining specimens.

During the week ending December 8, 2007 (week 49), a total of 31 respiratory specimens were submitted to one private reference laboratory in Maine. Of these, two specimens were positive for influenza A and one specimen was positive for parainfluenza-2. As of December 8, 2007, a cumulative total of 160 respiratory specimens had been submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, five (3.1%) specimens were positive for influenza A. Three specimens (1.8%) were positive for RSV, eight specimens (5.0%) were positive for parainfluenza-1, four (2.5%) specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, three (1.8%) specimens were positive for parainfluenza-3, two (1.2%) specimen was positive for adenovirus, three (1.8%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Outbreaks

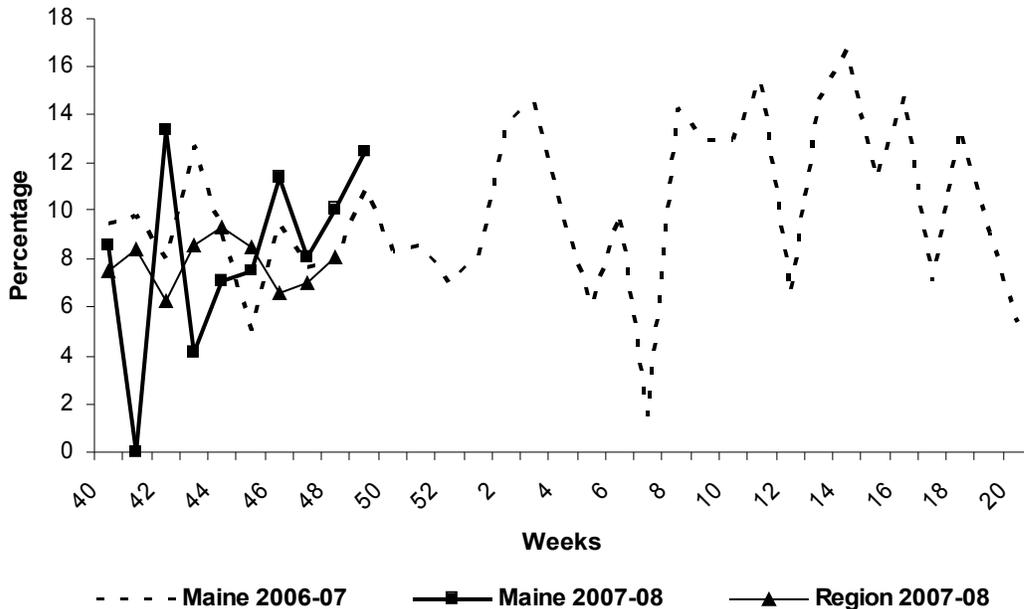
No outbreaks have been reported this season.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending December 8, 2007 (week 49), 12.5% of deaths reported by three 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.

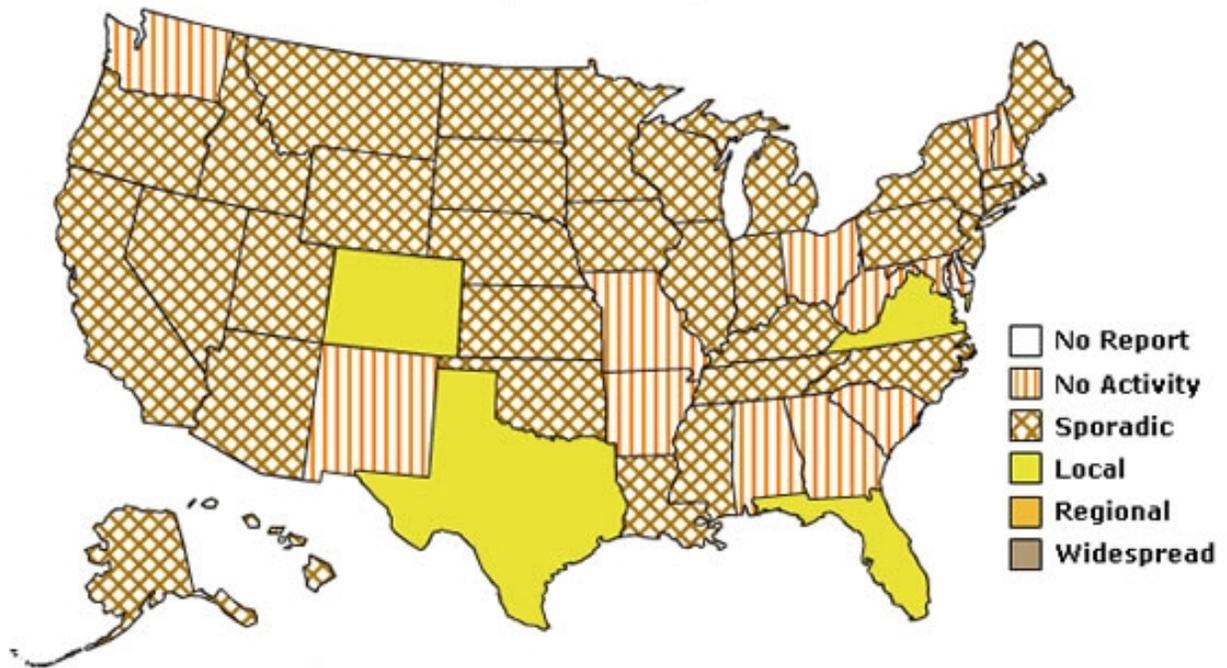
Pediatric Fatalities

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 December 1, 2007 (week 48). For week 49, Maine reported sporadic activity.

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending December 1, 2007 - Week 48**



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