



FirstWatch® Regional Influenza Update

According to the CDC, at the end of Week 48 (12/1/12) report of influenza activity in the United States was actually down from last week, with influenza levels considered “widespread” in eight states; “regional” in fifteen; fifteen with “local”; with the remaining states reporting sporadic (12 states plus Washington, D.C., Guam) or no activity; a few territories did not report.

The percentage of positive influenza specimens has increased. Of the 5,511 specimens tested for influenza last week, a national average of 20.7% tested positive for influenza. Many regions are now reporting flu in double digit percentages: with the highest percentage for flu (33.5%) was Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI), Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) next with at 24.4%, Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE) which reported 22.1% positive; and Region 10 (AK, ID, WA, OR) at 20.3%. These regions were all in the same order (starting with the highest) as last week. All regions report some flu activity with Region 9 (AZ, CA, Guam, HI, NV) at the lowest with 6.2%. A breakdown of specimens resulted in 1,139 that tested positive for influenza; 75% for influenza A and 25% for influenza B (an increase in influenza A and a decrease in influenza B). Those testing positive for influenza A include 47.5% which tested as H3, 52% with no subtyping done, and 0.5% as 2009 H1N1.

There were no new reports of any variant influenza.

Outpatient sampling for ILI (influenza-like illness) was 1.9%, which is lower than the national baseline of 2.2% and lower than last week.

For more detailed statistics, including influenza updates by Region and State see:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

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