



Epidemiology and Response Division

NEW MEXICO INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE UPDATE from the Epidemiology and Response Division of the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH)
Weekly Report ending October 29, 2005; posted on November 8, 2005.

Summary of Influenza Activity in New Mexico for Week Ending October 29, 2005:

- Twenty of the 21 sentinel sites reported a total of 5,506 patient visits, of which 29 (0.52%) were for an influenza-like illness¹. The previous week ending October 22nd reported 0.49% influenza-like illness.
- NMDOH received no reports of positive influenza (Influenza A or B) tests using rapid testing. There were no reports of positive influenza by culture.
- NMDOH reported the state influenza activity as “NO ACTIVITY” to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (see table below for definitions).

Laboratory Activity in NM:

- For the week ending October 29, 2005, 16 of 16 clinical laboratories reported performing 25 rapid or DFA tests, of which none were positive for influenza A or B and none indistinguishable².
- Since October 2, 2005, NMDOH has received reports of two (2.27%) positive rapid influenza A tests, no positive rapid influenza B tests and no indistinguishable² positive rapid influenza tests out of 88 rapid tests performed at 16 clinical laboratories.

Influenza-Related Pediatric Mortality

During the week ending October 22, there were no influenza-related pediatric deaths reported to CDC. No cases have been reported to NMDOH.

Flu Activity in the Mountain Region and Texas

For the week ending October 22 (the most recent data available), influenza activity was reported as “Regional” by Texas, “Sporadic” by Arizona, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming and “No Activity” by Colorado, Montana, Nevada, and New Mexico. One specimen tested for Influenza virus was positive for Influenza A and subtyped as H3N2 in the Mountain Region (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming)³.

National Flu Surveillance and Laboratory Activity

For the week ending October 22, nine (1.1%) of 795 specimens tested for influenza viruses was positive. Of these, one was an influenza A (H3N2), five were influenza A that were not subtyped, and three were influenza B. Nationwide, 1.2% of patient visits to U.S. sentinel providers were due to influenza-like-illness. Influenza activity was reported as ‘Regional’ by Texas; twelve states, New York City and Puerto Rico reported ‘Sporadic’

¹ Influenza-like Activity (ILI) is defined as Fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ [37.8°C], oral or equivalent) AND cough and/or sore throat in absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.

² Some rapid influenza tests cannot differentiate between types A and B.

³ All data are preliminary and change as more reports are received after the end of the reporting week.

activity. Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia reported ‘No Activity’. More information on national surveillance can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

This information is collected by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Bureau, Epidemiology Response Division, NMDOH. For questions, please call 505-827-0006. For more information on influenza go to the NMDOH web page: <http://www.health.state.nm.us/flu/> or the CDC web page: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/fluvirus.htm>

Activity Level	ILI activity*/Outbreaks		Laboratory data
No activity	Low	And	No lab confirmed cases [†]
Sporadic	Not increased	And	Isolated lab-confirmed cases
	OR		
Local	Not increased	And	Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution [‡]
	Increased ILI in 1 region**; ILI activity in other regions is not increased	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with increased ILI
	OR		
Regional (doesn't apply to states with ≤4 regions)	2 or more institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in 1 region; ILI activity in other regions is not increased	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with the outbreaks; virus activity is no greater than sporadic in other regions
	Increased ILI in ≥2 but less than half of the regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
Widespread	OR		
	Institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in ≥2 and less than half of the regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
	Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least half of the regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.

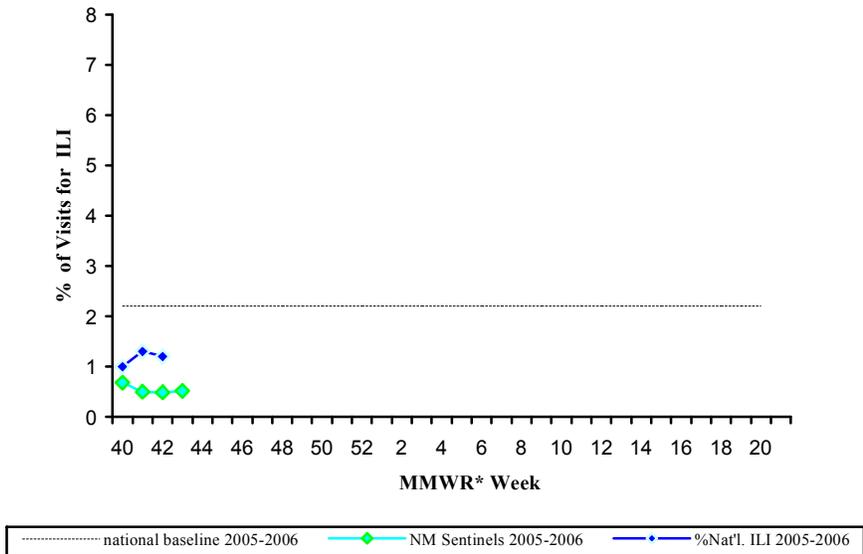
*ILI activity can be assessed using a variety of data sources including sentinel providers, school/workplace absenteeism, and other syndromic surveillance systems that monitor influenza-like illness.

[†] Lab confirmed case = case confirmed by rapid diagnostic test, antigen detection, culture, or PCR. Care should be given when relying on results of point of care rapid diagnostic test kits during times when influenza is not circulating widely. The sensitivity and specificity of these tests vary and the predictive value positive may be low outside the time of peak influenza activity. Therefore, a state may wish to obtain laboratory confirmation of influenza by testing methods other than point of care rapid tests for reporting the first laboratory confirmed case of influenza of the season.

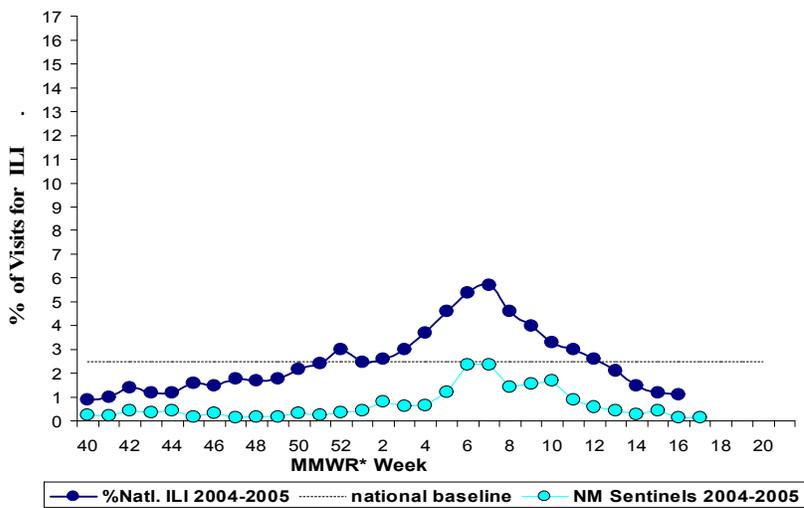
[‡] Institution includes nursing home, hospital, prison, school, etc.

**Region: population under surveillance in a defined geographical subdivision of a state. A region could be comprised of 1 or more counties and would be based on each state's specific circumstances. Depending on the size of the state, the number of regions could range from 2 to approximately 12. The definition of regions would be left to the state but existing state health districts could be used in many states. Allowing states to define regions would avoid somewhat arbitrary county lines and allow states to make divisions that make sense based on geographic population clusters. Focusing on regions larger than counties would also improve the likelihood that data needed for estimating activity would be available.

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers, NM and US, 2005-2006



Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers 2004 - 2005



* Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)