KEY MESSAGES FROM THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (NOVEMBER 24–DECEMBER 14)

Takeaway Points

1. Statewide influenza-like illness (ILI) is at 5.66%, which indicates influenza is actively circulating. One in 18 individuals are visiting their doctor for ILI.

2. More influenza and ILI outbreaks are being reported. As a reminder, parents should keep their kid(s) at home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g., Tylenol, Motrin, etc.).

3. There is still a variety of respiratory illnesses that present with similar symptoms as influenza; therefore, it is important to wash your hands frequently and stay at home if you become ill.

No pediatric deaths have been reported this season.

Statewide ILI is above the threshold of concern.

Thirteen influenza or influenzaILI outbreak(s) were reported.
The 2019-2020 season is underway; all regions of the country are seeing elevated levels of flu-like illness (3.2%).

Activity is being caused mostly by influenza B/Victoria viruses, which is unusual for this time of year. A/H1N1 viruses are the next most common and are increasing in proportion relative to other influenza viruses in some regions.

Antiviral medications are an important adjunct to flu vaccine in the control of influenza. Almost all (>99%) of the influenza viruses tested this season are susceptible to the 4 FDA-approved influenza antiviral medications recommended for use in the U.S. this season.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW FOR THE 2019-2020 FLU SEASON

• The overall hospitalization rate for the season is 3.9 per 100,000 persons. This is similar to what has been seen at this time during other recent seasons.

• Nationally, 5.0% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I), which is below the epidemic threshold of 6.5%.

• Four new influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2019-2020 season were reported to CDC this week, bringing the total to 10 nationally. None have been reported in Alabama this season.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm

RESOURCES
ADPH’s Influenza Website: http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/influenza
ADPH’s Seasonal Trend Graph: http://alabamapublichealth.gov/influenza/assets/ili_bclpositives.pdf