Alabama’s Weekly Influenza Report

Season: 2019-2020  |  Week: 46 (November 10-November 16)  | Year: 2019

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (OCTOBER 27- NOVEMBER 16)

Takeaway Points

1. Statewide ILI is at 3.42%, which is above the threshold of concern. Five of our eight districts have lab confirmed specimens and increased outpatient visits for ILI.

2. All eight districts have surpassed the threshold for outpatient visits due to ILI. This simply means more patients are seeking medical attention for ILI.

3. The influenza viruses that are currently circulating throughout Alabama are all covered in the influenza vaccine. So if you want to protect yourself, get vaccinated! You still have time!

Six respiratory viruses are currently circulating throughout Alabama

Significant influenza activity has been detected in five of the eight districts

- Districts with significant influenza activity detected
- Districts with lab-confirmed case(s) within last 3 weeks
- Districts with no significant influenza activity reported

No pediatric deaths have been reported this season

Statewide ILI is above the threshold of concern

Five influenza or influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreak(s) were reported

Notes:

* Information on outpatient visits to healthcare providers for ILI is collected through the U.S. Outpatient ILI Surveillance Network (ILINet). In Alabama, data are submitted using one of two methods: manual data entry by providers (ILINet) or electronic transmission by hospitals of syndromic surveillance data (ESSENCE).

** Geographic spread is determined based on district activity levels and virologic surveillance.
**KEY MESSAGES FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)**

Nationally, ILI activity remains **below** baseline but parts of the country are seeing early increases in activity.

There is **significant** cocirculation of influenza A(H3N2), A(H1N1)pdm09 and B/Victoria viruses with the predominant virus varying by region and age group.

**Flu vaccination** is always the best way to prevent flu and its potentially serious complications. Most flu vaccines protect against 4 different flu viruses. Get vaccinated now.

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

**NEWS FROM THE BUREAU OF CLINICAL LABORATORIES (BCL)**

- If you are a **healthcare provider** and need to request flu kits:
  - Email FluTestKit@adph.state.al.us
  - Enter “flu test kit” in subject line. Explain what you need (i.e., entire flu test kit, individual items such as cooler, ice packs, Dacron swabs, viral/universal transport media, etc.)

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW FOR THE 2019-2020 FLU SEASON**

Do other respiratory viruses circulate during the flu season?

- In addition to flu viruses, several other respiratory viruses also circulate during the flu season and can cause symptoms and illness similar to those seen with flu infection. These respiratory viruses include rhinovirus (one cause of the “common cold”) and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), which is the most common cause of severe respiratory illness in young children as well as a leading cause of death from respiratory illness in those aged 65 years and older.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season.htm

**RESOURCES**

ADPH’s Influenza Website: http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/influenza

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