

Influenza Surveillance Report

Division of Epidemiology - Disease Surveillance and Investigation
District of Columbia Department of Health

2012-2013 Influenza Season Week 52 (December 23, 2012 – December 29, 2012)

(All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received)

SUMMARY

- 94 cases of Influenza were reported by hospitals during this reporting period.
- Zero pediatric-deaths associated with Influenza were recorded during this reporting period.
- For the 2012-2013 Influenza Season from MMWR week 40-52, 270 positive Influenza cases have been reported.
- 40 additional cases have been reported for MMWR week 1 (December 30, 2012- January 5, 2013). Data for this period is not yet complete and will be included in the next report.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE FROM HOSPITALS & AMBULATORY CARE FACILITIES

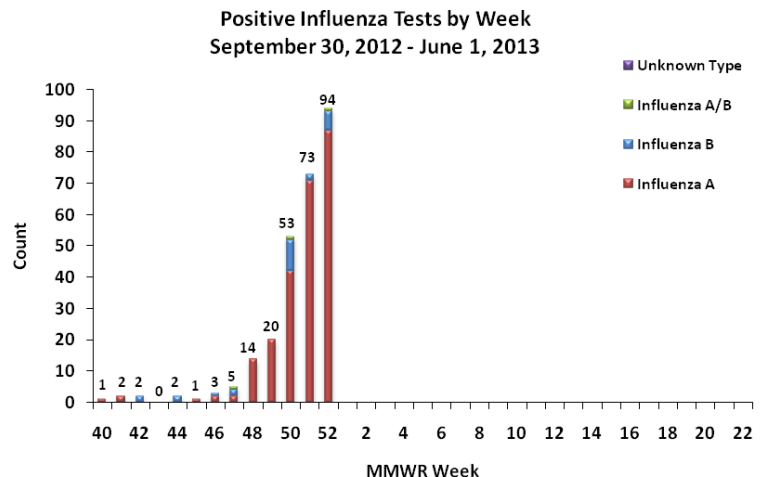
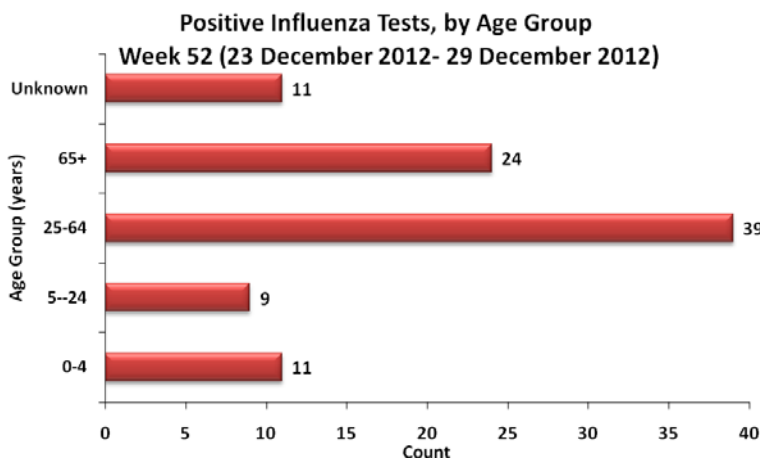
District of Columbia hospitals and laboratories report detailed information on cases of Influenza on a daily basis. However, in accordance with CDC guidelines, only Influenza-associated deaths in cases <18 years of age and Novel Influenza A infections are reportable.

The table below summarizes weekly and cumulative cases of Influenza for the 2012-2013 Season. Data are also presented by age group and by number of cases reported weekly. During week 52 (December 23, 2012 – December 29, 2012), there were 94 new cases of Influenza reported. For the 2012-2013 Influenza season from MMWR week 40-52, the District has received 270 positive Influenza cases among DC residents reported by hospitals.

Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Type

	Week 52 (23 December 2012 – 29 December 2012)		Cumulative Cases for Weeks 40 – 22 (30 September 2012 – 1 June 2013)	
Influenza A	87	(92.5%)	242	(89.6%)
Influenza B	6	(6.4%)	25	(9.3%)
Influenza A/B	1	(1.1%)	3	(1.1%)
Influenza (not typed)	0	(0%)	0	(0%)
Total	94*	(100%)	270*	(100.0%)

*Includes results from Rapid Diagnostic Testing, Viral Culture, RT-PCR, Serology, and Immunofluorescence.



RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Rapid Diagnostic Tests are screening tests used to detect the Influenza virus in a short period of time. While initially less accurate than PCR and viral culture, rapid diagnostics are more accurate as the Influenza season progresses. During week 52, 358 tests out of a total of 404 were performed using Rapid Diagnostic Testing in clinical laboratories. Of these, 78 (21.8%) positive Influenza specimens were identified during week 52 using rapid diagnostics. The remaining 46 tests were performed using Viral Culture, Serology and RT-PCR.

Week: (23 December 2012 – 29 December 2012)	
No. of specimens tested	358
No. of positive specimens (%)	78 (21.8%)
Positive specimens by type/subtype	
Influenza A	72 (92.3%)
Influenza B	5 (6.4%)
Influenza A/B	1 (1.3%)
Influenza – unknown type	0 (0%)

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE

Sentinel surveillance for ILI consists of three outpatient reporting sites for the District of Columbia. The sentinel surveillance sites report the total number of ILI cases encountered per week and the total number of patients seen at the clinic during that same week. For this system, ILI is defined as the existence of fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than Influenza.

For week 52, sentinel providers reported that 64 out of 812 visits (7.9%) met the criteria for ILI.

Sentinel Surveillance ILI Activity for Washington, DC

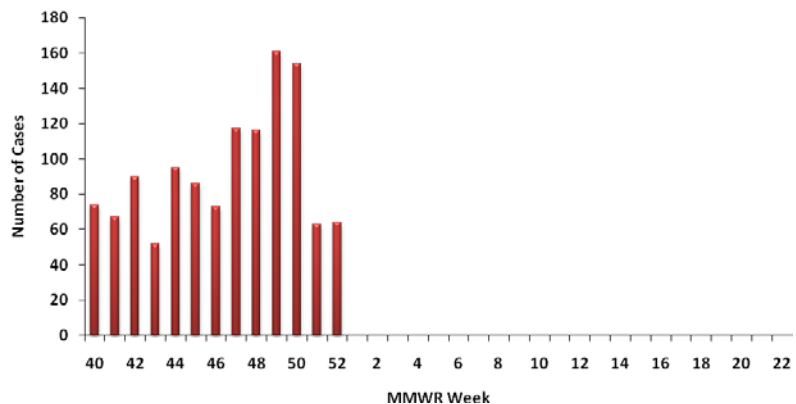
Week of	Activity *
Dec 23- Dec 29	<i>Local</i>
Dec 16- Dec 22	<i>Local</i>

***No Activity** – overall clinical activity remains low and there are no lab confirmed Influenza cases;

Sporadic – isolated lab confirmed Influenza cases reported and ILI activity is not increased;

Local – increased ILI activity and recent lab confirmed Influenza cases. As the District of Columbia is not a state, this is the highest level of ILI activity it can report.

**Influenza-Like Illness Reported by MMWR Weekly
September 30, 2012 - June 1, 2013**



INFLUENZA TESTING BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (DC PHL)

The DC PHL subtypes human isolates to monitor the circulating strains of Influenza. The isolates are submitted to the DC PHL by hospitals and commercial laboratories. From October 1 – December 31, 2012, 25 out of 44 specimens sent to the DC PHL have tested positive for Influenza. Cumulatively, 22 of these isolates were subtyped as Influenza A/H3, one was subtyped as Influenza A/H1, and two were Influenza B.

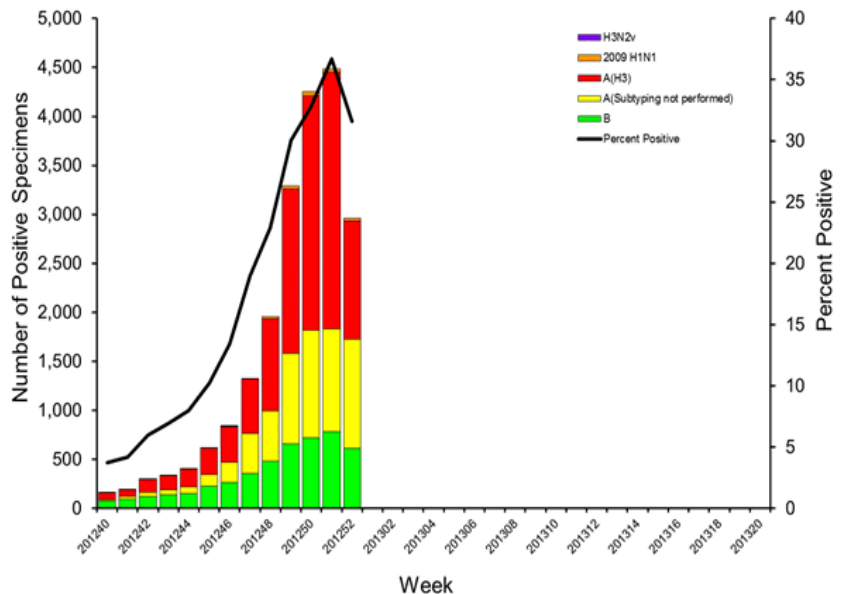
DC PHL Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Subtype

DC PHL Influenza Testing	October 1- December 31, 2012
Number of specimens tested	44
◆ Number of specimens positive for Influenza:	25/44 (57%)
● Influenza A	23/25 (92%)
▪ H1	1/23 (4%)
▪ H3	22/23 (96%)
● Influenza B	2/25 (8%)

NATIONAL INFLUENZA ASSESSMENT

The CDC's weekly seasonal Influenza surveillance report for week 52 noted that Influenza activity increased in the U.S. Influenza-like illness (ILI) among outpatients in the U.S. remained elevated in 9 out of 10 regions. During week 52, 5.6% of patient visits reported were due to ILI, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. This increase may be attributed in part to a reduced number of routine health care visits during the Christmas holidays, which has been observed in previous seasons. The proportion of deaths due to Influenza and pneumonia in the U.S. was below the epidemic threshold. Two Influenza-associated pediatric deaths were recorded in the US during week 52; both were due to Influenza B viruses. Of the 2,961 respiratory specimens that tested positive during week 52, 79.2% were Influenza A viruses. Of the Influenza A samples, 51.5% were Influenza A (H3), 1.1% were Influenza A (2009 H1N1), and 47.4% of the viruses were not subtyped.

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2012-13



Get Vaccinated!

The best prevention against Influenza is to be vaccinated!
Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions regarding what flu vaccine options are best for you and your family.



For additional information about Influenza and Influenza activity in the United States, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>.

Questions about Influenza in the District of Columbia or this report should be directed to the Division of Epidemiology - Disease Surveillance and Investigation at (202) 442-8141 or email gabrielle.ray@dc.gov.