Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

January 30, 2007

Synopsis
During the week ending January 27, 2007 (MMWR week 4)*, local influenza activity was reported in Maine. Laboratory-confirmed influenza has been detected in several regions of the state.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending January 27, 2007, 1.0% of sentinel provider outpatient visits were due to ILI (range 0% - 3.8%).

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending January 20, 2007 (week 3), 4.2% of admissions reported by four hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 0.8% - 7.1%). During the week ending January 27, 2007 (week 4), 5.0% of admissions reported by three hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 2.0% -- 6.7%).

* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.

# New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
Hospital Admissions due to Respiratory Illness -- Maine, 2005-07

**Laboratory Reporting**

During the week ending January 27, 2007, seven respiratory specimens were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza culture; results are pending on these specimens. An additional two respiratory specimens were submitted to HETL for influenza PCR during the week of January 27, 2007; these specimens were negative. As of January 27, 2007, a total of 110 respiratory specimens have been submitted for culture and/or PCR to HETL since October when the influenza surveillance season began. Of these specimens, nine (8.2%) were culture or PCR-positive for influenza (five for influenza A [H1], two for influenza A [unsubtyped] and two for influenza B/Malaysia/2506/2004-like), three specimens were presumptive positive for enterovirus, results are pending for 21 specimens, and the remaining specimens were negative.

**Respiratory Specimens Culture and/or PCR-Positive for Influenza -- Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory, 2006-07**
During the week ending January 27, 2007, a total of 75 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, three specimens (4.0%) were positive for influenza A, 23 specimens were positive for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and the remaining specimens were negative. As of January 27, 2007, a total of 535 respiratory specimens have been submitted for viral testing to two reference laboratories in Maine since October when the influenza surveillance season began. Ten specimens (1.9%) were positive for influenza (8 for influenza A and 2 for influenza B), 68 (12.7%) specimens were positive for RSV, 1 (0.2%) specimen was positive for parainfluenza-3, 8 (1.5%) specimens were positive for adenovirus, 9 (1.7%) specimens were positive for enterovirus. and the remaining specimens were negative.

**Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza – Two**
Outbreaks
As of January 27, 2007, one outbreak of influenza associated illness was reported in a Midcoast region long-term care facility. Four respiratory specimens submitted from patients ill at this facility were negative for influenza.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates
During the week ending January 27, 2007, 9.7% of deaths reported by three city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza (range 0% - 12.9%).
Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza
– Maine, New England and the United States, 2005-07

Weeks

Percentage

^ New England includes the following reporting areas: Boston, MA; Bridgeport, CT; Cambridge, MA; Fall River, MA; Hartford, CT; Lowell, MA; Lynn, MA; New Bedford, MA; New Haven, CT; Providence, RI; Somerville, MA; Springfield, MA; Waterbury, CT; Worcester, MA.

**Pediatric Fatalities**
As of January 27, 2007, no influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Maine this season.

**National Influenza Activity**
State health departments report the estimated level of influenza activity in their states each week. States report influenza activity as: 1) no activity, 2) sporadic, 3) local, 4) regional, or 5) widespread (definitions of these levels can be found at: [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)). Maine reported sporadic influenza activity for the week ending January 20, 2007.