Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

December 28, 2006

Synopsis
During the week ending December 23, 2006 (MMWR week 51)*, sporadic influenza activity was reported in Maine. Influenza B was laboratory confirmed in a young adult visiting Maine from out of state. A slight increase in outpatient visits for influenza-like illness has been observed in Maine since early December.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending December 23, 2006, 0.8% of sentinel provider outpatient visits were due to ILI (range 0% - 1.7%).

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending December 16, 2006 (week 50), 3.8% of admissions reported by four hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 2.3% - 5.5%). During the week ending December 23, 2006 (week 51), 3.1% of admissions reported by three hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 1.4% - 5.1%).
During the week ending December 23, 2006, five respiratory specimens were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL). Of these, one specimen (20.0%) was positive for influenza B; results are pending on the remaining four specimens. As of December 23, 2006, a total of 44 respiratory specimens have been submitted for viral testing to HETL since October when influenza surveillance season began. Of these, one specimen (2.0%) was positive for influenza B, three specimens were presumptively positive for enterovirus, results are pending for 5 specimens, and the remaining specimens were negative.
As of December 23, 2006, a total of 171 specimens have been submitted for viral testing to two private reference laboratories in Maine; all were negative for influenza, seven specimens were positive for RSV, eight specimens were positive for adenovirus, and eight specimens were positive for enterovirus.

**Fatalities Surveillance**

**Death Certificates**

During the week ending December 23, 2006, 8.6% of deaths reported by three city vital records office were attributable to pneumonia and influenza (range 5.9% - 10.0%).

![Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza – Maine, New England and the United States, 2005-07](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)

^ 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 December 23, 2006, 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: [http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)). Maine reported sporadic influenza activity for the week ending December 23, 2006.
* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.