Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 28, 2007

Synopsis
During the week ending February 24, 2007 (MMWR week 8)*, regional influenza activity was reported in Maine. An increase in laboratory-confirmed influenza and influenza-associated outbreaks was observed this week.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending February 24, 2007, 0.5% of sentinel provider outpatient visits were due to ILI (range 0% - 3.6%).

![Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness -- Maine, 2005-07](chart.png)

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending February 17, 2007 (week 7), 5.3% of admissions reported by four hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 1.8% - 10.5%). During the week ending February 24, 2007 (week 8), 6.1% of admissions reported by three hospitals were due to respiratory illness (range 2.1% - 10.8%).

* 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 February 24, 2007, eight respiratory specimens were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza culture; results are pending on these specimens. Four additional respiratory specimens were submitted to HETL for influenza PCR during the week of February 24, 2007; three specimen tested negative for influenza and a result is pending on one specimen. As of February 24, 2007, a total of 137 respiratory specimens have been submitted for culture and/or PCR to HETL since October when the influenza surveillance season began. Of these specimens, eleven (8.0%) were culture or PCR-positive for influenza (three for influenza A [H1], four for influenza A [unsubtyped], and four for influenza B), three (2.2%) specimens were presumptive positive for enterovirus, three (2.2%) specimens were not tested, results are pending for twelve specimens, and the remaining specimens were negative.
During the week ending February 24, 2007, a total of 119 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 23 (19.3%) specimens were positive for influenza A. As of February 24, 2007, a total of 907 respiratory specimens have been submitted for viral testing to two reference laboratories in Maine since October when the influenza surveillance season began. Seventy-eight specimens (8.6%) were positive for influenza (76 for influenza A and 2 for influenza B), 150 (16.5%) were positive for RSV, 2 (0.2%) was positive for parainfluenza-3, 11 (1.2%) were positive for adenovirus, 11 (1.2%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.
Outbreaks

During the week ending February 24, 2007, two outbreaks of influenza were reported, one in a Western region long-term care facility (LTC) and one in a Western region school. To date, four outbreaks of influenza have been reported in Maine this season.

Table: Influenza-like illness outbreaks by selected characteristics – Maine, 2006-07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility Type*</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date Reported</th>
<th>Attack Rate</th>
<th>Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Vaccination rate</th>
<th>Lab-confirmed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>2/5/07</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Midcoast</td>
<td>2/12/07</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>2/21/07</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Western</td>
<td>2/22/07</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Outbreak definition is specific to facility type. An outbreak in long-term care facilities (LTC) is defined as ≥3 patients with ILI identified on same floor or ward during a short (e.g., 48-72 hour) period OR ≥1 patients with lab-confirmed influenza; an outbreak in an acute care facility is defined as ≥1 patients with ILI or lab-confirmed influenza with symptom onset ≥48 hours post-admission (i.e., nosocomial); and an outbreak in a school is defined as ≥15% absentee rate among student population due to ILI or lab-confirmed influenza. ^ Data unavailable

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending February 24, 2007, 14.3% of deaths reported by two city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza (range 5.9% - 18.8%).

Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza
– Maine, New England and the United States, 2005-07

^ 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 February 24, 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). Maine reported local influenza activity for the week ending February 17, 2007.