Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

April 9, 2008

Synopsis
During the week ending April 5, 2008 (MMWR week 14)*, Maine reported widespread influenza activity. Four outbreaks in long term care facilities were reported during week 14 and the number of positive laboratory tests remained elevated.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending April 5, 2008 (week 14), 1.4% of outpatient visits reported by nine Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever ($\geq100^\circ F / \geq37.8^\circ C$) and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 1.4% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 14.

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending April 5, 2008 (week 14), 6.5% of hospital admissions reported by four hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza. This was a decrease from week 13 when 9.4% of hospital admissions were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.

* 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.
Laboratory Reporting

Results from the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) are not available for week 14. As of March 29, 2008 (week 13), a cumulative total of 314 respiratory specimens had been submitted to HETL for testing. To date, a total of 81 (25.8%) specimens were positive for influenza; six were influenza A (H3), three were influenza A (H1), three were influenza A (subtype pending), and 69 specimens were influenza B. In addition, four specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, one specimen was positive for parainfluenza-1, and one specimen was positive for mumps. Results on 33 specimens are pending; all other specimens were negative.
Two private reference laboratories in Maine reported for the week ending April 5, 2008 (week 14). Twenty-two of 117 specimens were positive for influenza A. Twenty-two specimens were positive for influenza B. In addition, 9 specimens were positive for RSV. As of April 5, 2008, a cumulative total of 2,507 respiratory specimens had been submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 358 (14%) specimens were positive for influenza A and 520 (21%) were positive for influenza B. Five hundred three specimens were positive for RSV, ten specimens were positive for parainfluenza-1, ten specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, three specimens were positive for parainfluenza-3, six specimens were positive for adenovirus, three specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.
Outbreaks
During the week ending April 5, 2008, four outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in Maine; all were in long term care facilities. A total of 74 outbreaks of influenza-like illness have been reported in Maine this season.

Influenza-like illness outbreaks by selected characteristics – Maine, 2007-08

<table>
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<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>
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Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates

During the week ending April 5, 2008 (week 14), 12.7% of deaths reported by three city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.
^ 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**

One influenza-associated pediatric death in Maine has been reported 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 widespread influenza activity for the weeks ending March 29, 2008 (week 13) and April 5, 2008 (week 14).
* This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.