Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

October 31, 2007

Synopsis
During the week ending October 27, 2007 (MMWR week 43)*, Maine Influenza Sentinel Providers reported low levels of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness and partner hospitals and municipal vital records offices reported moderate levels of influenza and pneumonia-associated hospital admissions and deaths. Laboratory partners, including the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory, report an increase in influenza testing, though no specimens have tested culture or PCR-positive for influenza yet this season.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending October 27, 2007 (week 43), 0.2% of outpatient visits reported by seven Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. This is a slight decrease from the previous week previous when 0.3% of outpatient visits were for ILI. In the New England States, 0.7% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness.

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

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending October 20, 2007 (week 43), a total of 5.3% of hospital admissions reported by three hospital partners were attributable to influenza or pneumonia. Pneumonia and influenza hospital admissions at this time appear to be consistent with last year’s rate.

Hospital Admissions Due to Pneumonia or Influenza -- Maine, 2006-08

Laboratory Reporting
As of October 27, 2007 (week 43), a total of 19 respiratory specimens were submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for influenza testing. Of these, 12 specimens were negative for influenza by PCR, 7 were negative for influenza by culture, and culture results are pending on 12 specimens.

As of October 27, 2007, a total of 19 respiratory specimens were submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, no specimens were positive for influenza. One specimen (5.3%) was positive for parainfluenza-1, two specimens (10.5%) were positive for parainfluenza-3, one (5.3%) specimen was positive for adenovirus, three (15.8%) specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Outbreaks
No outbreaks of influenza have been reported yet this season.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates
During the weeks ending October 27, 2007 (week 43), 4.1% of deaths reported by three city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza. This is a decrease from the week ending October 20, 2007 when 13.4% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia or influenza.
Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza
– Maine, New England and the United States, 2006-08

^ 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**

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 local influenza activity for the week ending October 20, 2007 (week 42).