Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 6, 2008

Synopsis
During the week ending February 2, 2008 (MMWR week 5)*, Maine reported local influenza activity. Increases were seen in outpatient influenza-like illness, deaths and hospital admissions for pneumonia and influenza, and the number of positive laboratory isolates.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending February 2, 2008 (week 5), 0.7% of outpatient visits reported by nine Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever ($\geq 100^\circ F / \geq 37.8^\circ C$) and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 1.5% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 5.

![Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness -- Maine, 2006-08](chart)

# New England is defined as Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending February 2, 2008 (week 5), 6.4% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza. This is an increase from week 4 when 3.5% of hospital admissions were attributable to pneumonia or influenza.
Laboratory Reporting

The Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) received four specimens for influenza testing the week ending February 2 (week 5). Results are pending on these specimens. As of February 2, 2008 (week 5), a cumulative total of 105 respiratory specimens had been submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for testing. To date, four (3.9%) specimens were positive for influenza A; two specimens were A (H1) and two were A (H3). In addition, two specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, one specimen was positive for parainfluenza-1, and one specimen was positive for mumps. Results are pending on 4 specimens; the remaining specimens tested negative.

Two private reference laboratories in Maine reported for the week ending February 2, 2008 (week 5). Three of 120 specimens were positive for influenza A and 9 were positive for influenza B. In addition 62 specimens were positive for RSV. As of February 2, 2008, a cumulative total of 618 respiratory specimens had been submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 36 (5.8%) specimens were positive for influenza A and 11 (1.8%) were positive for influenza B. One hundred thirty five specimens were positive for RSV, nine specimens were positive for parainfluenza-1, nine specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, three specimens were positive for parainfluenza-3, five specimens was positive for adenovirus, three specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.
Outbreaks
The only outbreak of the season was reported on December 27 in a long-term care facility in the Midcoast region. Approximately 9% of residents were ill. None were hospitalized. No staff were reported to be ill. Influenza immunization for residents was 100%; approximately 55% of staff were immunized. Influenza type A was identified by a rapid antigen test.

Fatalities Surveillance

Death Certificates
During the week ending February 2, 2008 (week 5), 11.1% 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**
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 26, 2008 (week 4). For the week ending February 2, 2008 (week 5), Maine reported local activity.
This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.