Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 22, 2008

Synopsis
During the week ending February 16, 2008 (MMWR week 7)*, Maine reported widespread influenza activity.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending February 16, 2008 (week 7), 1.2% of outpatient visits reported by nine Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever (≥100°F / ≥37.8°C) and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 3.9% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 7.

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending February 16, 2008 (week 7), 5.9% of hospital admissions reported by four hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza. This is the same percentage as reported for week 6.

(* At time of publication, reporting may be incomplete. Numbers presented here may change as more reports are received.)
Laboratory Reporting

Results from the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) are not available for the week ending February 16, 2008 (week 7). As of February 9, 2008 (week 6), a cumulative total of 126 respiratory specimens had been submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for testing. To date, four (3.2%) specimens were positive for influenza A (two specimens were A (H1) and two were A (H3)) and three (2.4%) specimens were positive for influenza B. 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 14 specimens; the remaining specimens tested negative.

Two private reference laboratories in Maine reported for the week ending February 16, 2008 (week 7). Twenty-one of 190 specimens were positive for influenza A and 46 were positive for influenza B. In addition, 67 specimens were positive for RSV, 1 was positive for adenovirus and 1 was positive for parainfluenza-2. As of February 16, 2008, a cumulative total of 992 respiratory specimens had been submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 75 (7.6%) specimens were positive for influenza A and 90 (9.1%) were positive for influenza B. Two hundred eighty-five 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 was positive for adenovirus, three specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.
Outbreaks

During the week ending February 16, 2008, four outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in Maine; three were laboratory confirmed. A total of 10 outbreaks of influenza-like illness have been reported in Maine this season.

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

<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>LTC</td>
<td>Midcoast</td>
<td>12/27/07</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>1/14/08</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>1/29/08</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
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<td>1/29/08</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
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<td>^</td>
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<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>2/4/08</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC</td>
<td>Midcoast</td>
<td>2/14/08</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Western</td>
<td>2/15/08</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
<td>^</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC</td>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>2/15/08</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Outbreak definition is specific to facility type. An outbreak in long-term care facilities (LTC) is defined as ≥3 patients with ILLI 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 ILLI 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 16, 2008 (week 7), 17.4% of deaths reported by three city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.

![Percentage of Deaths Attributable to Pneumonia and Influenza – Maine, New England and the United States, 2006-08](chart)

^ 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 regional influenza activity for the week ending February 6, 2008 (week 6). For the week ending February 16, 2008 (week 7), Maine reported widespread activity.
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*
Week Ending February 09, 2008 - Week 6

*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.