Maine Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report

February 27, 2008

Synopsis
During the week ending February 23, 2008 (MMWR week 8)*, Maine reported widespread influenza activity. Increases were reported for outpatient visits for influenza-like illness, hospital admissions for pneumonia and influenza, positive laboratory results, and institutional outbreaks.

Moderate Disease Surveillance

Outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI)
During the week ending February 23, 2008 (week 8), 2.7% of outpatient visits reported by eight Maine Sentinel Providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI), defined as fever ($\geq$100°F / $\geq$37.8°C) and cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. In the New England States, 3.3% of outpatient visits were attributed to influenza-like illness during week 8.

Severe Disease Surveillance

Hospital inpatients
During the week ending February 23, 2008 (week 8), 8.2% of hospital admissions reported by three hospitals were attributable to pneumonia or influenza. This is a slight increase from week 6 when 7.0% 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

The Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) received 32 respiratory specimens collected during the week ending February 23, 2008 (week 8). Three specimens were positive for influenza A and three specimens were positive for influenza B. Two of the influenza A results were subtyped; one was H1 and the other was H3. Results for 26 specimens are pending. As of February 23, 2008 (week 8), a cumulative total of 179 respiratory specimens had been submitted to the Maine Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) for testing. To date, seven specimens were positive for influenza A (three specimens were A (H1) and three were A (H3)) and eight specimens were positive for influenza B. In addition, three specimens were positive for parainfluenza-2, one specimen was positive for parainfluenza-1, and one specimen was positive for mumps. Results are pending on 33 specimens; the remaining specimens tested negative.

Two private reference laboratories in Maine reported for the week ending February 23, 2008 (week 8). Thirty-eight of 192 specimens were positive for influenza A and 60 were positive for influenza B. In addition, 62 specimens were positive for RSV. As of February 23, 2008, a cumulative total of 1184 respiratory specimens had been submitted to two private reference laboratories in Maine. Of these, 113 (9.5%) specimens were positive for influenza A and 150 (12.7%) were positive for influenza B. Three hundred sixty-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 was positive for adenovirus, three specimens were positive for enterovirus, and the remaining specimens were negative.

Respiratory Specimens Positive for Influenza
Outbreaks

During the week ending February 23, 2008, seven outbreaks of influenza-like illness were reported in Maine; all were laboratory confirmed. A total of 17 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>
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<td>LTC</td>
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<td>1/14/08</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1/29/08</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>^</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2/20/08</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
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**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 (ACF) 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 23, 2008 (week 8), 10.6% of deaths reported by three city vital records offices were attributable to pneumonia and influenza.

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**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 widespread influenza activity for the weeks ending February 16, 2008 (week 7) and February 23, 2008 (week 8).