Ottawa County Influenza Surveillance Report

MMWR* Week 42: October 15, 2023 – October 21, 2023

*Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
During week 42, influenza test positivity in Ottawa County increased to 5.2% from 4.7% the previous week. Influenza testing also increased by about 4% from the previous week.

The latest influenza positivity estimate in Ottawa County is relatively low and comparable to that reported at a similar time last influenza season.

Seasonal influenza activity remains low nationally although small increases were reported in some parts of the country. Nationwide test positivity was 1.7% during week 42.

*Influenza positivity is the percent of influenza tests conducted by reporting providers and laboratories that result positive. Elevated influenza positivity is often an indication that influenza is circulating in the community.
Syndromic Surveillance for Influenza in Ottawa County

Figure 2: Percentage of Emergency Department (ED) and Urgent Care (UC) Visits in Ottawa County with Influenza-like Illnesses (ILI)*.

• During week 42, Ottawa County ED and UC visits with ILI decreased to 1.5%, from 2.2% reported the previous week.

• This proportion is relatively low and well below that seen at a similar time last season (2.5%).

Table 2: Emergency Department and Urgent Care Visits with Influenza-like Illnesses in Ottawa County – Last 3 Weeks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MMWR Week</th>
<th>Week-Ending Date</th>
<th>ILI Visits</th>
<th>Total ED/UC Visits</th>
<th>Percent of ED/UC Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>10/7/2023</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>2442</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>10/14/2023</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2303</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>10/21/2023</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2274</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Influenza-like illnesses include sudden onsets of fever, cough and/or sore throat.
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance from Reporting Schools, Childcare and Healthcare Settings

Figure 3: Percent ILI in Schools and Childcare ILI by Week

• During week 42, the proportion of ILI reported in school/childcare settings was 1.5%, comparable to 1.6% reported the previous week.
• This proportion remains well below that reported at a similar time last season (1.8%).

Figure 4: Percent Healthcare ILI Visits by Week

• Reported ILI in healthcare offices was 0.6%, down slightly from 0.8% reported the previous week. This proportion is also comparable to that reported at a similar time last season (0.4%).
• There were no reported influenza outbreaks in LTCFs during week 42.
Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

- Nationally, zero (0) influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported thus far for the 2023-2024 flu season. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Michigan so far this season. There have also been no reports of influenza-associated pediatric deaths in Ottawa County. *(Note that other measures of disease severity including influenza associated hospitalizations and complications is not reported in these data).*

Influenza Vaccine Coverage

- The best way to reduce risk from seasonal flu and its potentially serious complications is to get vaccinated every year. Over the past five influenza seasons, average vaccination coverage in Ottawa County hovered around 40%. The table below reflects total vaccination coverage rate in Ottawa County and statewide (MI) over the last 5 influenza seasons and through October 7 this season.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ottawa County</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>40.2%</td>
<td>42.9%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
<td>34.3%</td>
<td>31.8%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy People 2020 Target</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*YTD = Year to date*

Preventing the flu/influenza

- Get the flu vaccine
- Stay home when sick and limit contact with other people
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water
- Cover coughs and sneezes

[Click here to learn more about preventive steps.](#)
Useful Links and Resources

- National influenza surveillance data are available at: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm
- Statewide influenza surveillance reports are available at: https://www.michigan.gov/flu/surveillance/past-michigan-flu-focus-surveillance-reports?utm_campaign=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- State and county level influenza vaccination coverage data are available at: https://www.michigan.gov/flu/flu-dashboard
- Disease burden of flu in the United States: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/index.html
- Preventing Seasonal Flu: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/index.html
- Season flu vaccine effectiveness studies: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/effectiveness-studies.htm
- Flu vaccine finder: https://www.vaccines.gov/find-vaccines/