



STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 41

Week 41 ending October 17, 2009, with updates through 10/25/2009.

All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received and updated.

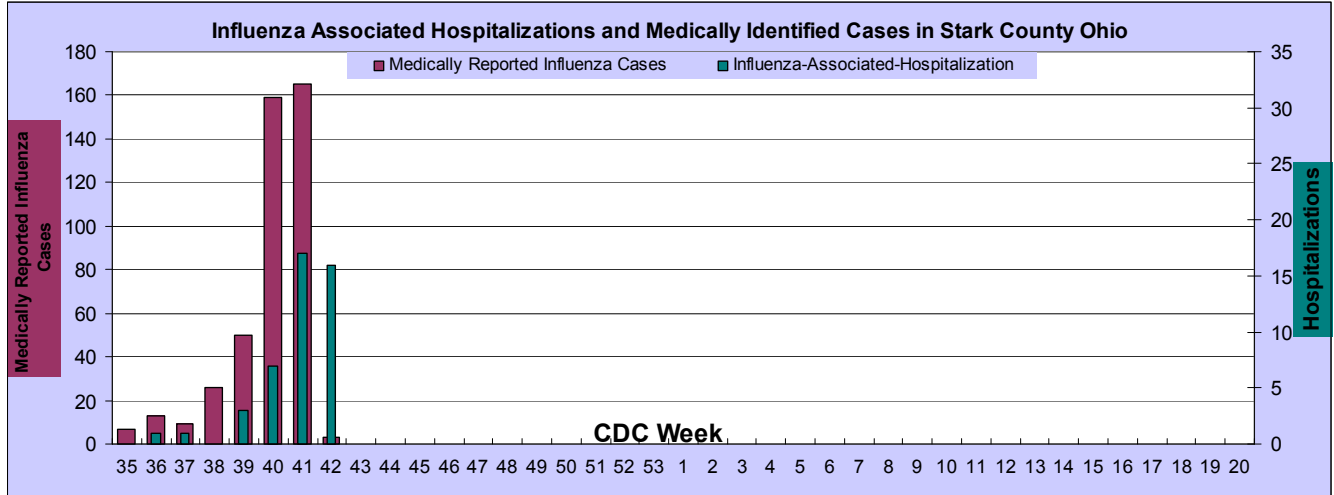
During week 41 (October 11 -17, 2009), influenza activity saw significant increases locally in the number of hospitalized cases reported, sales of over-the-counter medications, school absenteeism and percentage of visits to Emergency Departments for syndromes related to influenza-like illness.

- A **significant increase in the severity and/or spread of disease** was witnessed during week 41, with the reporting of **seventeen influenza-associated hospitalizations**. This is an increase from 7 during week 40 and 3 in week 39. A minimal but continued **increase** in the number of medically provided positive influenza cases was also observed in Stark County during Week 41. (Graph 1)
- Of the medically reported cases, not hospitalized, the average age was 15.7 years with a range of 4 months to 72 years and a median of 12 years. Additionally, **74%** of the reports are in the age group of 5 to 24 years.
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from 6 weeks to 74 years with a median of 35 years. The 25-50 year old age group saw the largest percentage of hospitalizations at 33%. Also of note: although the overall percentage of hospitalizations in the **0-4 year old** category is not the highest, this age range does have the **highest affected population rate at 2.69 cases** per 10,000 population hospitalized to-date during the 2009-2010 influenza season.
- Reports from three Sentinel Providers indicated an increase to 4.8% of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits continued to climb reaching 7.1%, a level greater than **3 times** the national baseline of 2.3%. (See Graph 2)
- Combined Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments (EDs) by Stark County residents **increased 55%** above the expected during week 41; bringing the total percent of visits to area residents for these syndromes to over 38%. The total number of visits to EDs also climbed an additional average of **76** residents each day, this is an increase of 15% over the baseline number expected to seek medical treatment daily at area EDs. (Graph 3)
- For week 41, Cough/Cold Product sales increased >40% from week 40 and averaged greater than **52%** above 5-year average. Over-The Counter sales of Thermometers continue to be **remarkably high**, averaging **142% above** the 5-year average. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism, as reported by 57 local schools in Stark County **increased 84%**, reaching a median of 7.9%.
- The state of Ohio and 45 other states reported **widespread** geographic influenza activity. In Ohio, Widespread Activity is defined as Increased ILI in at least half of the regions AND recent lab confirmed influenza in the state. (See National Map)
- Nationally, the CDC identified **>99%** of cocirculating strains of influenza (seasonal influenza A (H1), A (H3), and 2009 influenza A (H1N1) and influenza B) as *2009 influenza A (H1N1)*. Nationally no A (H1) or A (H3) strains were identified. During week 41 Ohio reported identification of 100% of identified cocirculating strains of influenza as 2009 influenza A (H1).
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **increased to 6.9%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold of 6.6% for week 41.
- A persistent and very troubling indicator this week is the continued reporting of pediatric deaths. For the second week in a row, Ohio reported a pediatric death to the CDC bringing the national number of pediatric deaths reported in week 41 to 11. The CDC Website indicates that “since August 30, 2009, (they have) received **53** reports of influenza-associated pediatric deaths that occurred during the current influenza season (three deaths in children less than 2 years, seven deaths in children 2-4 years, 21 deaths in children 5-11 years, and 22 deaths in individuals 12-17 years).” Note: pediatric doses of vaccine are starting to be available in our community, please strongly recommend vaccination to prevent future deaths and sever complications.

For questions, or to receive this report weekly by email, send requests to either chenning@cantonhealth.org or schanzk@starkhealth.org.

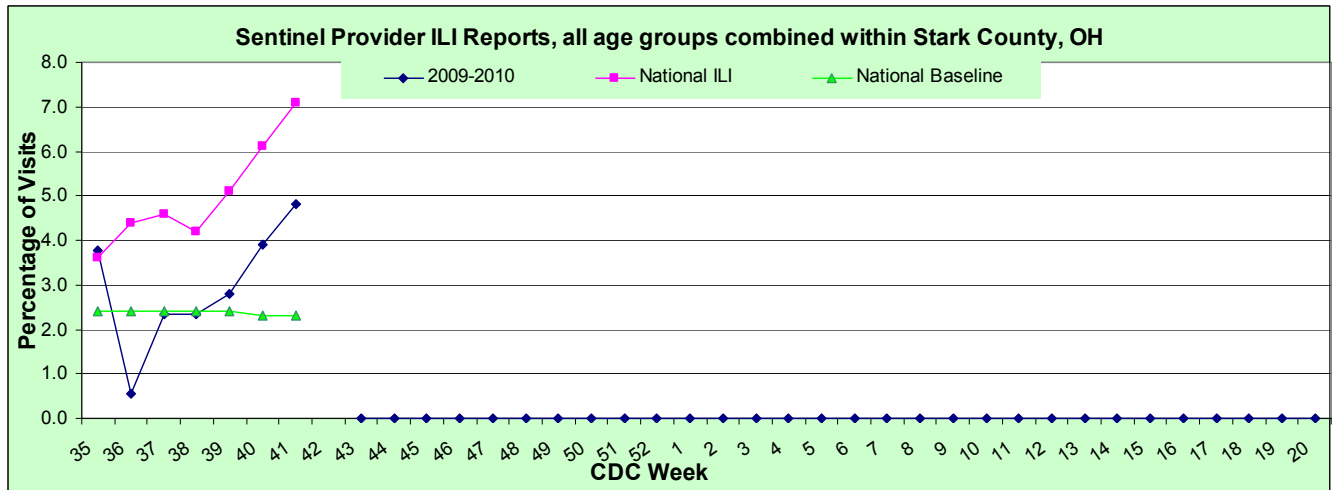
Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments

Note: Influenza is only reportable if associated with a hospitalization; therefore, this only represents a small number of actual influenza cases in Stark County.

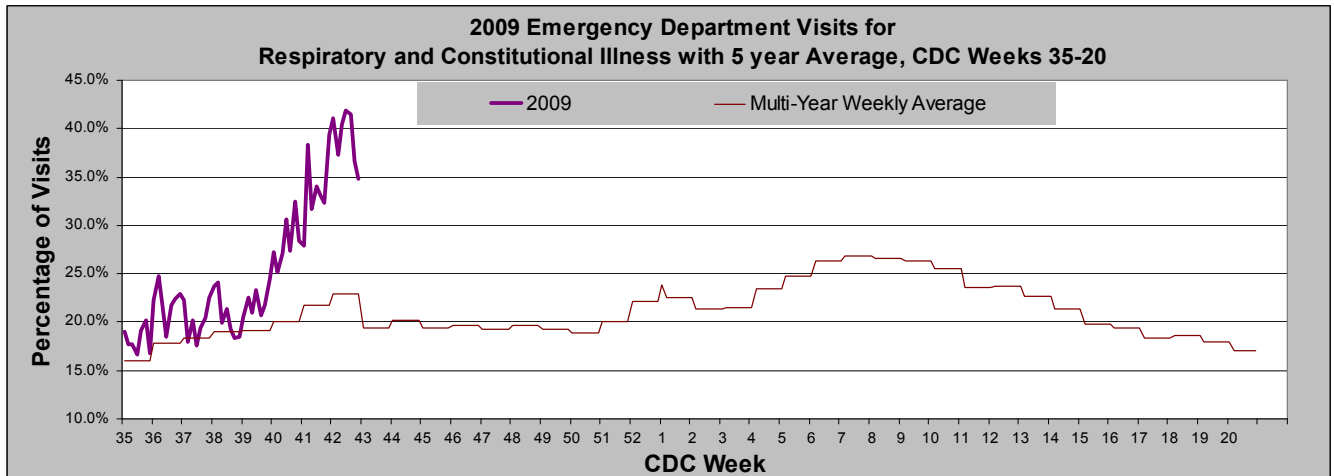


Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County

Sentinel Providers-An influenza sentinel provider conducts surveillance for influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the state health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by Stark Counties 4 provider's s are combined with other influenza surveillance data to provide a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity.

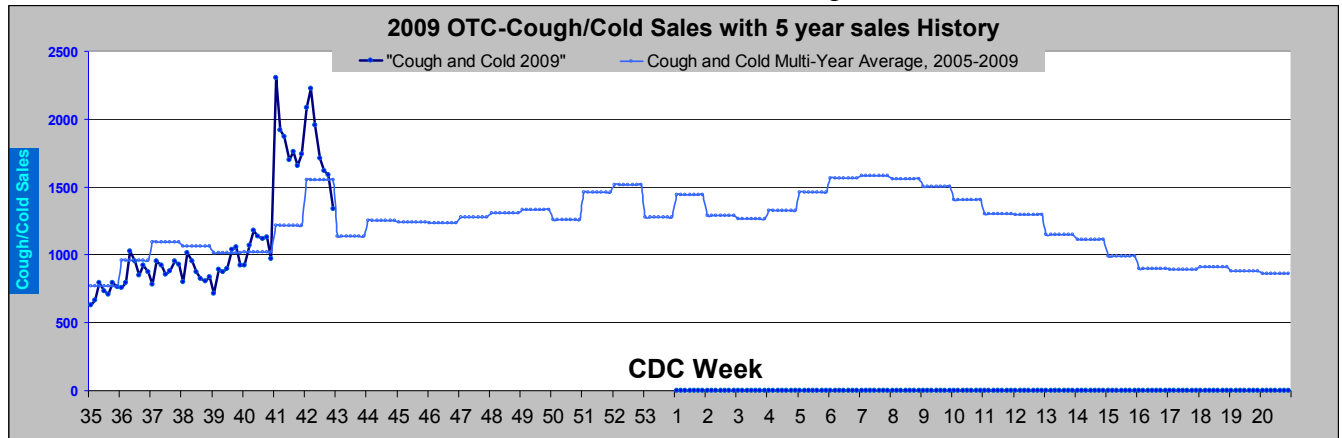


Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)



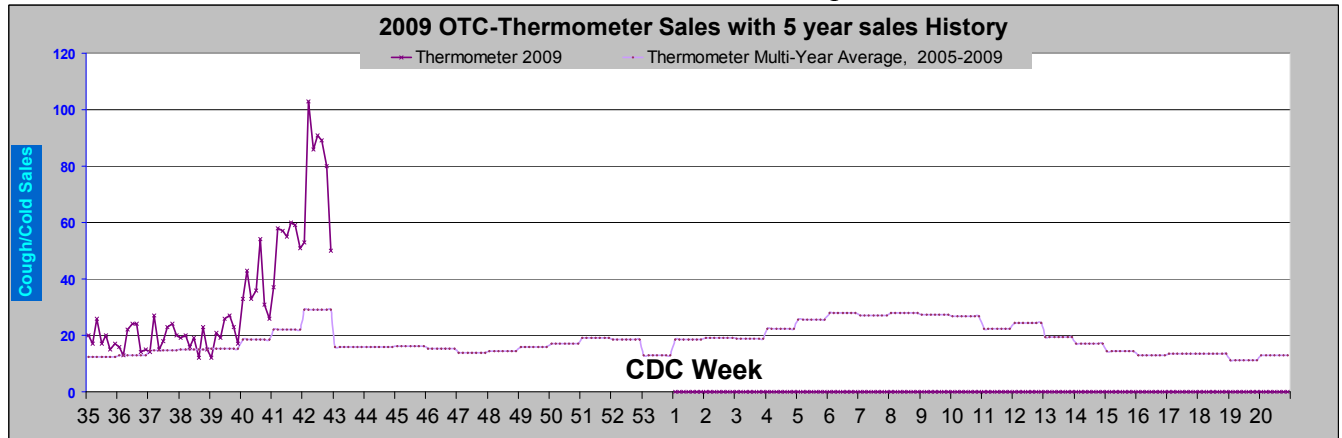
Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County

Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



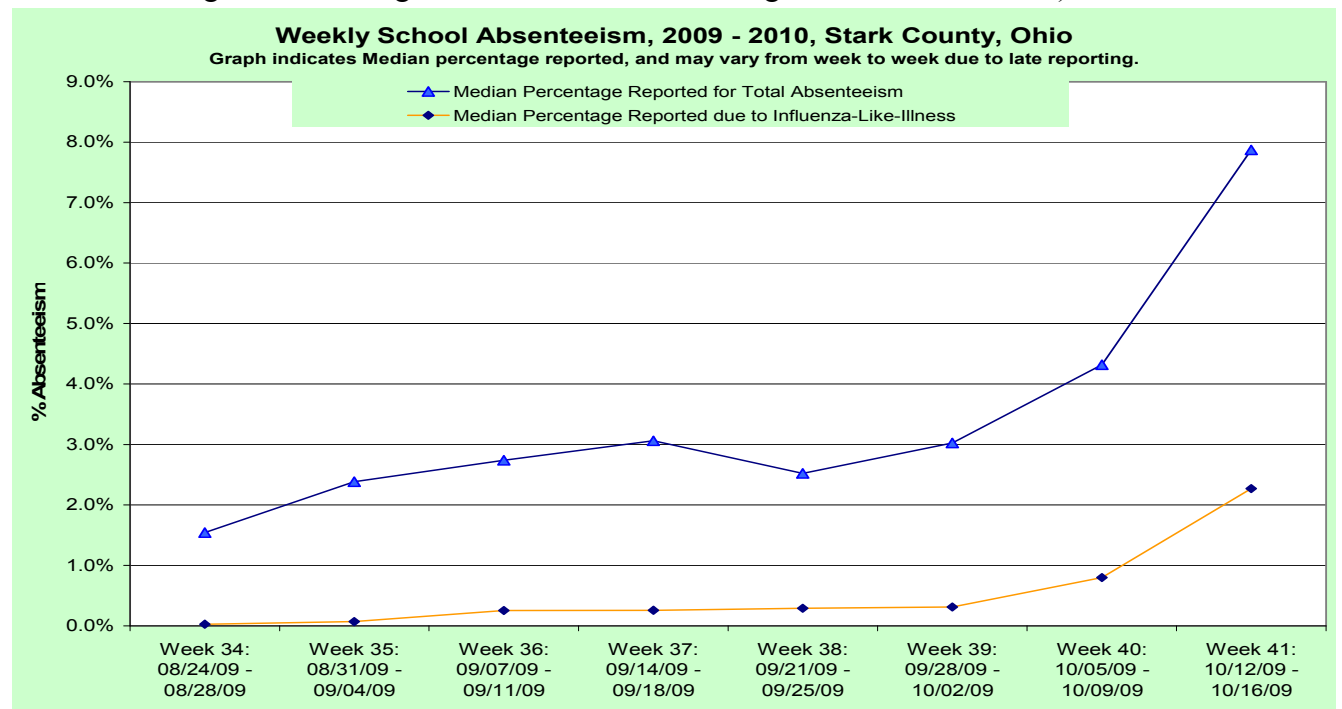
Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County

Source: RODS Real time Outbreak Disease Surveillance, Retail pharmaceutical sales.



Graph 6: School Absenteeism, 2009-2010, Stark County, Ohio.

(Source: Voluntary reporting by area public and private schools. Schools report overall absenteeism and five illness categories including influenza –like-illness and gastrointestinal illness.)



Map Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

FLUVIEW



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists*

Week Ending October 17, 2009- Week 41



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