



## STARK COUNTY INFLUENZA SNAPSHOT, WEEK 47

Week 47 ending November 28, 2009, with updates through 12/07/2009.

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

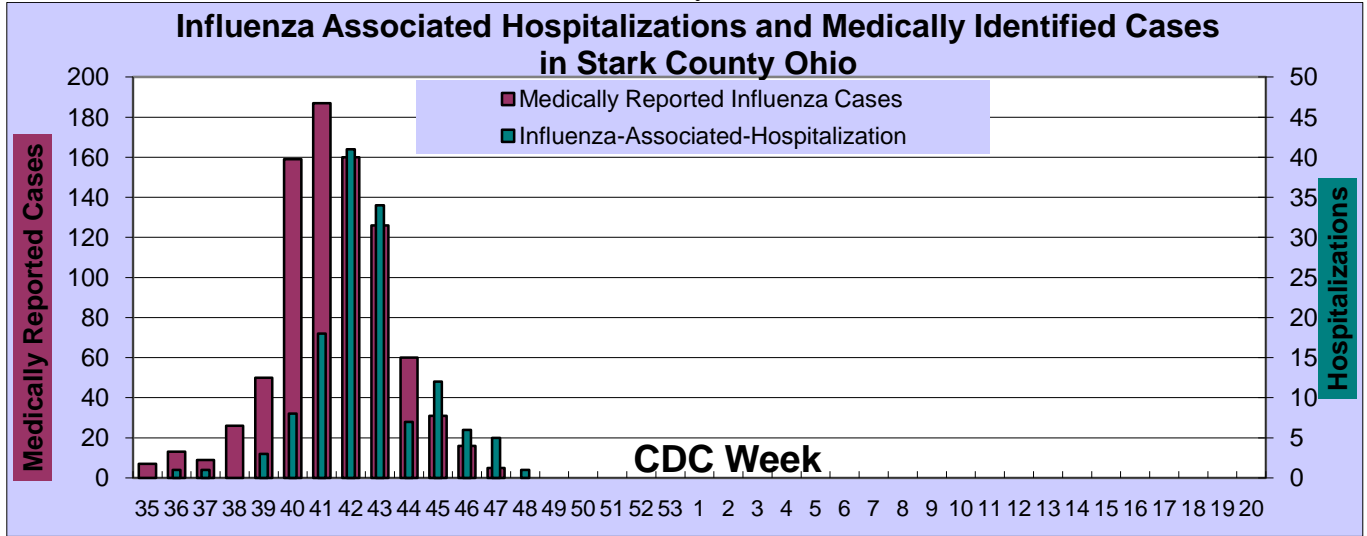
During week 47, (November 22-28, 2009) local and national indicators of influenza activity continued to reveal decreasing intensity. The number of hospitalizations as well as national indicators of severe illness remain elevated for this time of year.

- Hospitalizations remained **steady** at 5 in week 47; however other medically provided positive influenza case reports continued to decline significantly. (Graph 1)
- There was little change in the demographic information for the medically reported cases, not hospitalized; the average age is 16.7 years with a range of 4 months to 79 years and a median of 11 years. Additionally, **64%** of the reports are in the age group of 5 to 24 years.
- Hospitalized cases ranged in age from 1 month to 80 years with a median of 37 years, and the age group with the highest percentage affected is the 25-50 year olds at 35%. However, when looking at population rates, **young children aged 0-4 years** are hospitalized at the highest rate, >9 per 10,000 population. Of note is a **disproportionate** number of hospitalizations among the African American (AA) Community; of reports received with race this season 22% are reported as AA. (Note: 2008 US Census states Stark County is 7.4% AA and Ohio is 12% AA)
- Of the 137 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported since CDC Week 35 (the official beginning of the 2009-2010 influenza season) 41 have been confirmed with Influenza A (H1N1), AKA the Pandemic Strain. One of the 137 is positive for Influenza B and is awaiting additional confirmation and all others were positive for Influenza A with no sub typing.
- Reports from four Sentinel Providers indicated a **decrease** to only 1% of all patient visits for Influenza-Like-Illness (ILI) in Stark County. The National level of ILI visits also remained above the National baseline of 2.3% but showed a **decreasing trend** to 3.7%. (See Graph 2)
- Despite the expected post Thanksgiving crowds in emergency departments both Constitutional and Respiratory visits to Emergency Departments in Stark County **decreased**, and are now down to **19.82%**. The overall number of total patient visits by Stark County residents remained steady and near expected levels for this time of year. (See Graph 3)
- For week 47, Cough/Cold (C/C) Product sales increased slightly, remaining well below expected for this time of year. Thermometer sales remained above expected however they continued their **downward** trend. (See Graphs 4 and 5)
- School Absenteeism, as reported by 57 local schools in Stark County, **increased** slightly during week 47 to a median percentage of student absenteeism of 4.9%. (See graph 6)
- The state of Ohio and 24 other states reported **widespread** geographic influenza activity. Note: this indicator is reported to the CDC by each state and does not describe severity of disease. 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)
- This season Ohio has identified one (1) influenza A/H1, one (1) influenza A/H3, and 1125 Pandemic A/H1 isolates. Nationally, the CDC continues to identify **>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)*
- National Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I) Mortality Surveillance **decreased slightly to 7.2%** of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System as due to P & I. This percentage is **above** the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for week 47.
- The CDC reported 17 influenza associated pediatric deaths during week 47, one from Ohio. A total of seven confirmed influenza-associated pediatric mortality reports have been reported in Ohio for the 2009-2010 season: one from Athens County, three from Cuyahoga County, two from Franklin County, and one from Warren County. Three of these mortalities had confirmed pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection.

For questions, or to receive this report weekly by email, send requests to either [chenning@cantonhealth.org](mailto:chenning@cantonhealth.org) or [schanzk@starkhealth.org](mailto:schanzk@starkhealth.org).

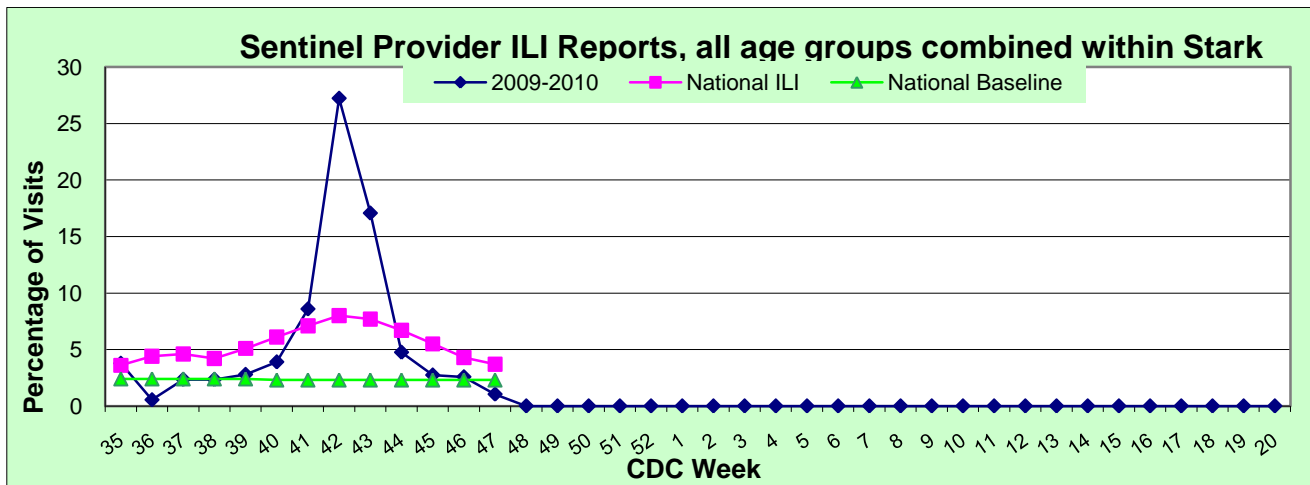
**Graph 1: Influenza Cases reported to Local Health Departments**

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

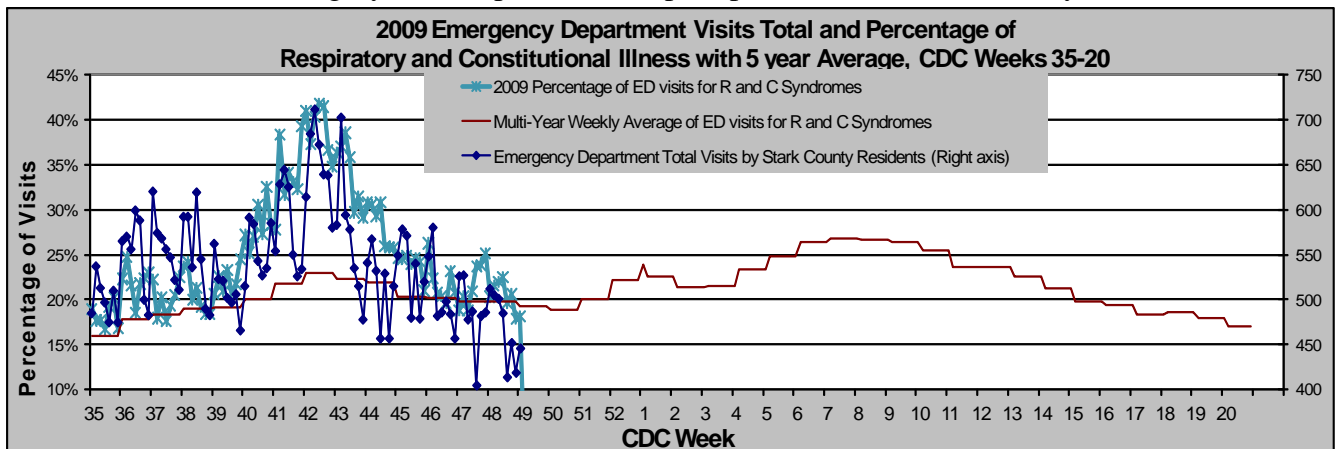


**Graph 2: Sentinel Provider Reported Influenza-Like-Illness in Stark County**

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.

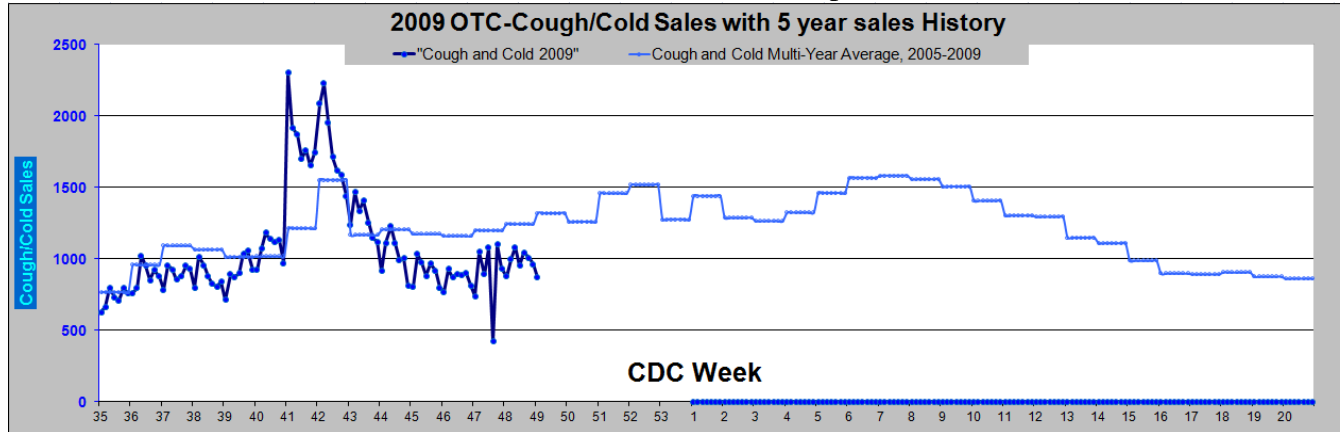


**Graph 3: Emergency Department Visits for combined Respiratory and Constitutional Syndromes (Source Health Monitoring Systems, EpiCenter, hospital patient visit surveillance system)**



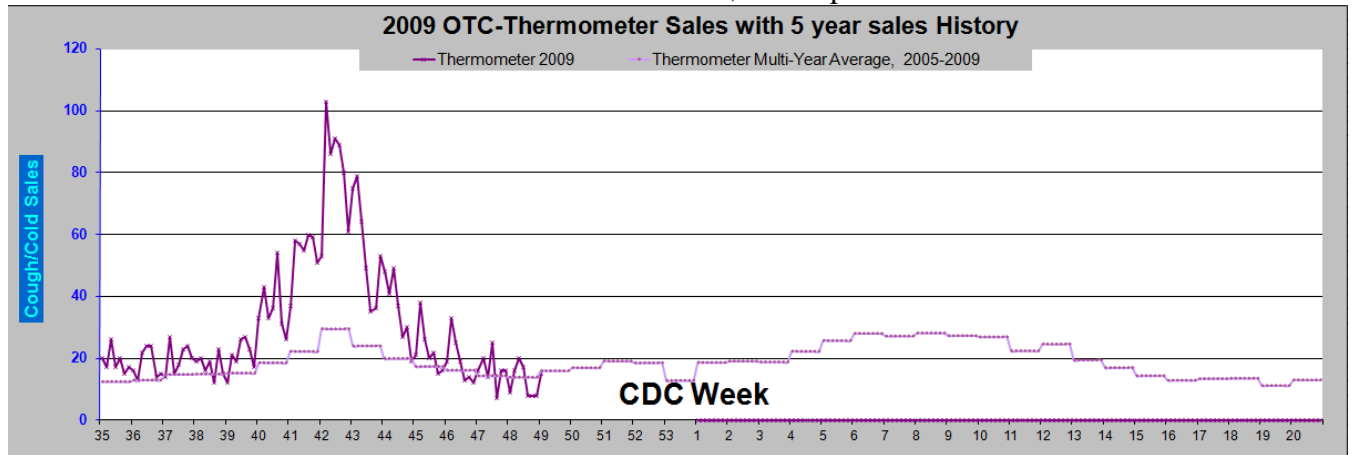
**Graph 4: Over-The-Counter Sales of Cough/Cold Product Sales in Stark County**

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



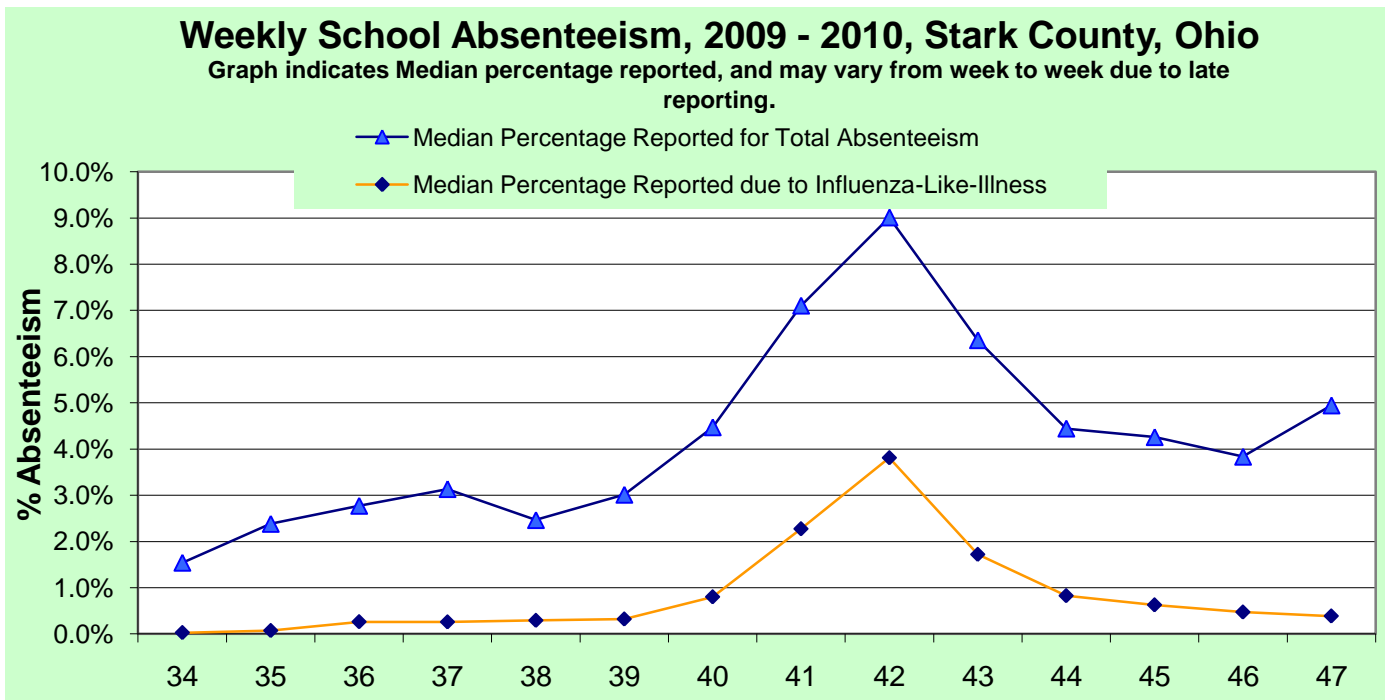
**Graph 5: Over-The-Counter Sales of Thermometers in Stark County**

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

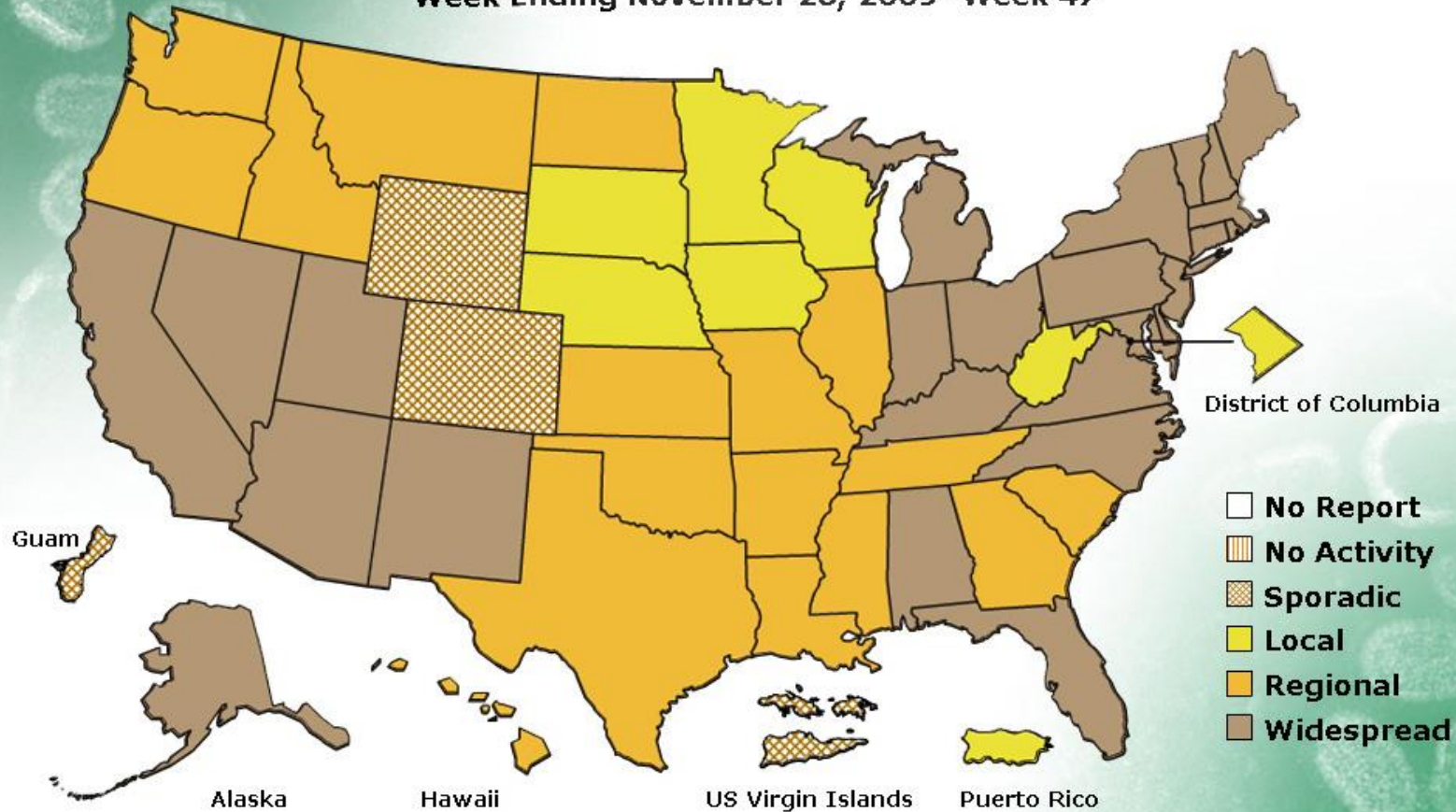
(Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>)

# FLUVIEW



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

**Week Ending November 28, 2009- Week 47**



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