

West Virginia Influenza Summary, Week Ending January 19, 2013 (MMWR Week 3)

Dear Influenza Partners,

West Virginia has reported influenza activity as “**Widespread**” for MMWR week 3 (week ending Saturday January 19, 2013).

Influenza activity across West Virginia continues to surge. The number of influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) outbreaks reported to the state health department is the highest reported in a single month all season. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) increased to 5.9%. This is the 6th consecutive week that ILI was above the state baseline of 2.2%. In the past 10 seasons ILI was above baseline on average 12 consecutive weeks. Influenza AH3 remains the prominent strain seen in West Virginia. There have been 22 deaths reported since the beginning of the 2012-13 season. Most of these deaths occurred in people 65 and older. This is comparable to other seasons. There have been no pediatric influenza associated deaths reported in West Virginia.

Influenza activity remains elevated in most of the county. Data indicates that in some regions of the US influenza activity appears to have peaked with other areas still reporting an increase in activity. Nationally, influenza-like-illness is still elevated but seems to be leveling off (from 4.5% to 4.3%). Key indicators reflecting severity (hospitalizations and deaths) increased again this week, with the greatest impact seen among people 65 and older. The percent of deaths resulting from pneumonia and influenza went from 8.4% during week 2 to 9.8% during week 3. There have been a total of 37 pediatric deaths reported for this season.

Weekly influenza surveillance graphs for West Virginia can be found at the website: <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>. Because of late reporting, we must sometimes update information in retrospect. The website will always have the most up-to-date numbers. Please feel free to contact us at (304)-558-5358, extension 1, with any questions regarding this report.