

West Virginia Influenza Summary, Week Ending April 20, 2013 (MMWR Week 16)

Dear Influenza Partners,

West Virginia has reported influenza activity as “Sporadic” for MMWR week 16 (week ending Saturday April 20, 2013).

Influenza activity across West Virginia is coming to an end. Periodic activity has been observed across the state. The percentage of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) was at 0.4% which is below the state baseline of 2.2%.

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. As of Thursday April 25, 2013 a total of 112 cases of human infection with this new H7N9 have been reported. A few of the infected people in China have had mild illness, but most illness associated with these infections has been severe so far; 23 people have reportedly died. The source of the infection is unknown at this time and there has been no reported human-to-human transmission. The source and mode of transmission have not been confirmed. Genetic analyses of the isolates have shown changes which suggest that the H7N9 virus may have a greater ability to infect humans than most other avian influenza viruses. There are no reported cases of H7N9 in the United States or anywhere else outside of China at this time. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently following this situation closely and coordinating with domestic and international partners. The most likely scenario is that the influenza A(H7N9) virus is spreading undetected in poultry populations occasionally infections humans who have close contact with poultry products, however this is scenario is still being evaluated. At the present time there is no evidence of sustained human-to human transmission. Since this H7N9 virus is novel influenza with pandemic potential, the situation in China is being carefully investigated.

Weekly influenza surveillance graphs for West Virginia and the most recent information available on influenza A subtype (H7N9) can be found at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/default.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.