

West Virginia Influenza Summary, Week Ending March 29, 2014 (MMWR Week 13)

Dear Influenza Partners,

West Virginia (WV) has reported influenza activity as “**Sporadic Activity**” for the week ending Saturday, March 29, 2014.

Influenza activity continues to decrease across WV, but some flu illness is still being reported around the State. The proportion of those seeking care in outpatient settings for influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased to 0.5 %, below the State baseline of 2.0%.

Influenza activity is low in WV, therefore when clinically indicated Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) is recommended especially for hospitalized or severely ill persons – late season isolates are of special interest for influenza surveillance and may be referred to the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) at (304) 558-3530 for confirmation and on to the CDC for antiviral resistance testing. Rapid tests have the potential for false positive results when disease prevalence is low.

Influenza activity is low in the United States. For the week ending March 29, the national proportion of those seeking care in outpatient settings for ILI decreased to 1.5%, below the national baseline of 2.0%. The predominant strain of influenza circulating in the United States is 2009 Influenza A (H1N1). A total of 82 influenza-related pediatric deaths have been reported nationwide for the 2013-14 season. For a summary of national influenza surveillance visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

Weekly influenza surveillance graphs for WV and the most recent information can be found at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeeps/disease/flu/Pages/default.aspx>. Because of late reporting, the information is sometimes updated in retrospect. The website will always have the most up-to-date numbers. Please feel free to contact the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (304) 558-5358, extension 1, with any questions regarding this report.