Weeks 33-34: August 14-27, 2011

Summary

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) monitors multiple surveillance systems such as the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), the Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance System (FPIMSS), notifiable disease reports (Merlin), National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS), EpiCom, and Florida ILINet in order to track influenza activity in the state.

State:

- FDOH surveillance systems show minimal levels of influenza and ILI. Mandatory submissions of county influenza activity levels has ended for the summer months, so no county level influenza activity data is presented here.
- ESSENCE and ILINet ILI activity levels are near previous years at this time in most regions of Florida. Due to decreased reporting in the summer months, regional data from ILINet sentinels will not be reported until the beginning of the 2011-12 season.
- In week 33 two specimens tested by the Bureau of Laboratories were positive for seasonal influenza A H3, and one was positive for 2009 H1N1 influenza A. In week 34 three specimens tested positive for seasonal influenza A H3. Other viruses known to be currently circulating, potentially causing ILI, include adenovirus, rhinovirus, parainfluenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
- No outbreaks of ILI or influenza were reported in weeks 33-34.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Difference from previous week</th>
<th>Current week</th>
<th>Previous week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of visits to ILINet providers for ILI</td>
<td>▼ 0.2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of emergency department visits (from ESSENCE) due to ILI</td>
<td>▲ 0.3</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of hospital admissions (from ESSENCE) due to ILI</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of laboratory specimens that were positive for influenza (out of total number tested)</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>3 (of 10)</td>
<td>3 (of 13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NREVSS Respiratory Virus Surveillance

The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collects data from laboratory facilities around the country on a weekly basis. NREVSS monitors temporal and geographic patterns of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human parainfluenza viruses (HPIV), respiratory and enteric adenoviruses and rotavirus. Florida has over 30 participating laboratory facilities.

FIGURE 1 shows the percentage of positive tests for multiple respiratory viruses reported by NREVSS-participating laboratories in Florida.

The six respiratory viruses summarized in Figure 1 are:
- RSV
- Parainfluenza 1-3 (HPIV)
- Adenovirus
- Human Metapneumo Virus (HMPV)
- Rhinovirus
- Influenza

Recent spikes in Rhinovirus percent positive are due to low numbers of test results.
FIGURE 2 shows the percentage of visits for influenza-like illness* reported by ILINet Sentinel Providers statewide.

The percentage of visits for ILINet sentinel providers continues to be low.

Note: Small numbers of sentinels reporting year-round may make summer ILI estimates less reliable.

*ILI = Influenza-like illness, fever >100°F AND sore throat and/or cough in the absence of another known cause.

**The 2010–2011 threshold for moderate activity is calculated from ILINet data. The threshold for moderate activity is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during influenza weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. Only weeks with 10% or greater of laboratory specimens testing positive are included in the calculation. Due to wide variability in regional level data, it is not appropriate to apply the state baseline to regional data.

^There is no week 53 during the 2007-2008, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011 seasons; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

FIGURE 3 shows ESSENCE data on ILI visits to Emergency Departments as a percentage of all ED Visits.

Overall activity for influenza-like illness reported in ESSENCE is near expected levels for this time of year.

ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance Summary-Statewide

The Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) currently collects data daily from 163 hospital emergency departments (ED). Data are processed into 11 different syndrome categories based on the patient’s chief complaint. One category is influenza-like illness (ILI), which comprises chief complaints that include “influenza” or “flu,” or either fever and cough or sore throat.


For week 34 (ending August 27, 2011) there were:
- 98 deaths reported
- Upper bound of 95% confidence interval for prediction: 156 deaths
- NO excess deaths

All 24 participating counties reported their data for week 34.