

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PRELIMINARY INFLUENZA ACTIVITY REPORT  
For Week 51 (week ending December 20, 2008)**



Preliminary influenza data reviewed from the week ending December 20<sup>th</sup>, reveals an increasing, but “sporadic” level of activity was observed during the 12th week of the official 2008-2009 influenza season. These data include a total of 38 laboratory confirmed test results from various Connecticut hospitals that reveal the presence of both type A and type B flu viruses and include reports from 7 (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, and Windham) of 8 Connecticut counties (see Table 1, Figure 1). The DPH laboratory has culture-confirmed the presence of an influenza virus in 2 isolates.

Five additional indicators of flu activity are being monitored throughout these initial weeks of the 2008-2009 flu season. Data on Connecticut residents presenting with influenza-like-illness (ILI) are reported by participants of the United States Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) (formerly known as the U.S. Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network) including Connecticut physicians, clinics, health centers, and other sites.

These reporting sites also include participants in the Connecticut Influenza Super Sentinel Surveillance Pilot Project organized this year to provide additional information on outpatient ILI activity. The DPH receives reports of institutional outbreaks including clusters of flu cases in residents of long-term care facilities. Data on emergency department visits from our Hospital Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance (HEDSS) System are also analyzed. One category in particular, fever/flu, has been shown to correlate well with influenza activity. Patients with more severe illness who are admitted into Connecticut hospitals are tracked by the Connecticut Hospital Admissions Syndromic Surveillance (HASS) System. Data on one category, total statewide pneumonia admissions correlates with flu activity. Finally, selected mortality data are monitored each week including pneumonia and influenza deaths from Connecticut cities that participate in the U.S. 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System, and reports of influenza associated pediatric deaths. All 6 surveillance systems provide additional evidence that Connecticut is currently experiencing a low level of flu activity as compared with recent influenza seasons.

The CDC has posted its twelfth national influenza activity map showing initial “sporadic” flu activity in 36 states (Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming), and Puerto Rico. The states of Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Texas, and Virginia are reporting a higher “local” level of activity. Regional activity was reported from New Jersey and Massachusetts. The District of Columbia and one state (New Mexico) did not report. The most recent CDC weekly influenza activity map can be viewed at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Alan Siniscalchi or Maria Andrews at the Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program, by calling 860-509-7994.

**Connecticut Department of Public Health  
2008-2009 Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Testing  
For Week 51 (week ending December 20, 2008)**

Results by		Previous	New	Total
<b>TEST:</b>	Culture	0	2	2
	Rapid Test	27	9	36
<b>FLU TYPE:</b>	Type A	17	9	26
	Type B	7	1	8
	Unknown	3	1	4
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Fairfield	5	1	6
	Hartford	7	3	10
	Litchfield	0	3	3
	Middlesex	4	0	4
	New Haven	6	4	10
	New London	1	0	1
	Tolland	0	0	0
	Windham	4	0	4
	<b>GENDER:</b>	Female	12	3
	Male	15	8	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>38</b>

Age:	Previous	New	Total	Week	Dates - 2009	Total
0-4	1	1	2	1	January 4 - 10	
5-24	7	3	10	2	January 11-17	
25-64	10	4	14	3	January 18-24	
≥65	9	3	12	4	January 25-31	
Age Range: <1 - 88 Average Age: 45.6				5	February 1-7	
				6	February 8-14	
				7	February 15-21	
				8	February 22-28	
				9	March 1-7	
				10	March 8-14	
				11	March 15-21	
				12	March 22-28	
				13	March 29- April 4	
				14	April 5-11	
				15	April 12-18	
				16	April 19-25	
				17	April 26- May 2	
				18	May 3- 9	
				19	May 10-16	
				20	May 17-23	
				21	May 24-30	
				22	May 31- June 6	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates - 2008</b>	<b>Total</b>				
40	Sept. 28 - Oct. 4	1		10	March 8-14	
41	October 5-11	1		11	March 15-21	
42	October 12-18	3		12	March 22-28	
43	October 19-25	2		13	March 29- April 4	
44	Oct. 26 - Nov. 1	2		14	April 5-11	
45	November 2-8	2		15	April 12-18	
46	November 9-15	2		16	April 19-25	
47	November 16-22	3		17	April 26- May 2	
48	November 23 -29	6		18	May 3- 9	
49	Nov. 30 – Dec. 6	2		19	May 10-16	
50	December 7-13	5		20	May 17-23	
51	December 14-20	9		21	May 24-30	
52	December 21-27					
53	Dec. 28- Jan. 3					

**Figure 1. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Type, Connecticut, 2008-2009 Influenza Season**

