



Influenza Surveillance Report

Week ending October 24, 2020 (Week 43)

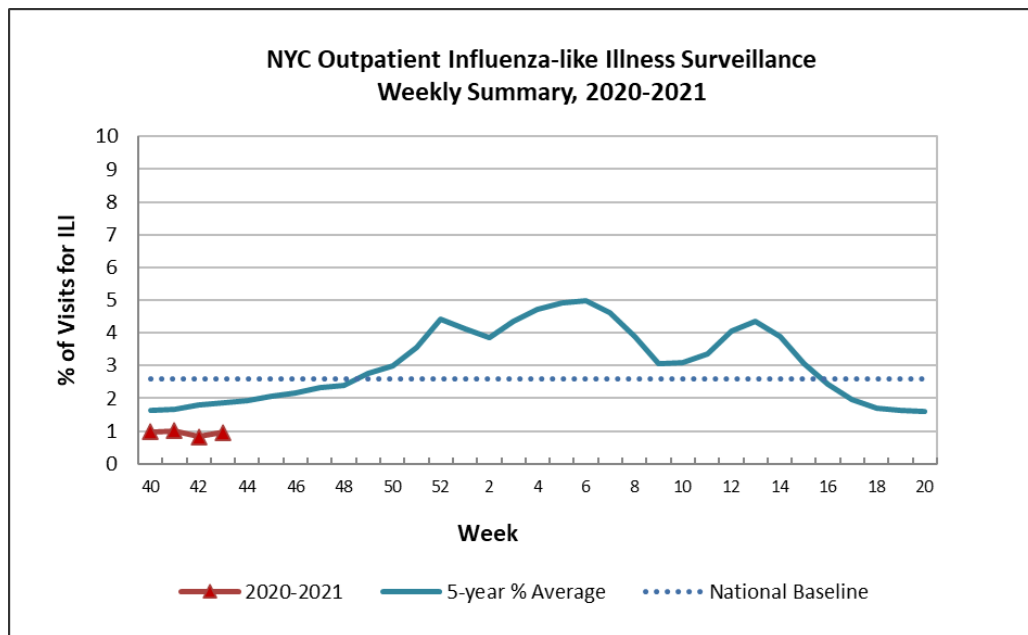
Highlights

- * Influenza surveillance activities for the 2020-2021 season began on September 27, 2020.
- * Influenza activity in NYC is minimal.
- * Influenza-like illness visits are at 1% of all weekly visits.
- * Less than 1% of all specimens submitted for influenza testing were positive for influenza; 11 specimens were positive for influenza A and three specimens were positive for influenza B. In addition, less than 1% of specimens tested for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) were positive.

Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

NYC participates in the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), which is coordinated nationally by CDC. This system monitors the proportion of patients presenting with ILI activity each week at participating primary care sites and includes a virology surveillance component to assess circulating strains.

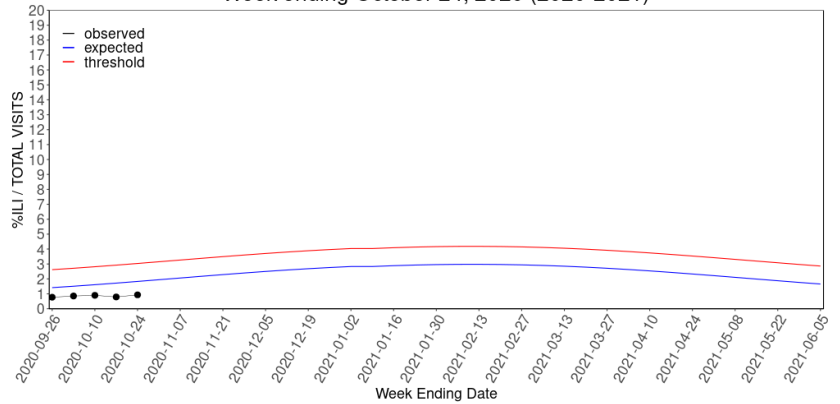
During Week 43 (October 18 – 24, 2020), approximately 1% of all sentinel provider visits were due to ILI. These data include visits to both emergency departments and over 60 outpatient clinics.



Syndromic Surveillance

The Emergency Department (ED) based syndromic surveillance system uses electronic data transmitted daily to DOHMH and captures 100% of all ED visits in NYC. The data are coded into disease syndromes and used to monitor citywide trends and geographic clustering that may represent an early warning of a disease outbreak. Influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient's ED chief complaint.

Weekly influenza-like illness (ILI) emergency department visits in New York City
Week ending October 24, 2020 (2020-2021)



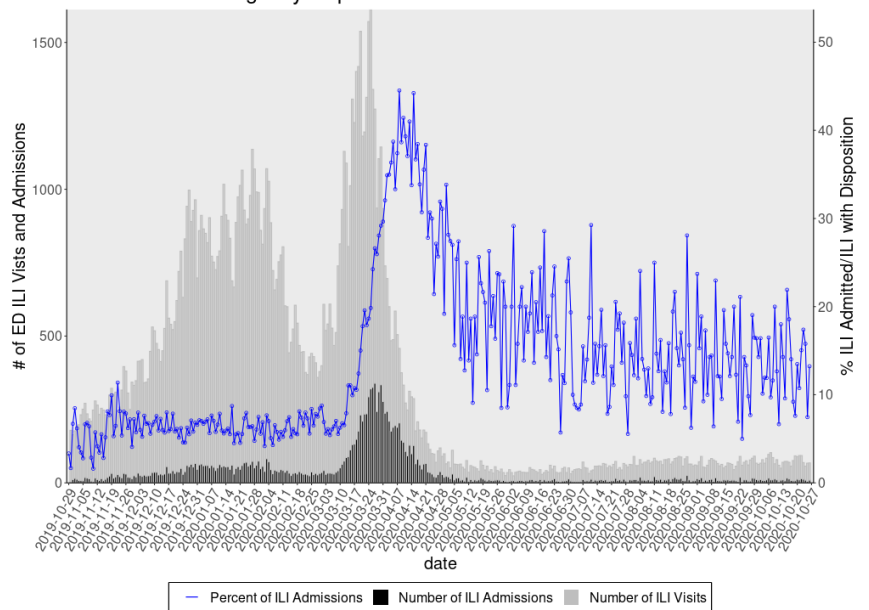
ED ILI Visits vs. ED ILI Admissions

The graph to the right shows the number of ED visits with ILI syndrome along with the number and proportion of those patients who were admitted. The discharge status of all patients is over 80% complete the day after their ED visit.

Disclaimers:

These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza.

Emergency Department ILI Visits vs ILI Admissions



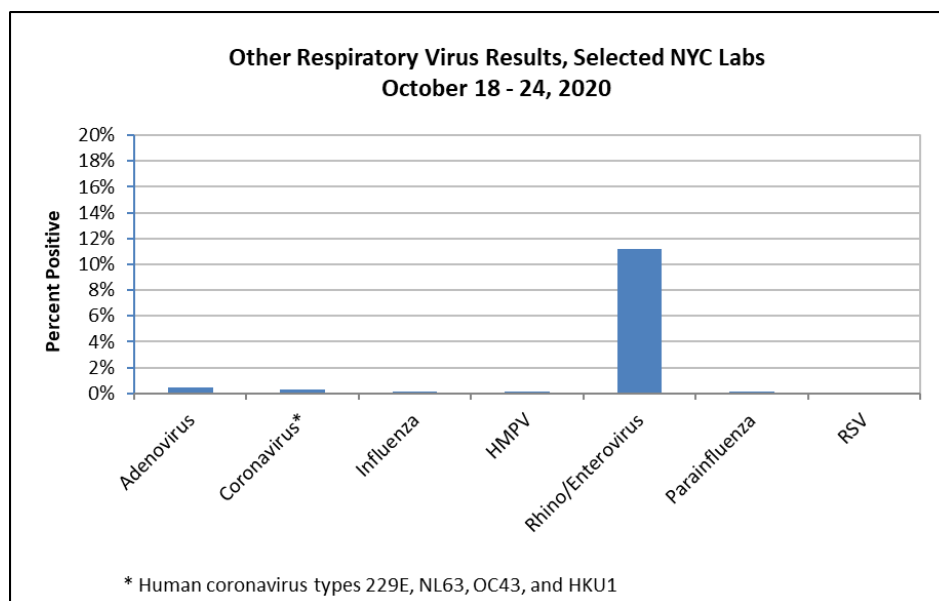
Laboratory Reports of Influenza and RSV

All clinical laboratories that perform testing on NYC residents report positive influenza test results electronically to DOHMH. Test results may identify influenza type A, influenza type B, or influenza without specifying type A or B. DOHMH actively solicits additional data on influenza test results from a large sample of NYC laboratory facilities that are licensed to perform influenza testing. These laboratories are contacted weekly to obtain data on the number of influenza tests requested, the number positive by assay type, as well as data on RSV.

During Week 43, less than 1% of all specimens submitted for influenza testing were positive for influenza; 11 specimens were positive for influenza A and three specimens were positive for influenza B. In addition, less than 1% of specimens submitted for RSV testing were positive.

Other Respiratory Virus Results

DOHMH receives data from three NYC laboratories that test for respiratory viruses in addition to influenza and RSV. The graph below demonstrates testing for an expanded panel of respiratory viruses circulating in NYC during surveillance week October 18 - 24, 2020.



Nosocomial Influenza Outbreaks

There were no reported nosocomial influenza outbreaks from long-term care facilities during Week 43.

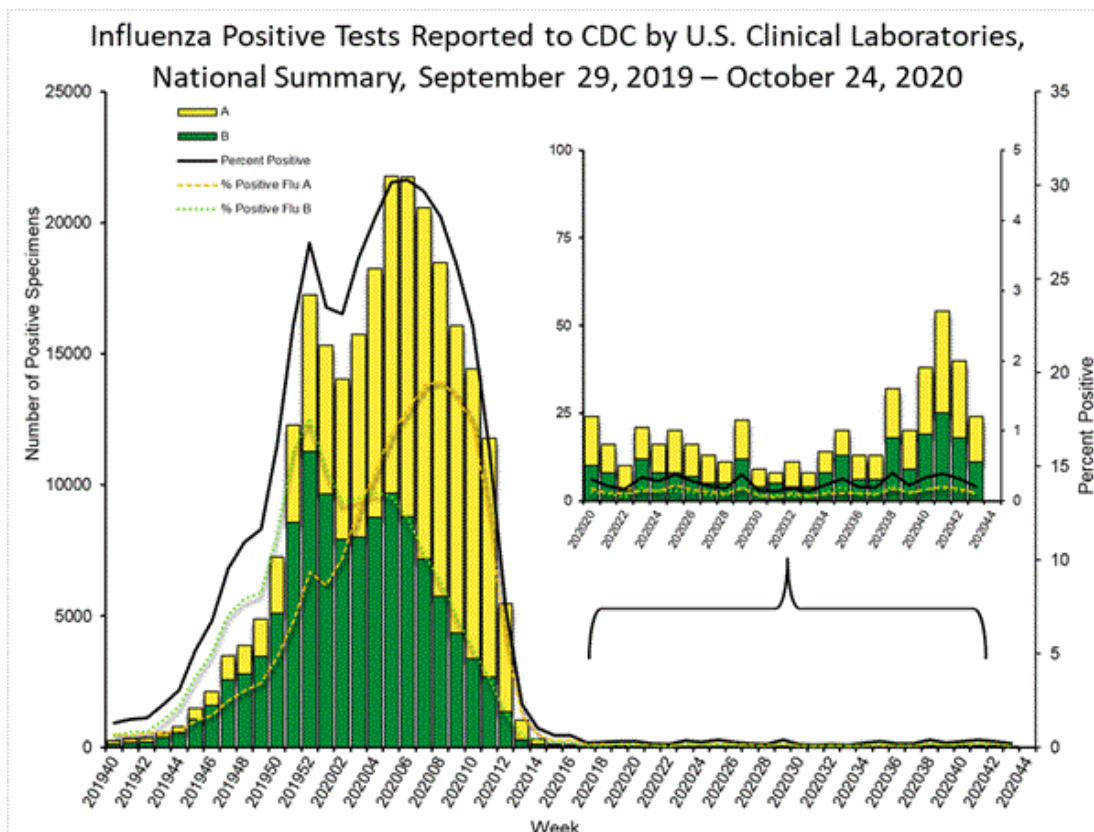
Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2020-2021 season have been reported.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
National Weekly Influenza Summary - Week 43
www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly**

According to this week's *FluView* report, seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains low.

- o Clinical Labs: The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories is 0.2% this week.
- o Public Health Labs: Influenza activity was low during the summer months and few specimens have tested positive in the public health labs during recent weeks.
- o Outpatient Illness (ILINet): 1.2% of visits to a health care provider were for ILI, which was a slight increase from the previous week (1.1%). ILI activity remains below the national baseline of 2.6%.
- o Outpatient Illness (ILINet Activity Map): This week, one jurisdiction experienced low ILI activity, while the remaining jurisdictions experienced minimal activity.
- o P&I Mortality: 8.2% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC). This is above the epidemic threshold of 5.9%.
- o Pediatric Deaths: No deaths occurring during the 2020-21 season were reported.



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Outpatient Illness Surveillance (ILINet)

Nationwide during week 43, 1.2% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.6%.

