

**Influenza Summary Update
(for the week ending October 9, 1999-Week 40)**

The following information may be quoted:

Synopsis: During September through October 15, laboratory-confirmed influenza A virus infection was reported from 15 states. During week 40, Maryland reported regional influenza activity and 13 other states reported sporadic influenza activity. Sentinel physician reports of influenza-like illness were within baseline levels, but pneumonia and influenza mortality was above expected levels for this time of year.

U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Collaborating Laboratory Reports:* During week 40, WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 391 specimens tested for influenza viruses. One influenza type A virus isolate was identified.

Laboratory-confirmed influenza from all sources: During September through early October, laboratory-confirmed influenza A virus infections were reported from Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Ohio, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. Influenza A(H3N2) viruses have been reported from California, Massachusetts, Michigan, and North Carolina, and from a ship sailing on the northeastern seaboard. No influenza type B virus isolates have been reported in the United States since June 1999.

A summary of worldwide influenza activity from May through September 1999 is available in the October 8, 1999 issue of the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR). The MMWR can be accessed at http://www2.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwr_wk.html.

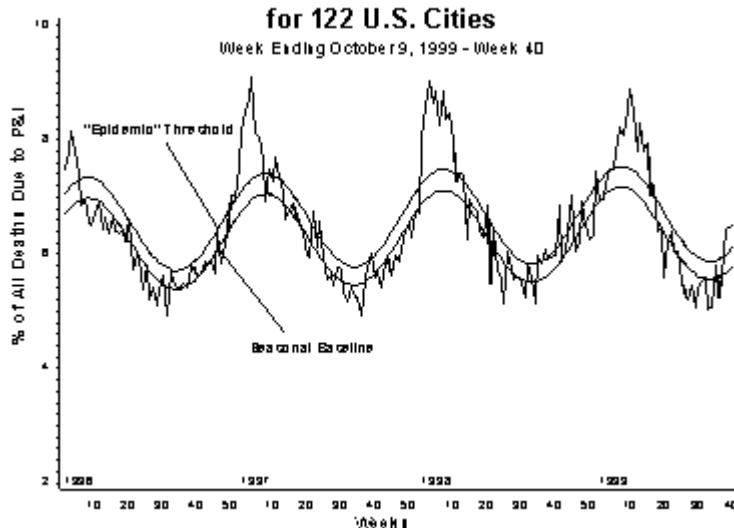
Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality: During week 40, the percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza as reported by the vital statistics offices of 122 U.S. cities was 6.5%. This is above the epidemic threshold of 5.8% for week 40. This is the third consecutive week that the percentage of pneumonia and influenza deaths has exceeded threshold values for this time of year. Whether this increase in the percentage of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza is due to early influenza activity, respiratory illness due to some other pathogen, or reporting changes underway in the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System is unknown.

Influenza Activity as Assessed by State and Territorial Epidemiologists:** Influenza activity was reported as regional in Maryland and as sporadic in 13 other states (Alaska, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming). Thirty-three states reported no influenza activity and 3 did not report.

Influenza Morbidity Reports from U.S. Sentinel Physicians:* During week 40, 1% of patient visits to U.S. sentinel physicians were due to influenza-like illness, and ranged from 0% to 3% in the 9 surveillance regions. These percentages are within the baseline levels of 0% to 3%.

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality

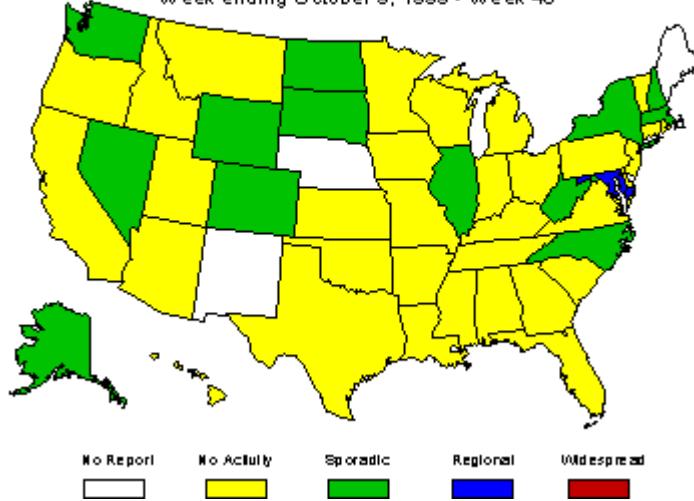
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Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported

by State & Territorial Epidemiologists

Week ending October 9, 1999 - Week 40



*Reporting is incomplete for this week, so numbers and percentages may change as more reports are received.

**Influenza activity is defined as influenza-like illness and/or culture-confirmed influenza.

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URL:<https://web.archive.org/web/20041101053057/http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/WeeklyArchives1999-2000/weekly40.htm>
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