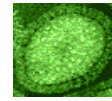


Oklahoma Viral Respiratory Illness Sentinel Surveillance System 2008-2009



How does Oklahoma track influenza and viral respiratory illness activity?

Objectives

Disease tracking is conducted on respiratory viruses in order to detect activity of respiratory viruses as early as possible, to monitor and describe the intensity and geographic distribution of disease, measure the impact of viral respiratory illnesses on different age groups, and to identify and publicize the circulating types and subtypes.

Purpose

The purpose of the system is to follow and detect respiratory virus activity due to its significant disease burden. An estimated 114,000 hospitalizations and 36,000 deaths are caused by influenza each year in the United States

Partners

The monitoring system consists of partnerships with various dedicated local and national groups. These entities include the U.S. Sentinel Physicians Surveillance Network, the Laboratory Diagnostic Reporting System, and the Respiratory Virus Outbreak Detection System. All of the information provided from these sources is integrated in order to assess overall influenza activity in Oklahoma.

Description

Monitoring activities for the 2008-09 viral respiratory illness season began the first week of October. The number of reporting sources consists of 28 healthcare practices distributed in 21 counties. These dedicated sentinel providers regularly report the number and age distribution of patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) that present to their respective clinics. This information is reported weekly via the Public Health Disease & Detection of Oklahoma (PHIDDO) System, the online secure web-based reporting site.

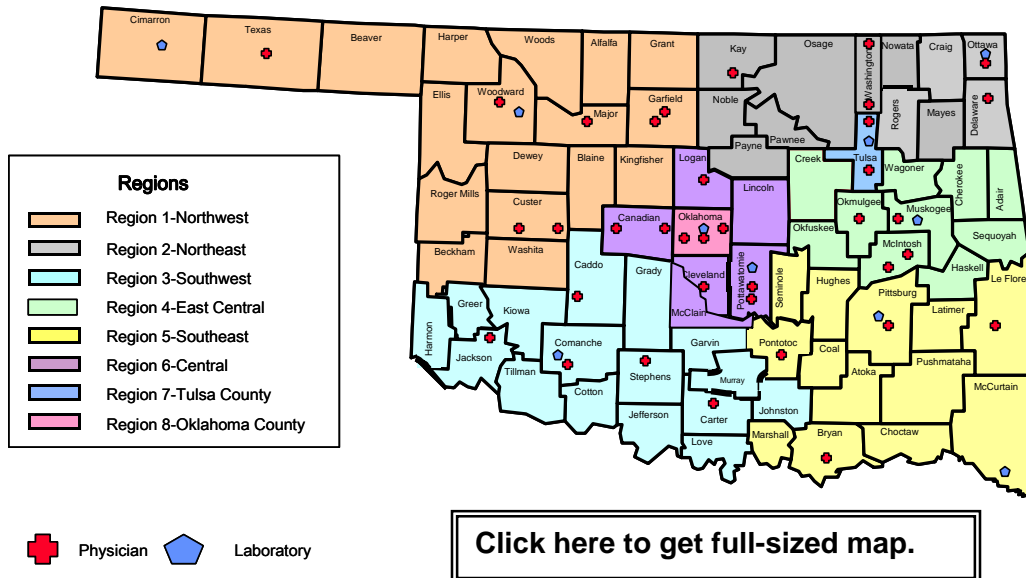
Influenza-like illness or ILI is defined as a fever (100°F [37.8°C], oral or equivalent: 101°F rectal and 99°F axillary) and cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza. Temperature can be measured in the office or at home.

Other collected data include the number of patients hospitalized due to ILI and number of patients screening positive for influenza by rapid antigen/enzyme testing. To identify and characterize the circulating influenza and respiratory viruses, sentinel providers also submit specimens to the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Laboratory for viral culture.

The Laboratory Diagnostic System consists of ten geographically distributed hospital laboratories that voluntarily report results of respiratory virus testing (virus culture, DFA, and/or rapid tests) on a weekly basis during the respiratory virus season.

The Respiratory Virus Outbreak Detection System consists of partnerships with county health departments and healthcare providers in Oklahoma. When outbreaks of influenza occur in schools, nursing homes or other institutional settings, they should be reported to the local county health department. Once outbreaks are reported, specimens are collected and submitted to the PHL for viral identification.

Figure 1. Participating Sentinel Physician and Laboratory Sites, 2008-2009



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