



County of Erie

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Please distribute to the Hospital Administration, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatric, Infectious Disease Department, Infection Control, and all Community / Private Practitioners

HEALTH UPDATE #196

March 19, 2007

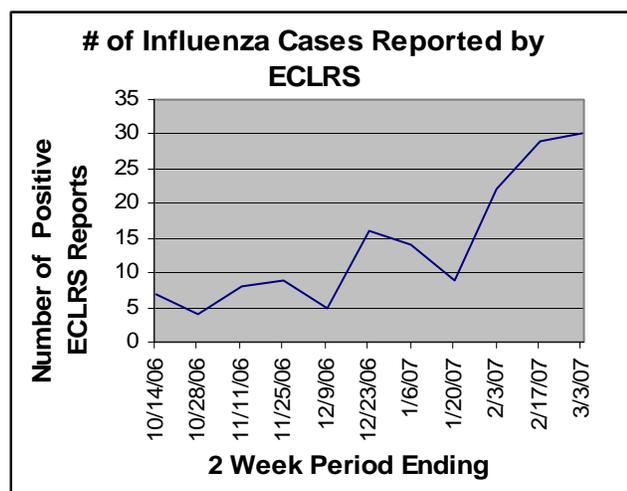
Erie County Influenza Surveillance Report

The Erie County Department of Health presents local Influenza Surveillance data to inform providers of the influenza activity in our community.

1. Local Laboratory Reports:

Erie County receives reports of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases through the Electronic Clinical Laboratory Reporting System (ECLRS). The number of positive tests is dependent on the community prevalence and the total number of tests performed. These data estimate the Erie County influenza burden.

Influenza continues to be widespread in both Erie County and New York State.



2. Sentinel Laboratory Reports:

The Erie County Department of Health receives reports of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and the number of specimens tested from two local sentinel laboratories. The data below present the number and proportion of positive influenza tests and influenza types reported by the sentinel Erie County Laboratories. The first positive Influenza A reported from the sentinel laboratories was during the week ending December 16, 2006 and the first Influenza B was reported during the week ending December 2, 2006. A total of 47 positive Influenza A reports and 4 positive Influenza B reports have been reported from these laboratories.

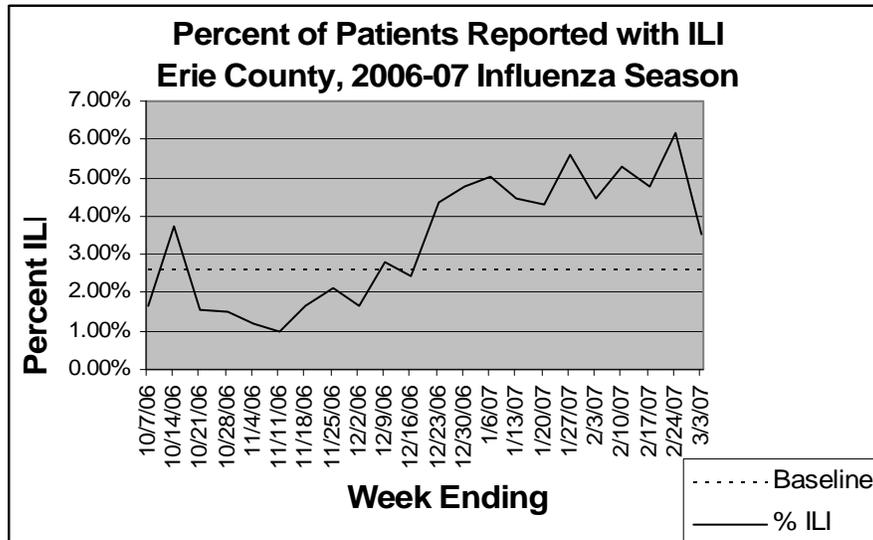
Erie County Surveillance Sentinel Laboratories
Influenza Testing Results by Week

Week Ending	Sentinel Lab	Total # Specimens Tested	# Positive for Influenza A	# Positive for Influenza B	Total # Positive
3/3/07	WCHOB	127	14	1	15
	ECMC	10	0	0	0
2/24/07	WCHOB	105	4	2	6
	ECMC	11	0	0	0
2/17/07	WCHOB	150	5	0	5
	ECMC	14	1	0	1
2/10/07	WCHOB	129	7	0	7
	ECMC	6	0	0	0
2/3/07	WCHOB	129	3	0	3
	ECMC	16	1	0	1
Totals	WCHOB	2751	44	3	47
	ECMC	249	2	2	4

WCHOB: Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo; ECMC: Erie County Medical Center

3. Sentinel Influenza Like Illness (ILI) Provider Reports:

In Erie County, seven sentinel providers report the percentage of Influenza Like Illness patient visits. These data are dependent on consistent provider reporting and estimate the influenza disease burden in the area. Influenza like illness is defined as temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F with cough or sore throat in the absence of a known cause. The Erie County Department of Health would like to thank the providers who report these cases to the CDC weekly. If interested in influenza sentinel surveillance participation, please contact Gale Burstein at ECDOH at (716) 858-6462 or Pamela Duncan at NYSDOH at (518) 473-4439.



Note: The Mid-Atlantic regional epidemic threshold baseline as calculated by CDC is 2.6%.

4. Nosocomial Influenza Activity Report:

There have been no reports of laboratory-confirmed nosocomial influenza outbreaks from institutions such as nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, schools, etc. during the time period from October 7, 2006 thru March 10, 2007 in Erie County. The New York State Department of Health has received 16 reports of laboratory-confirmed nosocomial influenza activities throughout the state during the same time.

New York State Influenza Surveillance information is available at:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/flu/surveillance.htm>

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary