Ohio Department of Health

Sources of Influenza Surveillance Data

- Emergency Department Visits (EpiCenter): EpiCenter collects emergency department chief complaint data from 176 emergency departments and 14 urgent care facilities across Ohio, with most transmitting in near real-time, and classifies them into symptom and syndrome categories. Chief complaints from the constitutional syndrome category and the fever + ILI symptoms classifier are analyzed for influenza surveillance.
- Sentinel Providers (ILINet): Sentinel providers, through the U.S. Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), collect outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) data. ILI is defined as a fever (≥ 100 F), and cough and/or sore throat. Providers report the total number of patients seen and the number of patients with ILI by age group on a weekly basis. Sentinel providers also submit specimens for influenza testing to the ODH laboratory throughout the influenza season. There are 103 sentinel providers enrolled in Ohio for the 2024-2025 influenza season.
- Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (ODRS): Influenza-associated hospitalizations are reported to ODH from local health departments and hospitals by direct entry into the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS). Hospitalizations can be used as an indicator of the severity of illness during a particular influenza season. This condition became reportable in 2009.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality (ODRS): Influenza-associated pediatric mortalities are reported into ODRS by local health department and hospital staff. Pediatric deaths can be an indicator of the severity of illness during the influenza season. This condition became reportable in 2005.
- U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Laboratories System and the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS): The Ohio Department of Health Laboratory, Wright Patterson Airforce Base (both WHO Collaborating Laboratories), and 19 clinical laboratories located throughout Ohio participate in virologic surveillance for influenza through either the U.S. WHO Collaborating Laboratories System or NREVSS. Influenza testing data from these systems are compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) and made available to the influenza surveillance coordinators in each state for analysis.

For more information, visit flu.ohio.gov

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