



# MI FluFocus

## Influenza Surveillance and Avian Influenza Update

Bureau of Epidemiology  
Bureau of Laboratories

Michigan Department  
of Community Health



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### New updates in this issue:

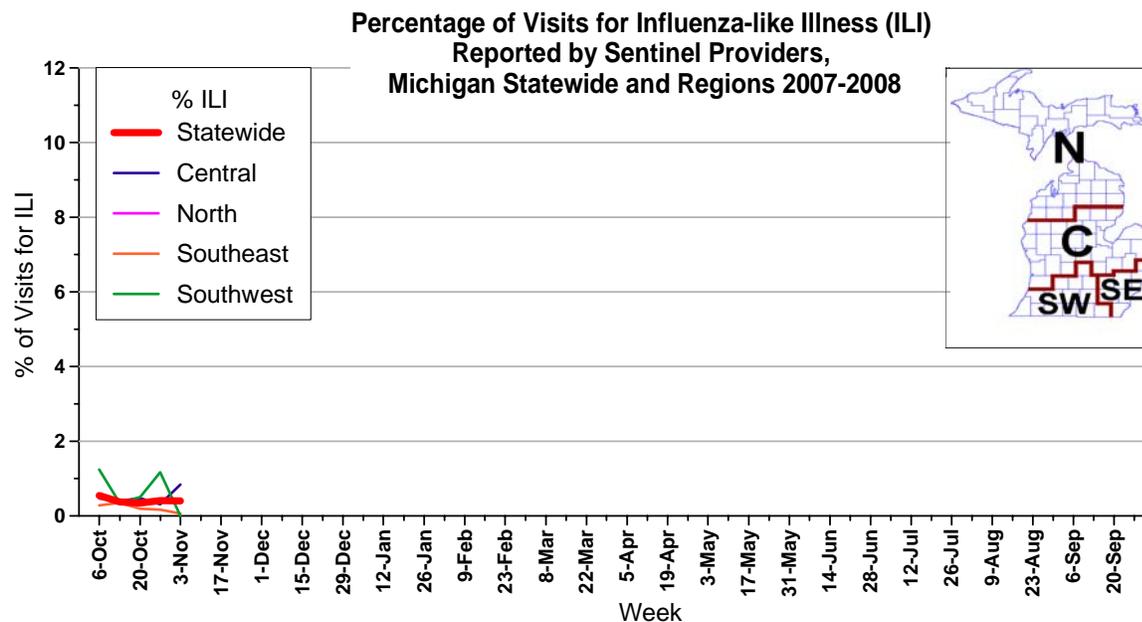
- **Michigan Surveillance:** Reporting systems indicate steady to slightly increasing respiratory activity.
- **National Surveillance:** Influenza activity remains low; P&I mortality drops below epidemic threshold.
- **Avian Influenza:** 90<sup>th</sup> human fatality in Indonesia; Poultry outbreaks in southern Asia.

**Michigan Disease Surveillance System:** The week ending November 3 had a slight increase in aggregate flu-like illness reports, while individual influenza reports held steady at last week's levels. Both aggregate and individual reports are consistent with levels seen at this time last year.

**Emergency Department Surveillance:** Emergency department visits due to respiratory complaints increased slightly this past week, while constitutional complaints held steady. Both constitutional and respiratory complaints are consistent with numbers seen this time last year. Five constitutional alerts in the C(1), N(1) and SW(3) Influenza Surveillance Regions and nine respiratory alerts in the C(2), N(2), SE(2) and SW(3) Influenza Surveillance Regions were generated last week.

**Over-the-Counter Product Surveillance:** OTC product sales activity remained steady overall last week, with only chest rubs increasing. The indicators levels are comparable to those seen at this time last year, except for chest rubs which are slightly higher.

**Sentinel Surveillance (as of November 8):** During the week ending November 3, 2007, the proportion of visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) in Michigan remained unchanged from last week at 0.4% of all visits. This represents 30 cases of ILI out of 7413 total patient visits; thirty-three sentinels provided data for this report. By region, the proportion of visits due to ILI was: 0.8%, Central; 0.5%, North; 0.1%, Southeast; and 0.0% Southwest. Note that these rates may change as additional reports are received.



As part of pandemic influenza preparedness, CDC and MDCH highly encourage and recommend year-round participation from all sentinel providers. New practices are encouraged to join the sentinel surveillance program today! Contact Rachel Potter at 517-335-9710 or [potterr1@michigan.gov](mailto:potterr1@michigan.gov) for more information.

**Laboratory Surveillance (as of November 8):** The MDCH Lab has not confirmed any cases of influenza for the 2007-2008 influenza season, which started on October 1.

\*\*\*As a reminder, the positive predictive value of influenza rapid tests decreases during times of low influenza prevalence. MDCH suggests that during periods of low influenza activity in your community, all positive rapid tests results be confirmed by sending in a specimen for viral culture; this can be arranged through your local health department.

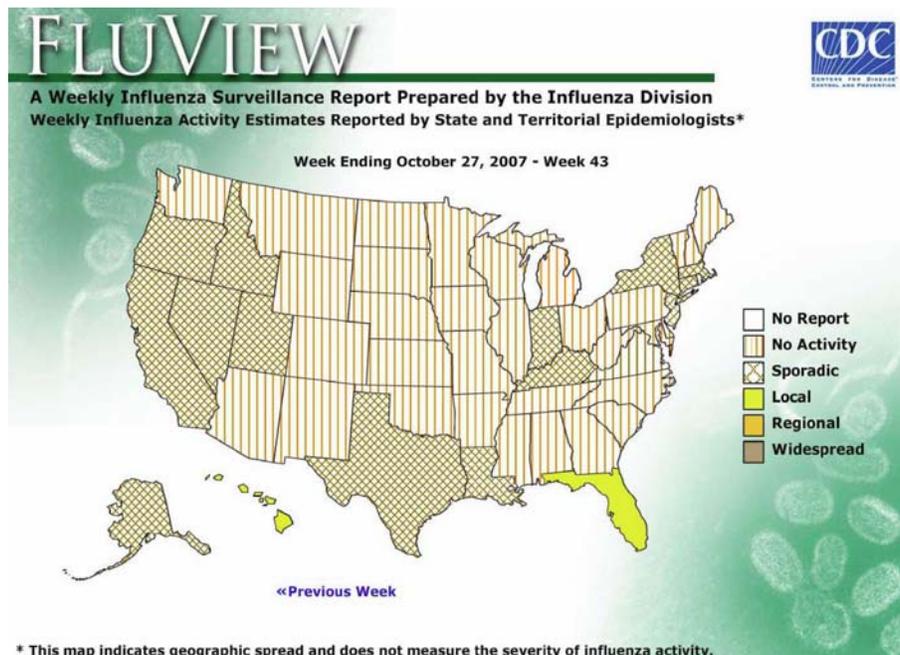
**Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality (as of November 8):** For the 2007-2008 season, there are no confirmed reports of influenza-related pediatric mortality in Michigan.

\*\*\*Reminder: The CDC has asked all states to continue to collect information on any pediatric death associated with influenza infection. This includes not only any death in a child less than 18 years of age resulting from a clinically compatible illness confirmed to be influenza by an appropriate laboratory or rapid diagnostic test, but also unexplained death with evidence of an infectious process in a child. Refer to [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/fluletter\\_107562\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/fluletter_107562_7.pdf) for the complete protocol. It is important to immediately call or fax information to MDCH to ensure that appropriate clinical specimens can be obtained.

**Congregate Settings Outbreaks (as of November 8):** There have been no reports for the 2007-2008 influenza season.

**National (CDC [edited], November 2):** During week 43 (October 21-27, 2007), a low level of influenza activity was reported in the United States. During week 43, WHO and NREVSS laboratories reported 1,252 specimens tested for influenza viruses, 33 (2.6%) of which were positive, including 29 influenza A viruses that were not subtyped (Pacific, South Atlantic, and West South Central regions) and four influenza B viruses (Mountain, New England, and South Atlantic regions). The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza was below the epidemic threshold. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) and acute respiratory illness (ARI) was below national and region-specific baseline levels. Two states reported local activity, 14 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity; and 34 states reported no influenza activity.

To access the entire CDC weekly surveillance report throughout the influenza season, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>



**International, WHO (Weekly Epidemiological Record, October 12):** Between September 2006 and August 2007, the level of influenza activity was generally mild to low. In North America, influenza activity began in November and increased in December, while in Asia and Europe, activity started in December and increased in January. Overall activity in the northern hemisphere declined in April-May. In the southern hemisphere, it began in April in South America, increased in May, remained high throughout July and declined in August. In Oceania and South Africa, activity started in June, peaked in July-August and declined in September.

A total of 84 countries/areas -10 from Africa, 16 from the Americas, 19 from Asia, 35 from Europe and 4 from Oceania – reported influenza activity to WHO between September 2006 and August 2007. Of these, 44 reported regional/widespread outbreaks associated with influenza A(H1N1), A(H3N2) and B viruses.

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MDCH reported **NO INFLUENZA ACTIVITY** to the CDC for the week ending November 3, 2007.

For stakeholders interested in additional information regarding influenza vaccination and education, the MDCH publication *Michigan FluBytes* is available online at [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940\\_2955\\_22779\\_40563-125027--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_22779_40563-125027--,00.html). *FluBytes* is published weekly during the influenza season.

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## End of Seasonal Report

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### Avian Influenza Activity

**WHO Pandemic Phase:** Phase 3 - Human infection(s) with a new subtype, but no human-to-human spread or rare instances of spread to a close contact.

**International, Human (WHO, November 5):** The Ministry of Health of Indonesia has announced a new case of human infection of H5N1 avian influenza. A 30-year-old female from the Tangerang Municipality, Banten Province developed symptoms on 23 October, was hospitalized on 31 October and died in an AI referral hospital on 3 November.

The investigation found that there were poultry deaths in the case's neighborhood in the days prior to her onset of symptoms.

Of the 112 cases confirmed to date in Indonesia, 90 have been fatal.

**International, Poultry (Reuters, November 2):** Bangladesh culled some 6,000 chickens after bird flu infected three more farms in the northern part of the country, officials said on Friday.

"The chickens were buried over the last two days after H5N1 virus was detected at three farms in Dinajpur, Jaipurhat and Lalmonirhat districts," an official of the livestock department said.

Bird flu was first detected near the capital in March and has since spread, mostly to northern districts.

Nineteen out of Bangladesh's 64 districts have been affected by the virus, forcing authorities to cull 268,000 chickens and destroy nearly three million eggs.

There have been no cases of human infection.

**International, Poultry (The Post [Lahore, Pakistan], November 2):** More than 45,000 chicks were burnt and buried by Buttle Ehtsham Breeder Farm after it was confirmed that they were suffering from bird flu, The Post learned here on Thursday [Nov 1, 2007]. According to details, on Oct 26 2007, the Ehtsham poultry farm got a report about the spread of bird flu, the livestock director Mansehra Ali Akbar Khan sent the samples to Islamabad for testing.

Later after receiving positive reports, more than 45,000 chicks were burnt and buried so that the virus might not affect other poultry farms. The farm manager informed the media people about the loss and said that if the poultry farms owners do not take proper measures, the virus can cause huge losses.

**International, Poultry (Reuters, November 8):** Bird flu has killed 590 ducks in a northern Vietnam province, the fifth to have reported outbreaks among poultry within about a month, the government said on Wednesday.

The two-month-old ducks started dying on Monday at a farm in Ha Nam province. Tests confirmed on Wednesday the presence of the H5N1 bird flu virus, the Animal Health Department said in its daily report.

Further tests also found the H5N1 virus in samples taken from two dead chickens dumped in a river in Ha Nam province, 60 km (37 miles) south of Hanoi, the report said.

The case in Ha Nam brought to five the number of provinces that have confirmed bird flu in poultry since early October. Three of the provinces are in the north, one is in the southern Mekong delta, while the fifth is in the central province of Quang Tri.

Floods that affected Quang Tri in the past two weeks could help spread the virus to nearby areas, an Agriculture Ministry official said.

No human infections have been reported in Vietnam since the virus killed a teenager in early August, one of four deaths among seven Vietnamese known to have been infected this year. Since 2003, bird flu has killed 46 people in Vietnam.

Globally, the H5N1 virus has killed 205 people out of 334 known cases, with most of the deaths in Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Egypt, the World Health Organisation figures show.

**Michigan Wild Bird Surveillance (USDA, as of November 8):** For the 2007 testing season, 859 Michigan samples have been taken so far, comprised of 100 live bird samples, 485 hunter-killed birds, 99 morbidity/mortality samples, and 175 environmental samples.

H5N1 subtype H5N1 has not been recovered from any Michigan samples tested to date, or from the 43,714 birds or environmental samples tested nationwide. The 2007 testing season will run from April 1, 2007-March 31, 2008. For more information, visit the National HPAI Early Detection Data System website at <http://wildlifedisease.nbio.gov/ai/>.

To learn about avian influenza surveillance in Michigan wild birds or to report dead waterfowl, go to Michigan's Emerging Disease website at <http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases>.

**Please contact Susan Vagasky at [VagaskyS@Michigan.gov](mailto:VagaskyS@Michigan.gov) with any questions regarding this newsletter or to be added to the weekly electronic mailing list.**

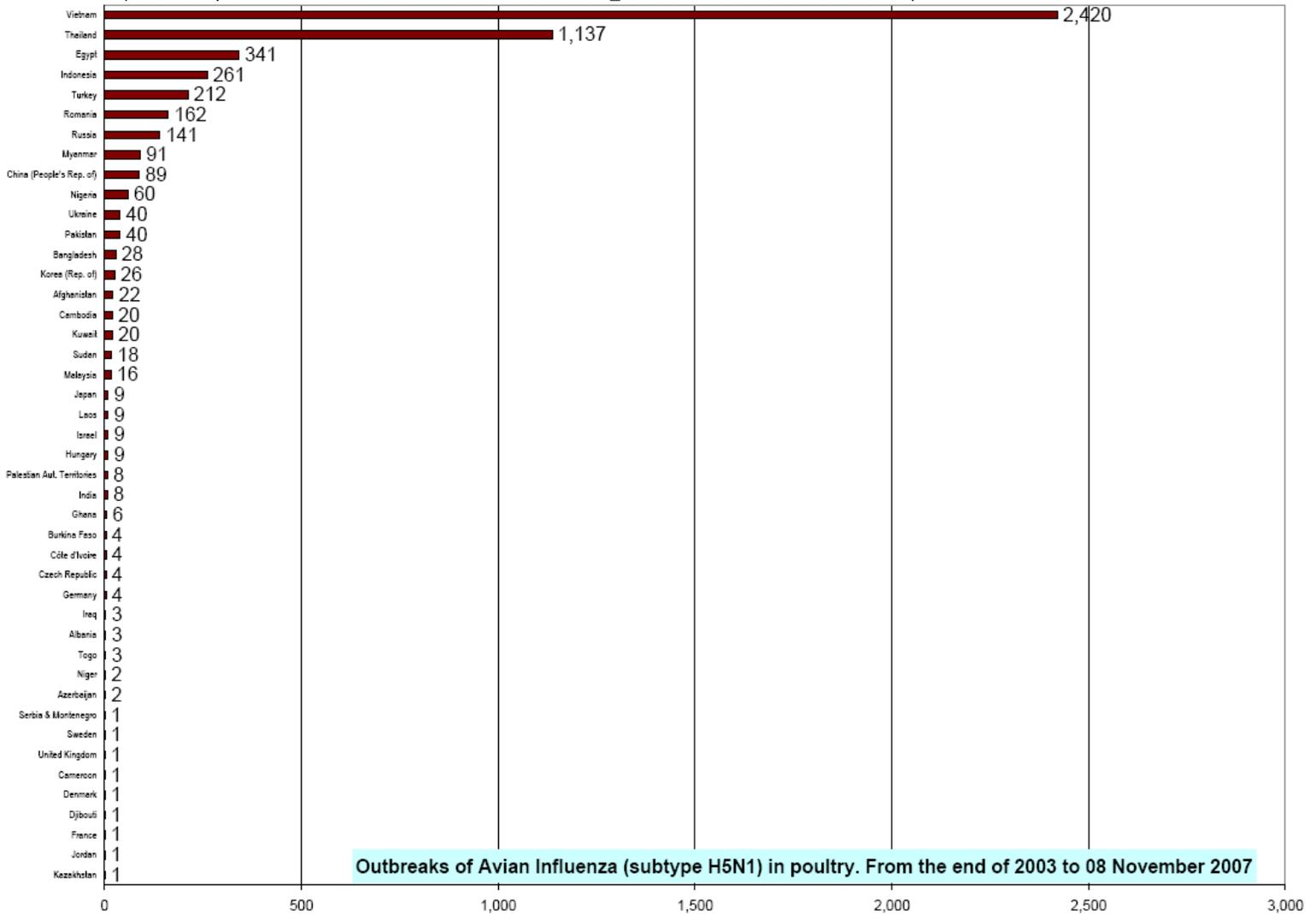
**Contributors**

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**Table 1. H5N1 Influenza in Poultry (Outbreaks up to November 8, 2007)**

(Source: [http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A\\_AI-Asia.htm](http://www.oie.int/downld/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm) Downloaded 11/8/2007)



**Table 2. H5N1 Influenza in Humans (Cases up to November 5, 2007)**

([http://www.who.int/entity/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/country/cases\\_table\\_2007\\_11\\_5/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/entity/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2007_11_5/en/index.html) Downloaded 11/5/2007)

Cumulative number of lab-confirmed human cases reported to WHO. Total number of cases includes deaths.

Country	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		Total	
	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths	cases	deaths
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	0	0	8	5
Cambodia	0	0	0	0	4	4	2	2	1	1	7	7
China	1	1	0	0	8	5	13	8	3	2	25	16
Djibouti	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	10	20	5	38	15
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	20	13	55	45	37	32	112	90
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	3	2
Lao PDR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Thailand	0	0	17	12	5	2	3	3	0	0	25	17
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	4	0	0	12	4
Viet Nam	3	3	29	20	61	19	0	0	7	4	100	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>205</b>