



Miami-Dade County Health Department Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report Week 42: 10/15 -10/21/2006

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Report Summary

The Week 42 Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report includes information from the following data sources:

1. 911 Surveillance
2. Hospital Emergency Department Surveillance
3. Outbreak Reports

Each reporting week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

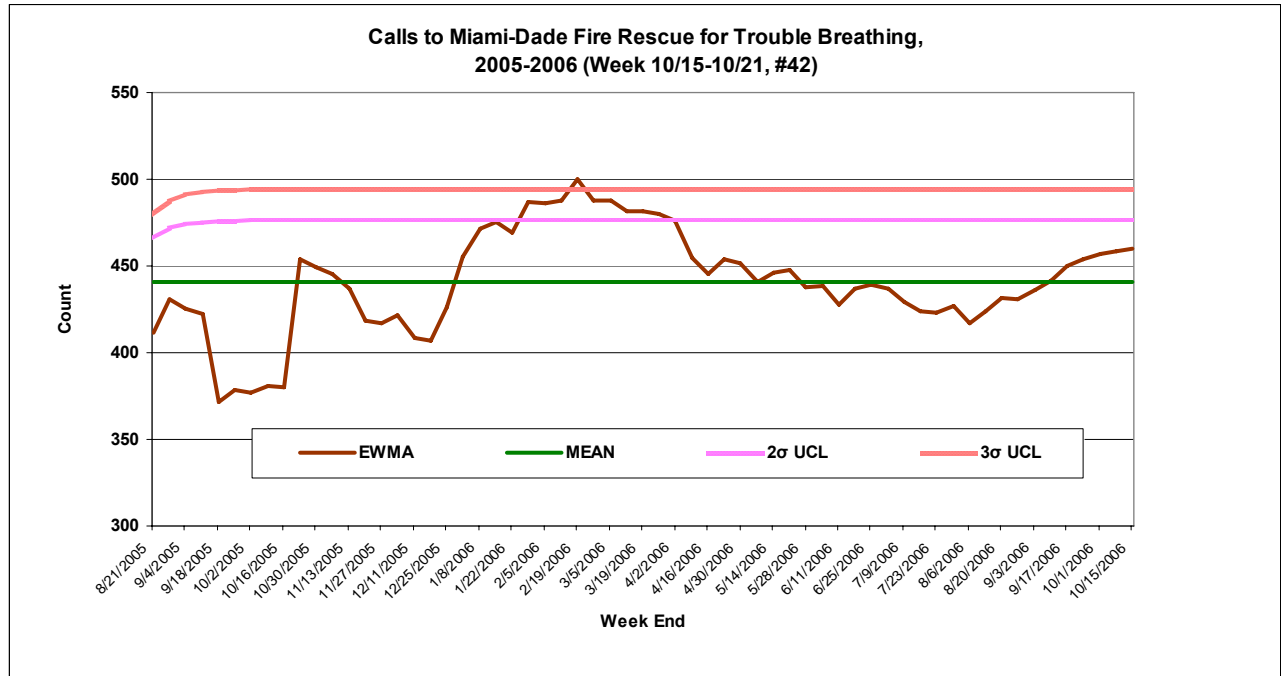
No statistically significant increases in influenza-like/respiratory illness were observed during Week 42 (Week ending 10/21/06). Likewise, no influenza-like/respiratory illness outbreaks were reported.

Methods

An exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA) is calculated based on historical data from 2005 - 2006. EWMA is used to determine whether a process is in a state of statistical control and to detect shifts in the process average. The Upper Control Limits (UCL) are at 2 and 3 standard deviations above the mean. Increased activity is determined based on a threshold that is 2 standard deviations above the historical mean.

911 Surveillance

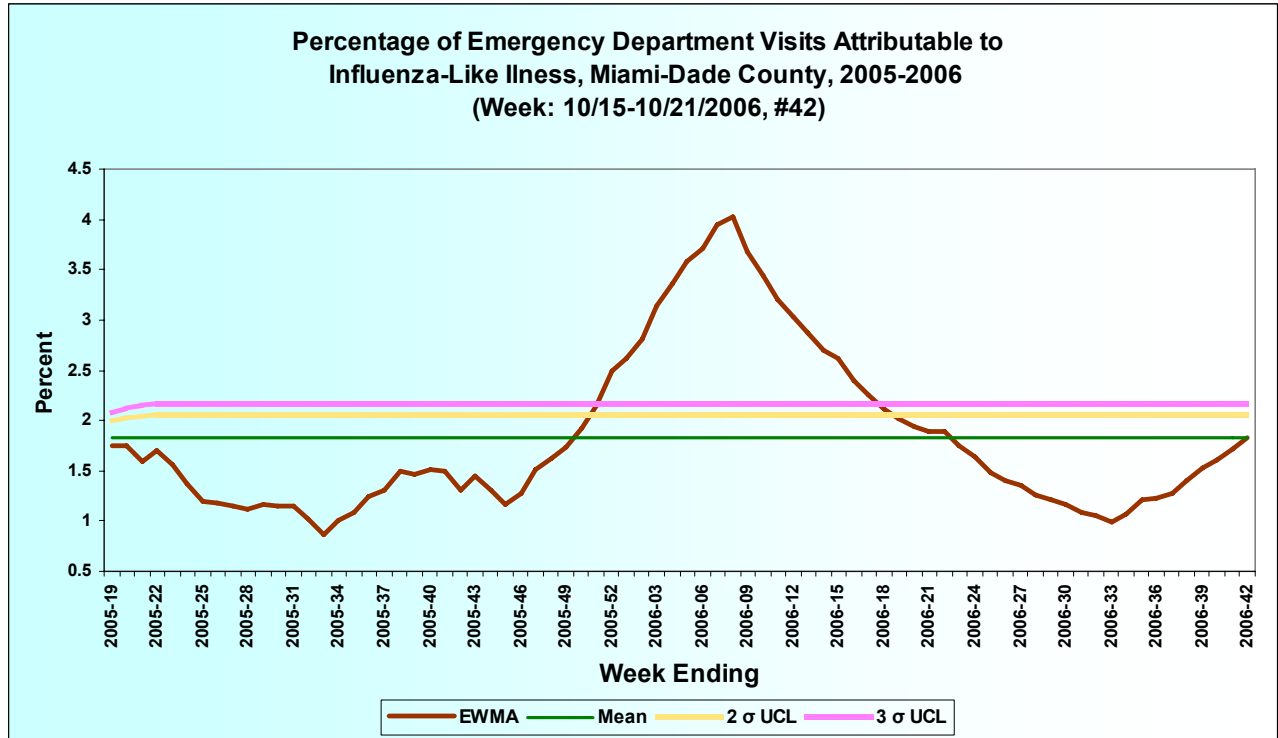
On a daily basis, the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control monitors 911 medical calls placed to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR). All medical calls are placed into categories by MDFR staff. The "trouble breathing" category is used to monitor respiratory illness.



There has been an increase in trouble breathing since September. Although the number of calls during Week 42 (Week Ending 10/21/06) was higher than the historical mean, this increase is not yet statistically significant, as the count is still within 2 standard deviations of the mean.

Hospital Emergency Department Surveillance

On a daily basis, selected Miami-Dade County hospitals electronically transmit hospital emergency department data to the Miami-Dade County Health Department. This data is then categorized into 10 distinct syndromes. The influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome consists of fever with either cough or sore throat. It can also include a chief complaint of “flu”. Each week, staff determine the percentage of all emergency department visits that fall into the ILI category.



During Week 42 (Week Ending 10/21/06), the percentage of Emergency Department Visits attributable to Influenza-Like Illness reached the same level as the historical mean. ILI activity has been increasing since August 2006. Overall ILI levels during Week 42 (Week Ending 10/21/06) were slightly higher than they were during the same week in 2005.

Outbreak Reports

No influenza-like/respiratory illness outbreaks were reported during Week 42 (Week ending 10/21/06).