



Miami-Dade County Health Department Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report Week 43: 10/22 – 10/28/2006

Contacts

Erin O'Connell, MPH
Erin_OConnell@doh.state.fl.us

Maria Bustamante, MPH
Maria_Bustamante@doh.state.fl.us

Phone: (305) 470-5660

Report Summary

The Week 43 Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report includes information from the following data sources:

1. 911 Surveillance
2. Hospital Emergency Department Surveillance
3. Outbreak Reports
4. Influenza Sentinel Physician Surveillance

Each reporting week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

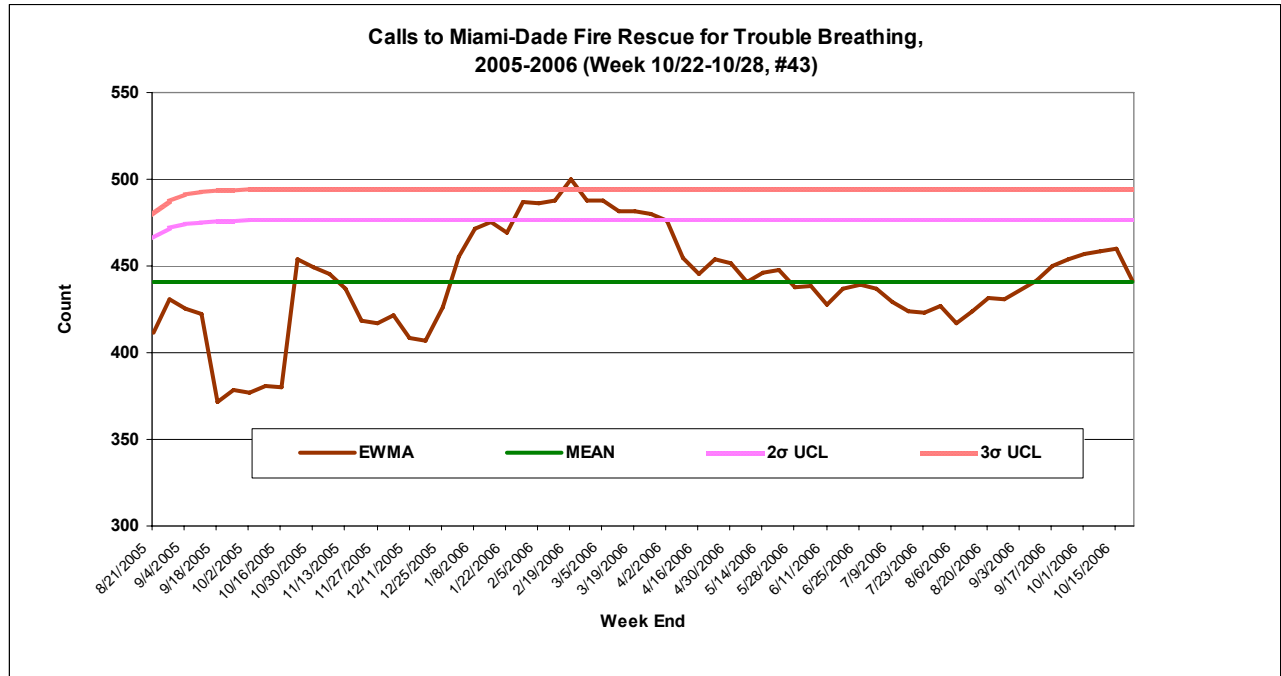
No statistically significant increases in influenza-like/respiratory illness were observed during Week 43 (Week ending 10/28/06). Likewise, no influenza-like/respiratory illness outbreaks were reported.

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

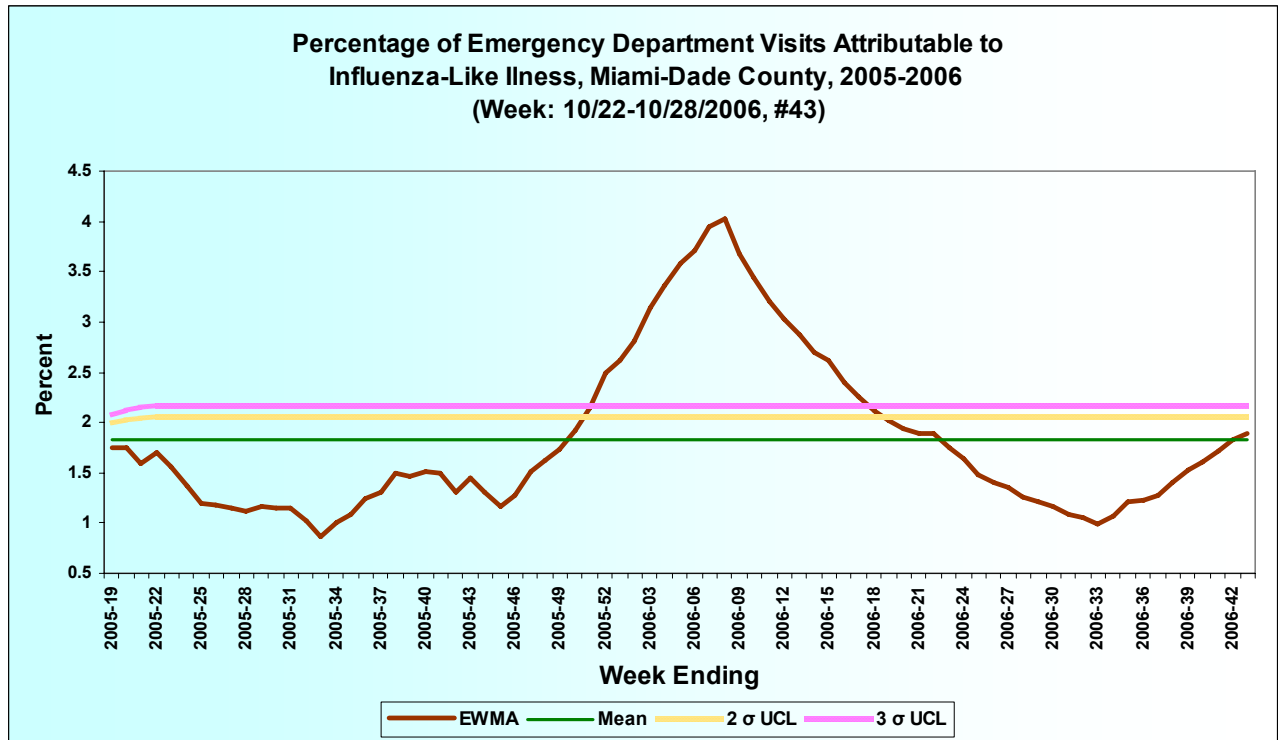
On a daily basis, the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control monitors 911 medical calls placed to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR). All medical calls are placed into categories by MDFR staff. The "trouble breathing" category is used to monitor respiratory illness.



During Week 43, the number of complaints to the 911 Call Center in the category of Trouble Breathing decreased from the previous week to the level 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 43 (Week Ending 10/28/06), the percentage of Emergency Department Visits attributable to Influenza-Like Illness slightly increased from the previous week to a level above the mean.

Outbreak Reports

No influenza-like/respiratory illness outbreaks were reported during Week 43 (Week ending 10/28/06).

Influenza Sentinel Physician Surveillance

An influenza sentinel provider conducts surveillance for Influenza-like illness (ILI) in collaboration with the Florida State Health Department Bureau of Epidemiology and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Data reported by sentinel providers, in combination with other influenza surveillance data, provides a national picture of influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. and Florida. Sentinel providers report the number of patient visits each week and number of patient visits for ILI by age group (0-4 years, 5-24 years, 25-64 years, and 65 years and above) year round. These data are transmitted once a week via the internet or via fax to a central database to CDC. In addition, sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients to the state laboratory for virus isolation free of charge. The CDC recommends that there is 1 physician reporting for every 250,000 population. Therefore, for Miami-Dade County's population of nearly 2.4 million,

there should be approximately 10 Influenza Sentinel Physicians enrolled. Miami-Dade County currently has 9 physicians enrolled and next month there will be a total of 12 physicians reporting. Providers of any specialty (e.g., family practice, internal medicine, pediatrics, infectious diseases) in any type of practice (e.g., private practice, public health, clinic, urgent care center, emergency room, university student health center) are eligible to be sentinel providers.

During Week 43, 5 of the 9 enrolled Influenza Sentinel Physicians reported to the CDC. A total of 2,021 patients were seen and 20 (0.99%) had Influenza-like Illness. This is lower than the 2.023% from the Emergency Department data in ESSENCE.

Age 0 -4	Age 5 – 24	Age 25 -64	65 +	Total Patients Seen	Total ILI	% ILI
7 (35.0%)	13 (65.0%)	0	0	2,021	20	0.99