



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2014

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Ohio's 2014-15 Flu Season to Date by the Numbers

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that the 2014-15 flu season may be severe because Influenza A (H3N2) is the predominant virus strain, leading to more severe illness and mortality, especially in older people and young children. Also, this year's flu vaccine isn't well-matched to two-thirds of H3N2 viruses circulating, reducing its effectiveness.
- During Week 51 (Dec. 14-20), Ohio had 935 new confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations – a dramatic increase over the previous week's 529 new hospitalizations.
- Ohio has had 1,919 such hospitalizations thus far during the 2014-15 flu season.
- Ohio had 331 such hospitalizations through Week 51 of last year's flu season (when the H3N2 influenza strain was NOT predominant).
- Ohio had 851 such hospitalizations through Week 51 of the 2012-13 flu season when H3N2 was also predominant. The number of such hospitalizations for that entire flu season exceeded 5,000.
- Among Ohio's confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations this year, 177 have been children age 4 or younger, and 929 have been adults age 65 or older. This [graph](#) shows the distribution of such hospitalizations by age group.
- By far, Cuyahoga County has the highest percentage (33.6%) of Ohio's confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations. This [chart](#) shows the number of such hospitalizations by county and its rate of hospitalization per 100,000 residents.
- Symptoms of influenza can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.
- Vaccination remains the best protection against the flu, its severity and potential serious complications.
- Other effective ways to avoid getting or spreading influenza include hand washing; covering coughs and sneezes; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth and staying home when sick until fever-free for 24 hours.
- More information about influenza, vaccination, prevention and flu activity in Ohio is available at www.flu.ohio.gov.

