



**Weekly Early Event Detection Report**  
**Week Ending Sept 15, 2018**  
**MMWR Week 37**

**Report Date** 9/20/2018 **Prepared by:** Ken Dufault    Kenneth.Dufault@dhhs.nh.gov / 603-271-5165

The purpose of this weekly report is to keep both internal and external partners informed of potential public health threats detected through several surveillance systems that are regularly monitored by IDSS staff. The effectiveness of a disease control response and, in turn, the ability to prevent illness can be directly related to how early a threat is detected.

**Over-the-Counter (OTC) Pharmaceutical Sales**

The IDSS receives automated data of OTC pharmaceuticals sales from a system, described below. Often people who are ill seek self-treatment from OTC medications before visiting a health care provider. Sales of OTC medications can be an early indicator of public health anomalies or community outbreaks, either natural or as a result of bioterrorism.

**Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance (RODS)**

- This OTC surveillance tool collects and analyzes daily sales data for OTC medications. IDSS receives automated data from 155 pharmacies statewide. Sales are categorized into 18 specific categories based on UPC codes. These categories include cough, cold, antidiarrheal, antifever and rash treatment medications. Data from select categories is provided in tables below.

**RODS - Weekly OTC Sales**

Medication Category	Antidiarrheal Remedies				Cough/Cold Remedies			
	34	35	36	37	34	35	36	37
MMWR Week								
5-Yr Average	1012	985	1003	939	15956	17157	18437	22563
Current	1075	1096	1075	1039	11478	12304	12647	17454

Watch values highlighted in orange are one standard deviation above the average

Warning values highlighted in red are two standard deviation above average

## Automated Hospital Emergency Department Data (AHEDD)

AHEDD automatically collects real-time Emergency Department (ED) electronic data from hospitals statewide using chief complaint text and diagnosis codes (ICD-10 codes). Queries categorize ED encounters, in real time, by syndrome and symptom based on the chief complaint text of each encounter. Most hospitals provide ICD-10 codes, which confirm a diagnosis, sometimes several days after a chief complaint. There are 26 acute care hospitals in the State participating in AHEDD.

### Weekly Activity by Syndrome\*

Syndromes	Hospitals	Cities and Towns
<b>Botulinic</b>	None	None
<b>Constitutional</b>	Concord, Elliot, Southern NH	Farmington, Goffstown, Keene, Londonderry, Merrimack, Nashua, Rindge, Somersworth
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	Elliot	Amherst, Bedford, Concord, Conway, Farmington, Goffstown, Hopkinton, Hudson, Jaffrey, Londonderry, Milford, Pelham, Peterborough, Plymouth, Swanzey
<b>Hemorrhagic</b>	Dartmouth Hitchcock, Elliot, Huggins, Monadnock	Manchester, Portsmouth
<b>Neurological</b>	None	Barrington, Hampstead, Keene, Londonderry, Meredith, Nashua, Raymond
<b>Rash</b>	Alice Peck Day, Elliot, Huggins, New London, St. Joseph	Manchester
<b>Respiratory</b>	Elliot, St. Joseph	Alton, Auburn, Bedford, Derry, Epping, Goffstown, Hillsborough, Hooksett, Jaffrey, Litchfield, Londonderry, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Peterborough, Raymond, Weare

\*Please note: Individual hospital information in this report is to be considered privileged and not intended to be made available to third parties or the general public.

**AHEDD encounters by reportable condition based on chief complaint text:** Chief complaint text is searched for clinical language associated with reportable disease conditions, bioterrorism agents, and chemical terrorism agents.

- Meningitis x 2 (2 ruled out), Varicella (confirmed)

**AHEDD encounters based on ICD-10 codes:** As diagnostic codes are assigned to an encounter, select codes associated with reportable diseases, bioterrorism agents, or chemical terrorism agents are identified. Not all hospitals are currently providing ICD-10 data.

- Babesiosis (ruled out), Ehrlichiosis (historical), Giardiasis (suspect), Lyme x 10 (5 pending, 3 suspect, 1 confirmed, 1 ruled out), Streptococcus pneumonia (ruled out), Varicella (confirmed in NHEDSS)

## School Absenteeism

Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, an influenza-like illness (ILI) web-reporting tool for NH schools was implemented to better evaluate trends of ILI in communities over time. All public schools voluntarily report daily aggregate counts for student absenteeism and those absent for ILI. Student absenteeism and student ILI rates, reported by county, are posted on the DHHS website each week at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/influenza/schoolsurveillance.htm>

Student Absenteeism	Overall Rate	Number of Schools Reporting	Percentage Reporting	Previous Week's Overall Rate
<b>Total Absenteeism</b>	3.40	66	10%	3.83
<b>Influenza-Like-Illness</b>	0.20	23	3%	0.10

### Death Certificate Surveillance

NH DHHS partners with the NH Division of Vital Records Administration to receive NH death records for surveillance purposes. Through the death certificate surveillance database, IDSS has the ability to track pneumonia and influenza deaths, as well as deaths from communicable diseases and other potential public health threats. Total numbers adjusted for causes other than influenza we are monitoring.

Deaths	Calendar Year	New Detections	Individuals
<b>Influenza Related</b>			
	<b>2018</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>61</b>
	2017		<b>47</b>
	2016		<b>28</b>
	2015		<b>54</b>
	2014		<b>15</b>

### Seasonal Reports

These are emergency department visits reported through AHEDD searching for clinical language associated with heat/cold related injuries and exposure (hyper/hypothermia) and carbon monoxide exposure. The search tool has been validated with ICD-10 codes.

Encounter	Calendar Year	New Detections	Individuals	Clusters
<b>Heat Related</b>				
	<b>2018</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>171</b>	
	<b>2017</b>		<b>72</b>	
	2016		105	
	2015		85	
	2014		52	
<b>Cold Related</b>				
	<b>2018</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74</b>	
	<b>2017</b>		<b>97</b>	
	2016		129	
	2015		152	
	2014		87	
<b>Carbon Monoxide</b>				
	<b>2018</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>2017</b>		<b>99</b>	<b>11</b>
	2016		70	7
	2015		135	13
	2014		98	11

### Allergen Levels

**Predominant pollen:** Information comes from <http://www.pollen.com/state.asp?id=nh>, which provides daily allergy updates that are qualitative and quantitative results that aid in identifying health care risk. Scale is from a low of 0 to a high of 12. Currently Grasses, Ragweed and Nettle are top allergens (5 day average 0.5 – 4.2)

### **Syndromic Definitions**

**Botulinic** - ocular abnormalities (diplopia, blurred vision, photophobia), difficulty speaking (dysphonia, dysarthria, slurred speech), and difficulty swallowing (dysphagia).

**Constitutional** - non-localized, systemic problems including fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms (viral syndrome), weakness, fatigue, anorexia, malaise, lethargy, sweating (diaphoresis), light headedness, faintness and fussiness. Shaking (not chills) is Other and not Constitutional.

**Gastrointestinal** - pain or cramps anywhere in the abdomen, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal distension or swelling.

**Hemorrhagic** - bleeding from any site, e.g., vomiting blood (hematemesis), nose bleed (epistaxis), hematuria, gastrointestinal bleeding (site unspecified), rectal bleeding, and vaginal bleeding. Bleeding from a site for which there is a syndrome is classified as Hemorrhagic and as the relevant syndrome (e.g., Hematochesia is Gastrointestinal and Hemorrhagic; hemoptysis is Respiratory and Hemorrhagic).

**Neurological** - non-psychiatric complaints which relate to brain function. Included are headache, head pain, migraine, facial pain or numbness, seizure, tremor, convulsion, loss of consciousness, syncope, fainting, ataxia, confusion, disorientation, altered mental status, vertigo, concussion, meningitis, stiff neck, tingling and numbness. (Dizziness is both Constitutional and Neurological.)

**Other** - pain or process in a system or area not being monitored. For example, flank pain most likely arising from the genitourinary system would be considered Other. Chest pain with no mention of the source of the pain is considered Other (e.g., chest pain (Other) versus pleuritic chest pain (Respiratory)). Earache or ear pain is Other. Trauma is Other.

**Rash** - any description of a rash, such as macular, papular, vesicular, petechial, purpuric, or hives. Ulcerations are not normally considered Rash unless consistent with cutaneous anthrax (an ulcer with a black eschar).

**Respiratory** - problems of the nose (coryza) and throat (pharyngitis), as well as the lungs. Examples of Respiratory include congestion, sore throat, tonsillitis, sinusitis, cold symptoms, bronchitis, cough, shortness of breath, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and pneumonia. The presence of both cold and flu symptoms are Respiratory and not Constitutional.

Note: This report follows the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) the report starts on a Sunday and ends on a Saturday.