The percentage of patients with ILI reported in Week 40 was 0.22% as compared to 0.13% in Week 39. Eight specimens from Week 40 were tested for the presence of influenza or other respiratory viruses; none were positive for influenza, one specimen tested positive for rhinovirus.

Sentinel sites should submit specimens year-round
SPN sites should submit specimens from ALL patients meeting the ILI case definition at this time.

Specimens are critical to be able to TRACK, DETECT and SELECT:
• track the geographic spread and intensity of seasonal influenza viruses
• detect the emergence of novel influenza viruses or of antiviral resistance in circulating viral strains and
• provide data for vaccine strain selections.

Surveillance is performed year-round on patients meeting the ILI case definition (up to 10 per week). If you have questions, contact your regional or state SPN representative. Please use the TDH specimen submission form dated Sep 2013.
Reference Information for Sentinel Provider Network

1. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as fever > 100°F (37.8°C) plus cough and/or sore throat, in the absence of a known cause (other than influenza). Classification of ILI is based upon symptoms only and does not require any test.

2. The % of patients with ILI seen in each region is compared to the statewide average. Regions with % statistically-significantly different from the state average are noted as “higher” or “lower.” The CDC reports that the percentage of patients visiting outpatient healthcare providers in the Sentinel Provider Network (SPN) with influenza-like-illness (ILI) when influenza viruses are not circulating is expected to fall at or below a specific SPN baseline [nationwide = 2.2%, East South Central region (AL, TN, MS, KY) = 2.3%]. When the percentage of patients with ILI exceeds this baseline, this suggests that influenza viruses may be circulating.

**Important information for Sentinel Providers**

Sentinel Providers report ILI by the end of Tuesday following the end of the reporting week (www2a.cdc.gov/ilinet) and collect and ship specimens from ILI cases Monday through Thursday (maximum 10/week per provider). All Sentinel Provider specimens MUST be accompanied by the Influenza and Respiratory Viral Panel Submission form or testing will not be done. The Respiratory Viral Panel is only validated for nasopharyngeal (NP) specimens. Specimens collected from other sites cannot be tested.

Additional laboratory supplies can be obtained by completing the lab order supply form. To ensure the order is filled, please include the CDC Provider ID Code.

**Contact Information**

Submit weekly reports to: http://www2a.cdc.gov/ilinet/ OR Fax 888-232-1322

State Lab: Dr. Amy Woron (Molecular Biology, PCR) 615-262-6362
Jim Gibson (Virology, Respiratory Viral Panel) 615-262-6300

SPN Questions:
State: Robb Garman 800-404-3006 OR 615-741-7247
County/Region: Regional SPN Coordinator (see map)