MARYLAND
Department of Health

Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness Report: #2020:50

Reporting for the week ending 12/12/20 (MMWR Week #50)

December 18th, 2020

CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS
National: **No Active Alerts**
Maryland: **ENHANCED (MEMA status)**

SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE REPORTS

ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics): Graphical representation is provided for all syndromes (excluding the "Other" category; see Appendix 1) by Health and Medical Regions (See Appendix 2). Emergency department chief complaint data is presented as rates per 100,000 residents using data from the 2010 census. Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Baltimore, MD: Maryland Department of Health; 2020.

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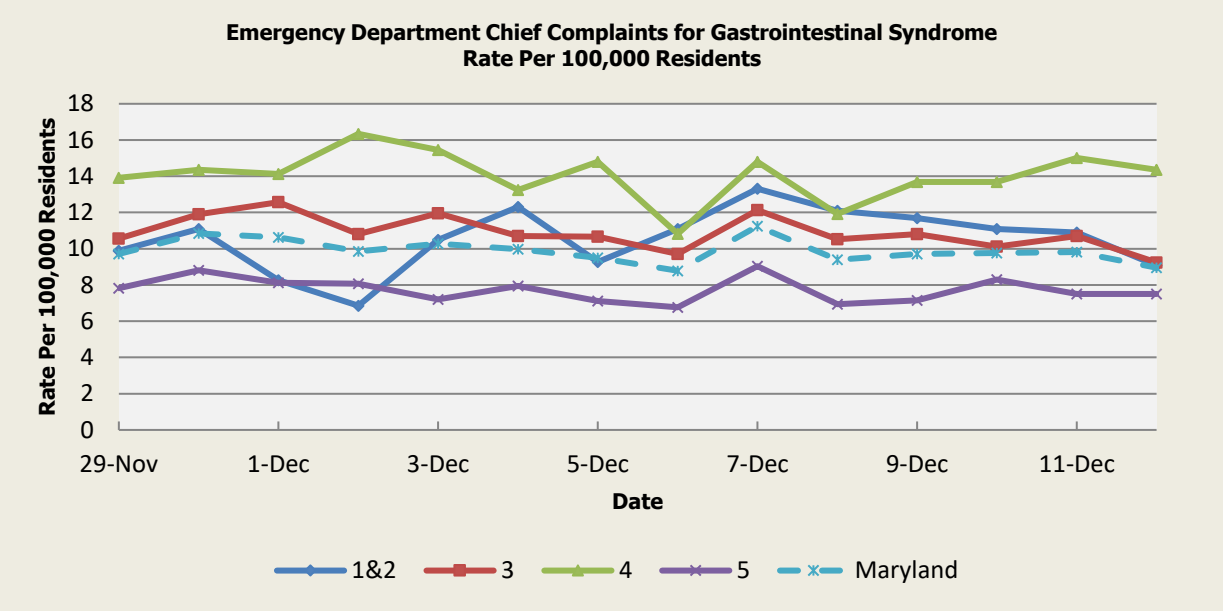
Gastrointestinal Syndrome



There were no Gastrointestinal Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

	Gastrointestinal Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	13.19	14.83	15.84	10.12	12.97
Median Rate*	13.11	14.69	15.46	10.08	12.92

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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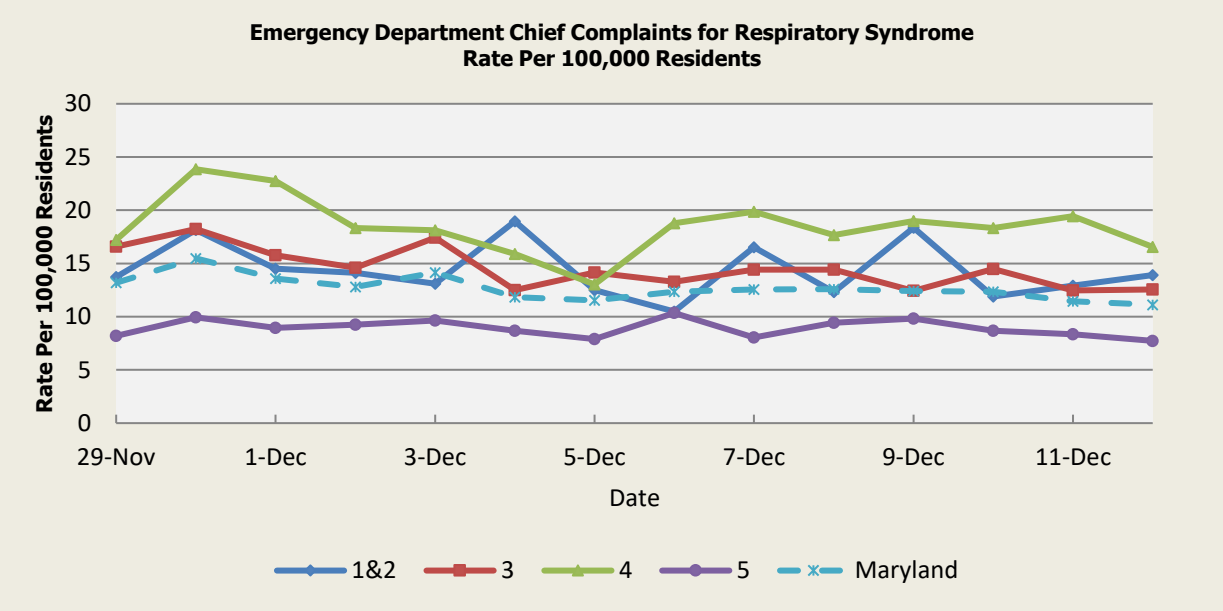
Respiratory Syndrome



There were one hundred and seventy-six (176) Respiratory Syndrome outbreaks reported this week: twenty-one (21) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities (Regions 1&2,3,5), four (4) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Behavioral Health Facilities (Regions 3,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in Correctional Facilities (Region 3), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Crisis Intervention Center (Region 3), twenty-six (26) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Daycare Centers (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Dialysis Center (Regions 1&2), fifty-seven (57) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Group Homes (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), twenty-two (22) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Hospitals (Regions 1&2,3,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in an Independent Living Facility (Region 5), eight (8) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (Regions 3,4,5), three (3) outbreak of COVID-19 in Outpatient Facilities (Region 3), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Community Organization (Regions 1&2), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Religious Organization (Region 5), seven (7) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Schools (Regions 3,5), three (3) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Shelters (Regions 3,5), eleven (11) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Substance Use Treatment Programs (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), seven (7) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Workplaces (Regions 3,4,5) and one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Youth transition program (Region 5).

	Respiratory Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	12.45	14.75	15.19	9.98	12.76
Median Rate*	12.10	14.10	14.35	9.60	12.21

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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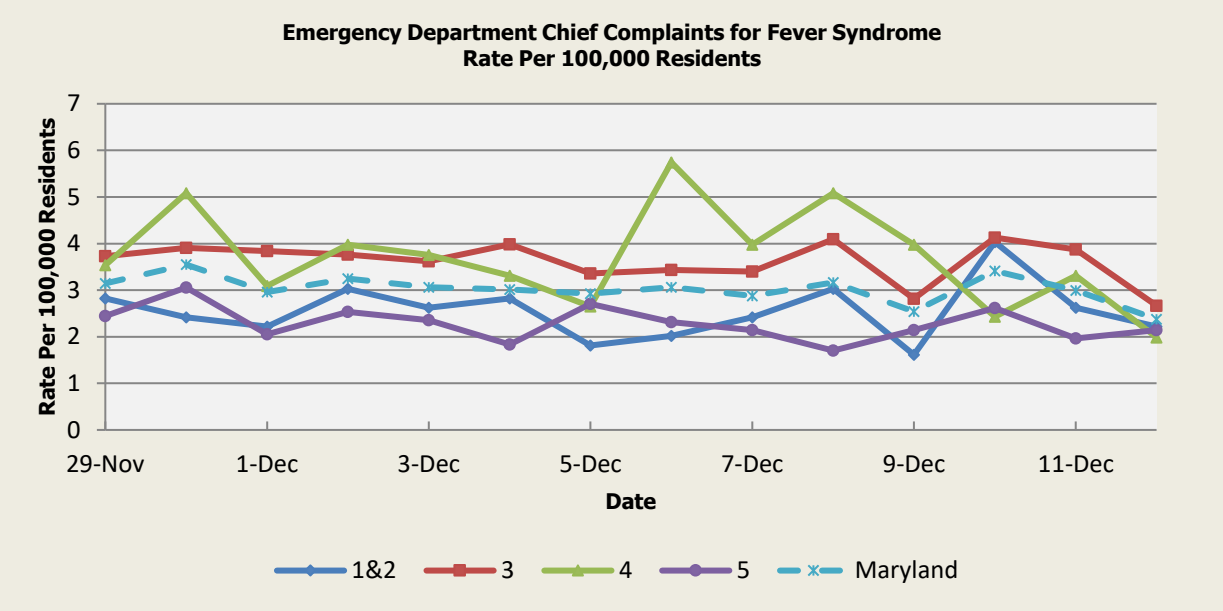
Fever Syndrome



There were no Fever Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

	Fever Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.05	3.90	4.13	3.03	3.51
Median Rate*	2.82	3.76	3.97	2.92	3.38

**Per 100,000 Residents*

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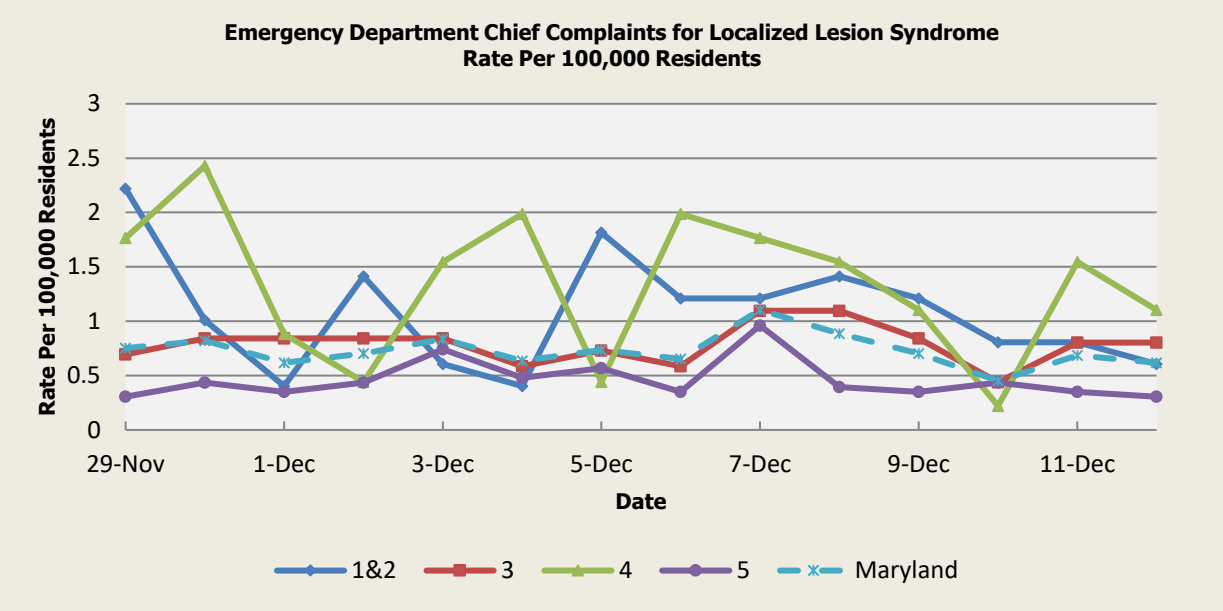
Localized Lesion Syndrome



There were no Localized Lesion Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

	Localized Lesion Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.16	1.70	1.98	0.87	1.36
Median Rate*	1.01	1.64	1.99	0.83	1.32

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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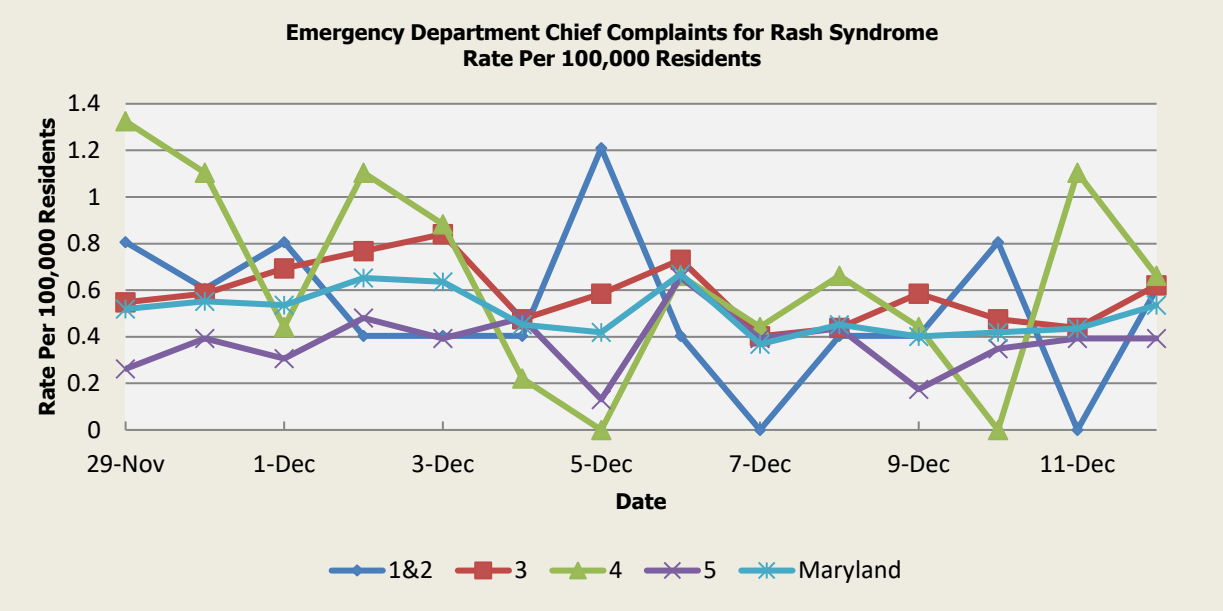
Rash Syndrome



There were no Rash Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

	Rash Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.20	1.59	1.69	0.93	1.31
Median Rate*	1.21	1.53	1.55	0.87	1.27

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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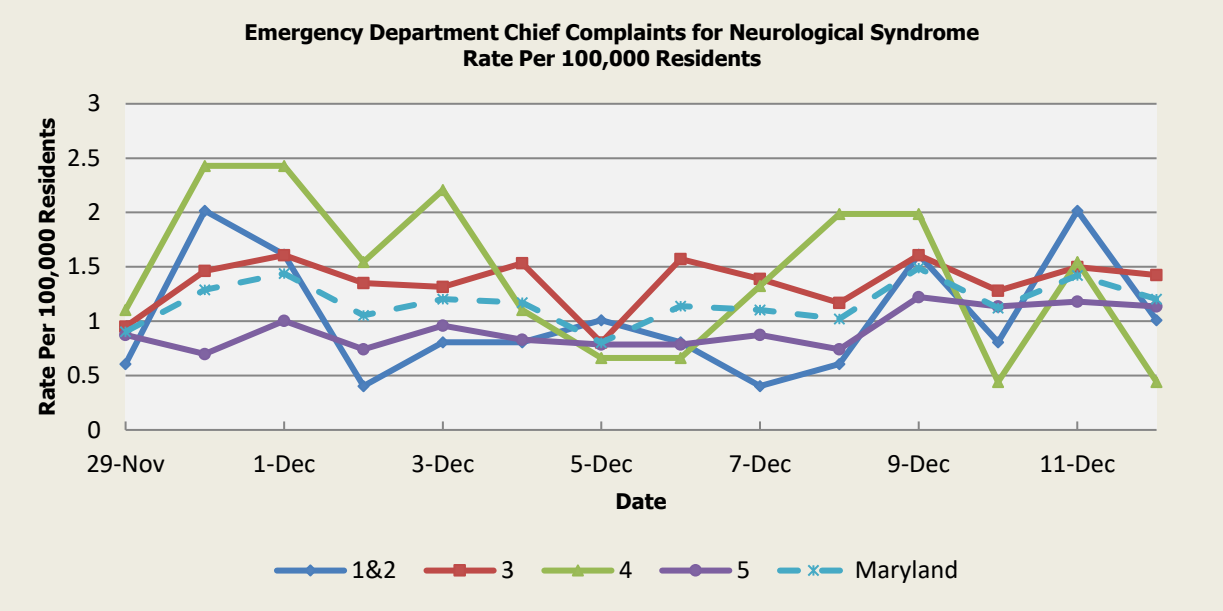
Neurological Syndrome



There were no Neurological Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

	Neurological Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.82	1.01	0.93	0.65	0.85
Median Rate*	0.81	0.95	0.88	0.61	0.80

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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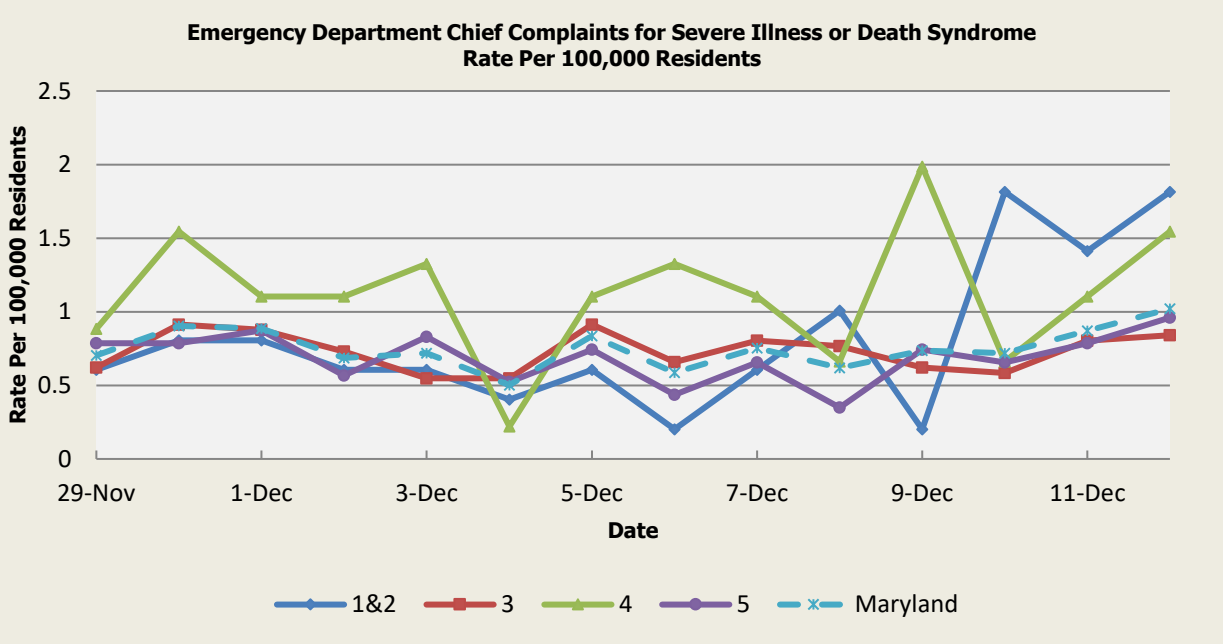
Severe Illness or Death Syndrome



There were no Severe Illness or Death Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

	Severe Illness or Death Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.65	0.88	0.84	0.54	0.73
Median Rate*	0.60	0.84	0.88	0.52	0.70

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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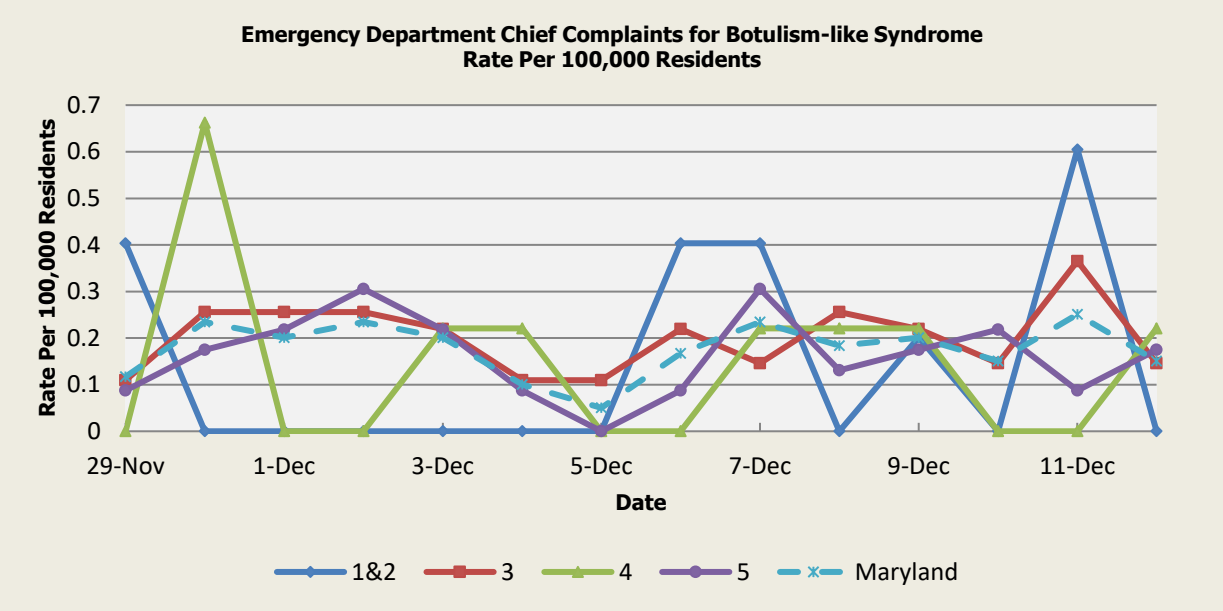
SYNDROMES RELATED TO CATEGORY A AGENTS

Botulism-like Syndrome



There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Botulism-like Syndrome on 11/29 (Regions 1&2), 11/30 (Region 4), 12/01 (Region 5), 12/02 (Region 5), 12/03 (Regions 4,5), 12/4 (Region 4), 12/06 (Regions 1&2), 12/07 (Regions 1&2,4,5), 12/08 (Region 4), 12/09 (Regions 1&2,4), 12/10 (Region 5), 12/11 (Regions 1&2,3), 12/12 (Region 4). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

	Botulism-like Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.08	0.13	0.06	0.09	0.11
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.10

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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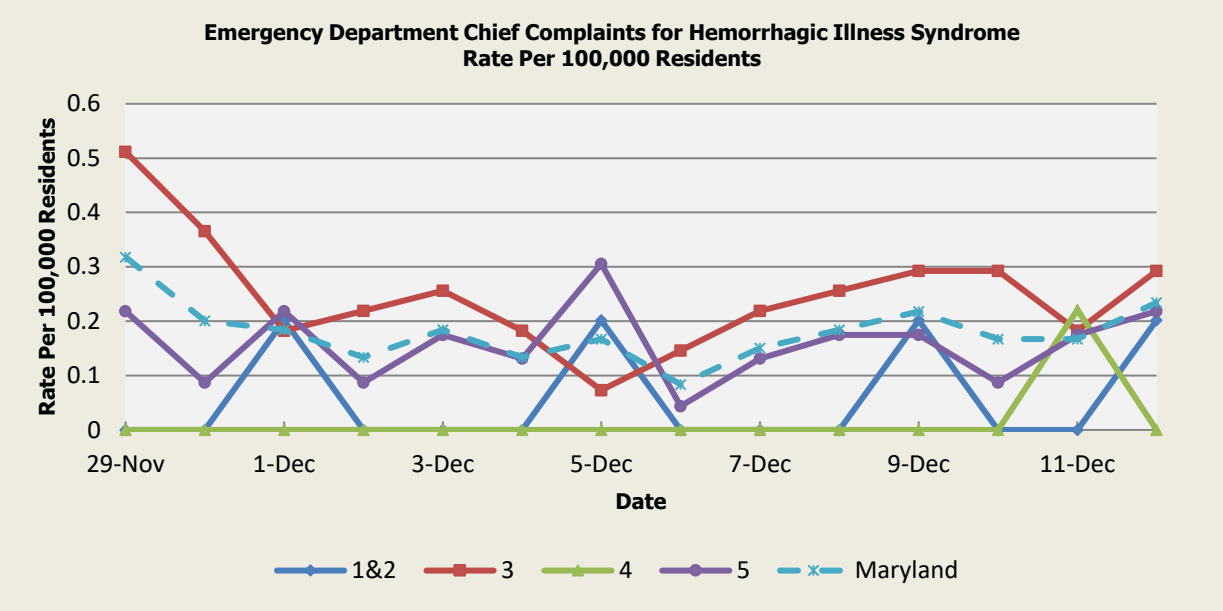
Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome



There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome on 11/29 (Region 3), 11/30 (Region 3), 12/01 (Regions 1&2), 12/05 (Regions 1&2,5), 12/09 (Regions 1&2), 12/12 (Regions 1&2). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

	Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.05	0.17	0.04	0.15	0.14
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.10

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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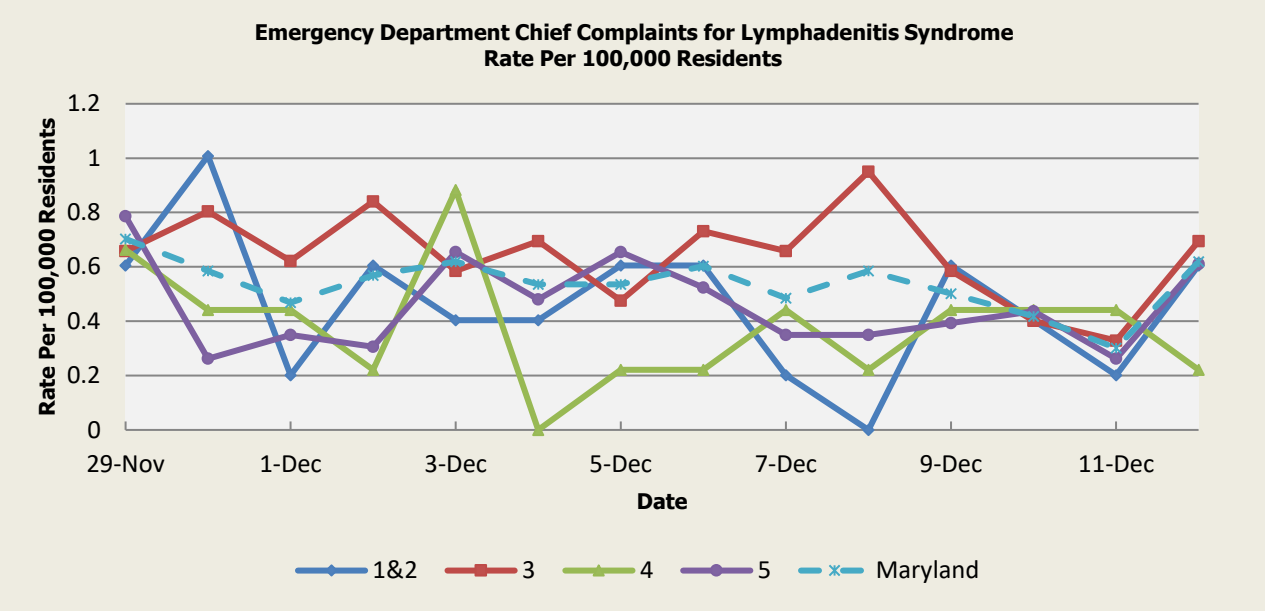
Lymphadenitis Syndrome



There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Lymphadenitis Syndrome on, 11/30 (Regions 1&2), 12/3 (Region 4). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

	Lymphadenitis Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.40	0.60	0.41	0.40	0.49
Median Rate*	0.40	0.55	0.44	0.35	0.47

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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MARYLAND REPORTABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Summary

On March 5th, 2020, the Maryland Department of Health announced the first cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (abbreviated COVID-19) in the State of Maryland.

Confirmed COVID-19 Case Counts in Maryland by County (As of December 18th, 2020)

County	Number of Confirmed Cases
Allegany	4,983
Anne Arundel	21,223
Baltimore City	29,020
Baltimore County	35,283
Calvert	1,968
Caroline	1,195
Carroll	4,468
Cecil	3,024
Charles	5,383
Dorchester	1,212
Frederick	9,380
Garrett	1,258
Harford	7,590
Howard	10,027
Kent	613
Montgomery	41,172
Prince George's	49,565
Queen Anne's	1,406
Somerset	1,549
St. Mary's	2,867
Talbot	999
Washington	6,457
Wicomico	4,095
Worcester	1,816
Total	**246,553**

The most up-to-date information may be found on the Maryland Department of Health website at https://coronavirus.maryland.gov.

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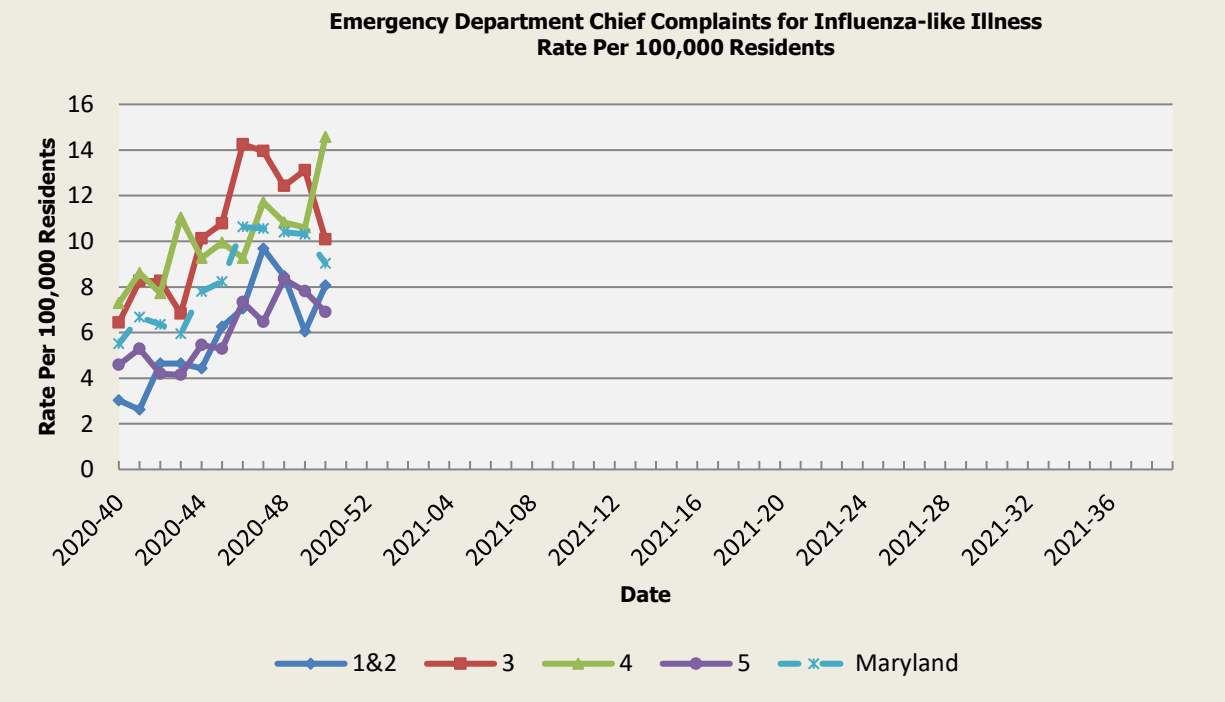
SYNDROMIC INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Seasonal Influenza reporting occurs from MMWR Week 40 through MMWR Week 20 (October 2020 through May 2021). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, influenza reporting will be extended to the beginning of the 2021-2022 reporting season (MMWR Week 40/Week Ending October 9, 2021).

Seasonal Influenza activity for Week 50 was: Minimal

Influenza-like Illness



	Influenza-like Illness Baseline Data Week 1 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	10.24	14.08	13.40	11.84	12.85
Median Rate*	7.66	10.41	9.50	8.73	9.49

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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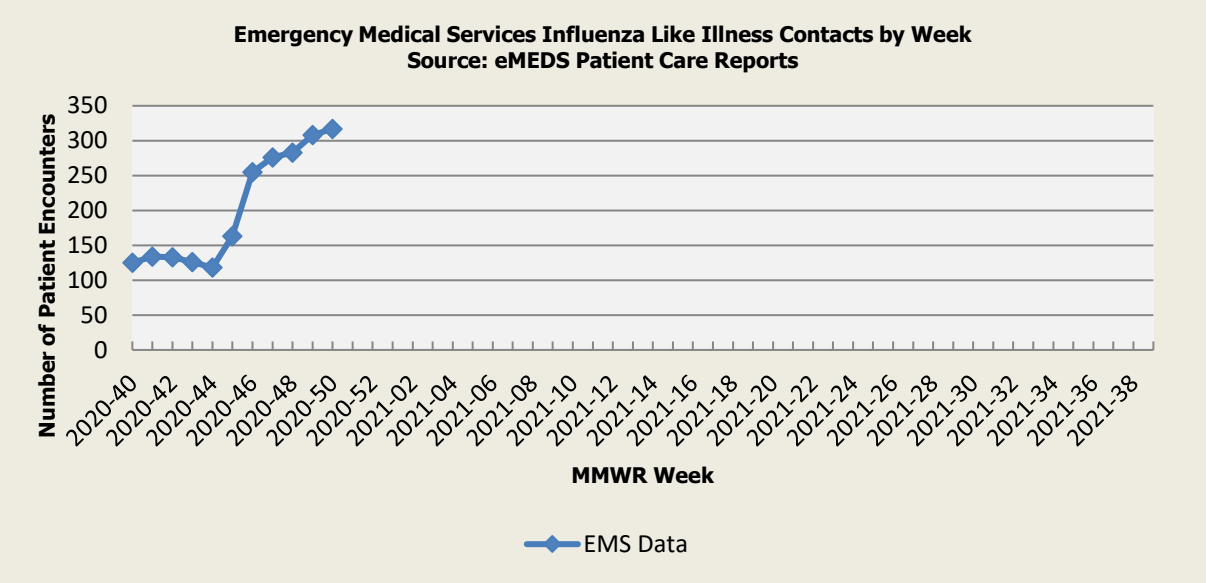
Influenza-like Illness Contacts by Week



Disclaimer on eMEDS flu related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected "flu like illness" as a primary or secondary impression of a patient's illness. This impression is solely based on the signs and symptoms seen by the provider, not on any diagnostic tests. Since these numbers do not include all primary or secondary impressions that may be seen with influenza the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

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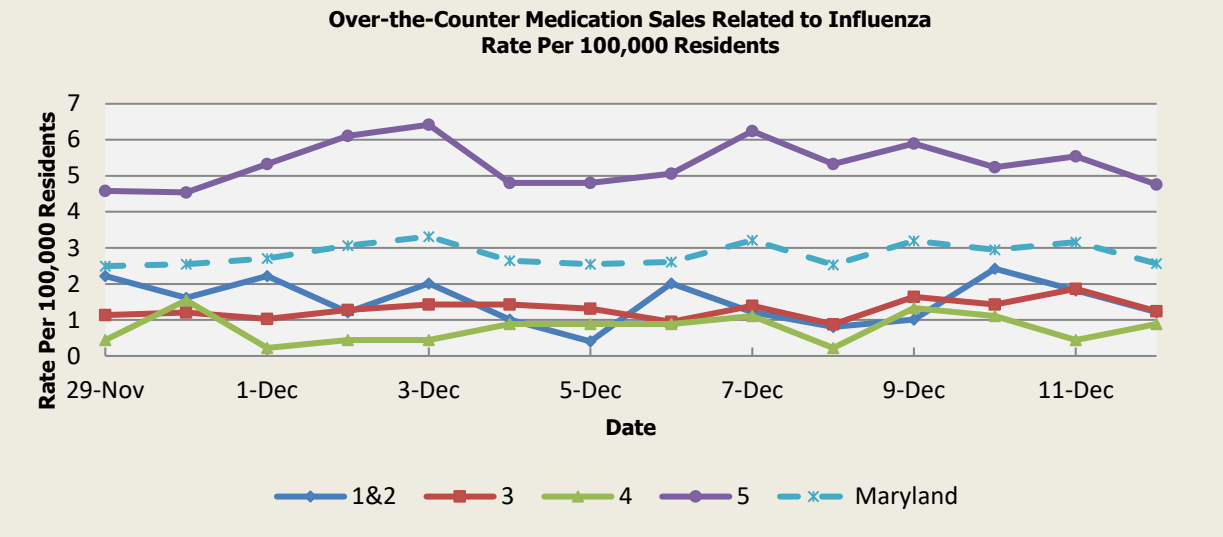
Over-the-Counter Influenza-Related Medication Sales



There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Medication Sales during this reporting period.

	OTC Medication Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.25	4.15	2.54	7.47	5.23
Median Rate*	2.62	3.18	2.21	6.59	4.42

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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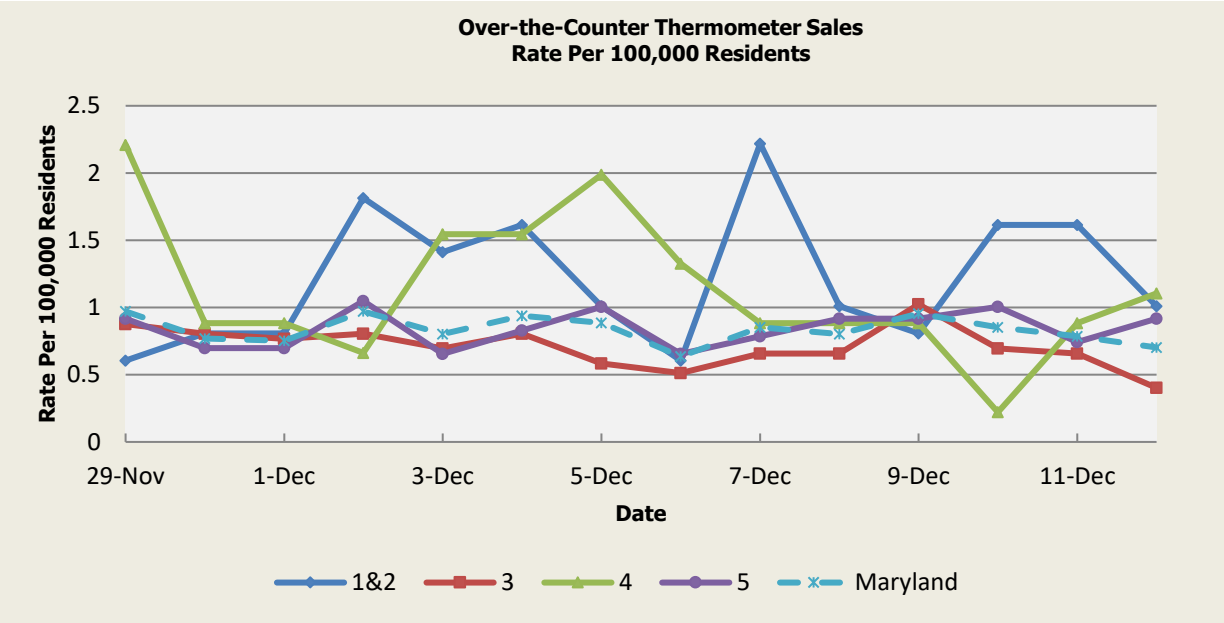
Over-the-Counter Thermometer Sales



There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Thermometer Sales during this reporting period.

	Thermometer Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present				
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	2.72	2.57	2.10	3.41	2.87
Median Rate*	2.42	2.52	1.99	3.41	2.89

** Per 100,000 Residents*

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SYNDROMIC OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE

The purpose of this section is to characterize non-fatal ED visit trends for acute unintentional overdose by Heroin, Opioid or Unspecified substance among Maryland residents captured by ESSENCE data, including chief complaint and discharge diagnosis. ED visits that are identified as unintentional overdose by Heroin, Opioid or Unspecified substance include those with medical and non-medical use of a prescription Opioid or where the substance is not specified, given evidence that most fatal overdoses are Opioid-related.

In preparation for the release of new ESSENCE queries for identifying heroin, opioid and all drug overdoses, please note that we have removed the data chart showing unintentional overdose rates by heroin, opioid, or unspecified substances. These new data, when available, will be presented below.

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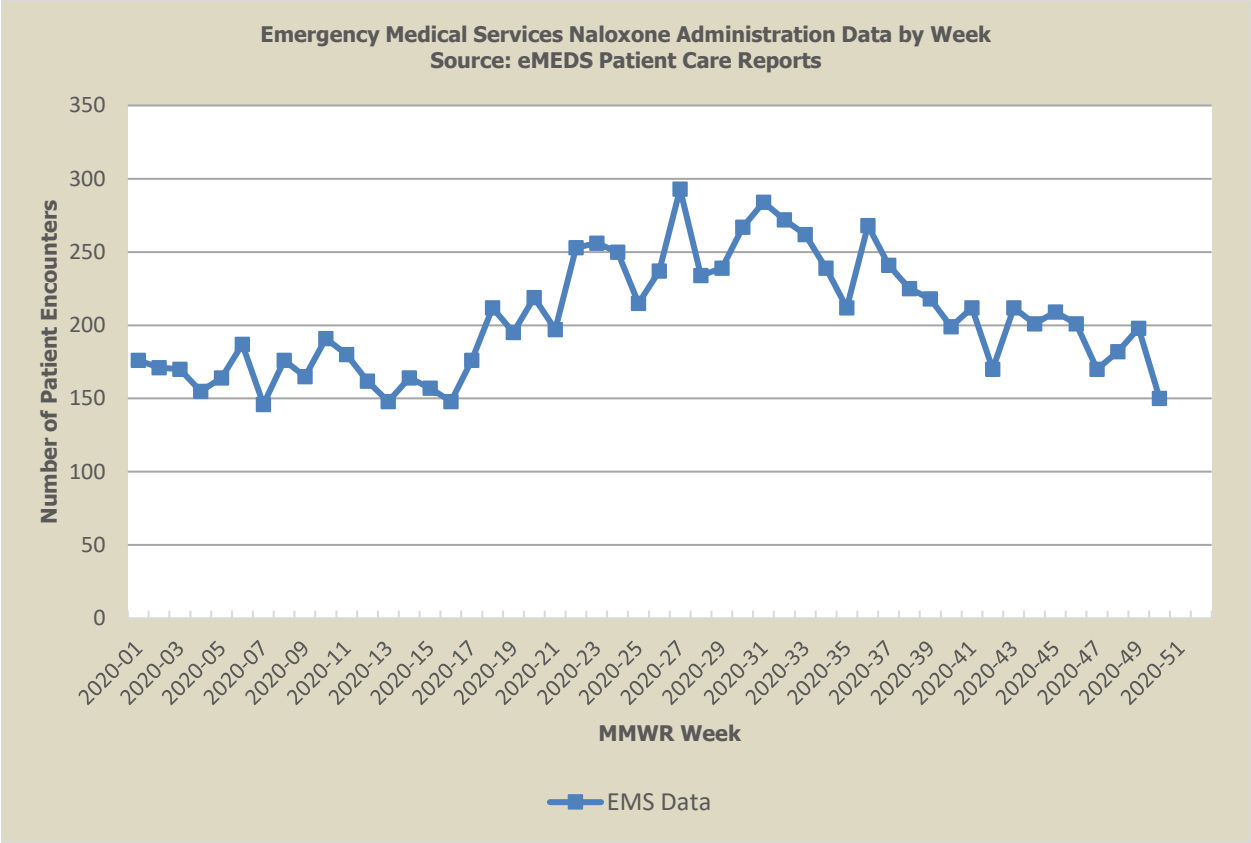
Naloxone Administration Data by Week



Disclaimer on eMEDS naloxone administration related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

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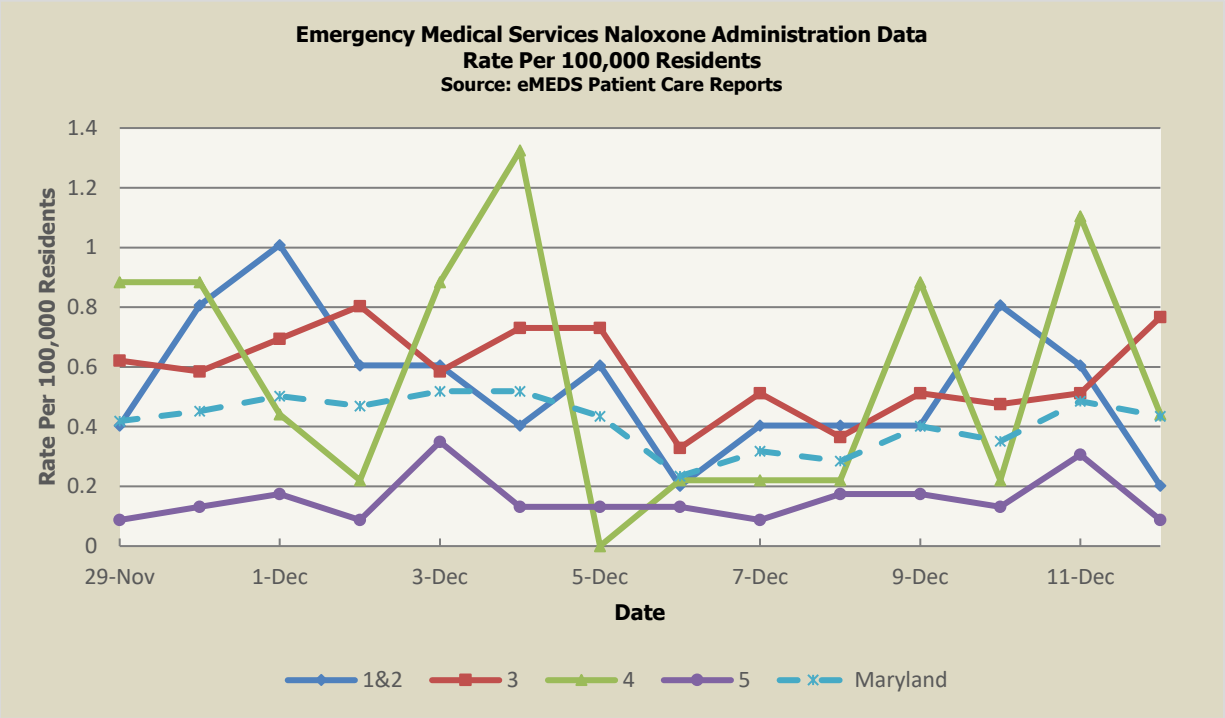
Naloxone Administration Data



Disclaimer on eMEDS Naloxone administration related data: These data are based on EMS Pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has documented that they administered naloxone. The administration of naloxone is based on the patient's signs and symptoms and not on any diagnostic tests. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

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PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE / AVIAN INFLUENZA-RELATED REPORTS

WHO update: The current WHO phase of pandemic alert for avian influenza is ALERT. Currently, the avian influenza H5N1 virus continues to circulate in poultry in some countries, especially in Asia and northeast Africa. This virus continues to cause sporadic human infections with some instances of limited human-to-human transmission among very close contacts. There has been no sustained human-to-human or community-level transmission identified thus far.

Influenza A (H7N9) is one of a subgroup of influenza viruses that normally circulate among birds. Until recently, this virus had not been seen in people. However, human infections have now been detected. Presently, there is limited information about the scope of the disease the virus causes and about the source of exposure. The disease is of concern because most patients have been severely ill. There is no indication thus far that it can be transmitted between people, but both animal-to-human and human-to-human routes of transmission are being actively investigated.

Alert phase: This is the phase when influenza caused by a new subtype has been identified in humans. Increased vigilance and careful risk assessment, at local, national, and global levels are characteristic of this phase. If the risk assessments indicate that the new virus is not developing into a pandemic strain, a de-escalation of activities towards those in the interpandemic phase may occur. As of December 18th, 2020, the WHO-confirmed global total (2003-2020) of human cases of H5N1 avian influenza virus infection stands at 861, of which 455 have been fatal. Thus, the case fatality rate for human H5N1 is approximately 53%.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA (JAPAN), 15 December 2020, Japan has reported outbreaks of H5 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry. Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8021132

AVIAN INFLUENZA (IRELAND, GERMANY), 14 December 2020, Information received on [and dated] Fri 11 Dec 2020 from Dr. Martin Blake, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Agriculture House, Dublin, Ireland, Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8018047

AVIAN INFLUENZA (NETHERLANDS), 14 December 2020, Information received on [and dated] 14 Dec 2020 from Dr. Christianne Bruschke, Chief veterinary officer, Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Hague, Netherlands. Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8017821

AVIAN INFLUENZA (POLAND, WALES), 11 December 2020, Information received on [and dated] 10 Dec 2020 from Dr. Bogdan Konopka, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, General Veterinary Inspectorate, Warsaw, Poland. Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8010816

HUMAN AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA (CHINA), 15 December 2020, Chinese health authorities report a human case of avian influenza A(H5N6) in an 81-year-old female farmer from Changzhou of Jiangsu Province. Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8016080

NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (MULTISTATE), 12 December 2020. The Food and Drug Administration on Friday [11 Dec 2020] issued an emergency authorization for a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and its German partner, BioNTech, a seminal moment in the effort to curb a pandemic that has so far infected an estimated 16 million people and killed nearly 300 000 in the USA. Read More https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8012530

INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

MEASLES UPDATE (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO), 17 December 2020, The DRC's Ministry of Health declared a measles outbreak in the country on 10 Jun 2019, presenting it as the deadliest outbreak in the country since the 2010-2011 outbreak which caused at least 210 deaths according to Médecins Sans Frontières. Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8024447

POLIOMYELITIS UPDATE (SIERRA LEONE), 15 December 2020, Sierra Leone's Minister of Health, Dr. Alpha Wurie, has confirmed 3 new polio cases in Sierra Leone for the 1st time in 10 years. He said the cases were recorded in Kambia, Tonkolili, and Western Area Rural District. Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8021230

UNDIAGNOSED HEMORRHAGIC FEVER (CHINA), 12 December 2020, Today (9 Dec [2020]), the First News reporter learned from the Office of Health Care in Linwei District, Weinan City, that there have recently been more cases of hemorrhagic fever in the district, causing harm to people's production, life, and health. Read More: https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8011971

OTHER RESOURCES AND ARTICLES OF INTEREST

More information concerning Public Health and Emergency Preparedness can be found at the Office of Preparedness and Response website: http://preparedness.health.maryland.gov/ or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MarylandOPR.

More data and information on influenza can be found on the MDH website: http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/Pages/Home.aspx

Please participate in the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System (MRITS): http://flusurvey.health.maryland.gov

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NOTE: This weekly review is a compilation of data from various surveillance systems, interpreted with a focus on a potential BT event. It is not meant to be inclusive of all epidemiology data available, nor is it meant to imply that every activity reported is a definitive BT event. International reports of outbreaks due to organisms on the CDC Critical Biological Agent list will also be reported. While not "secure", please handle this information in a professional manner. Please feel free to distribute within your organization, as you feel appropriate, to other professional staff involved in emergency preparedness and infection control.

For questions about the content of this review or if you have received this and do not wish to receive these weekly notices, please e-mail us. If you have information that is pertinent to this notification process, please send it to us to be included in the routine report.

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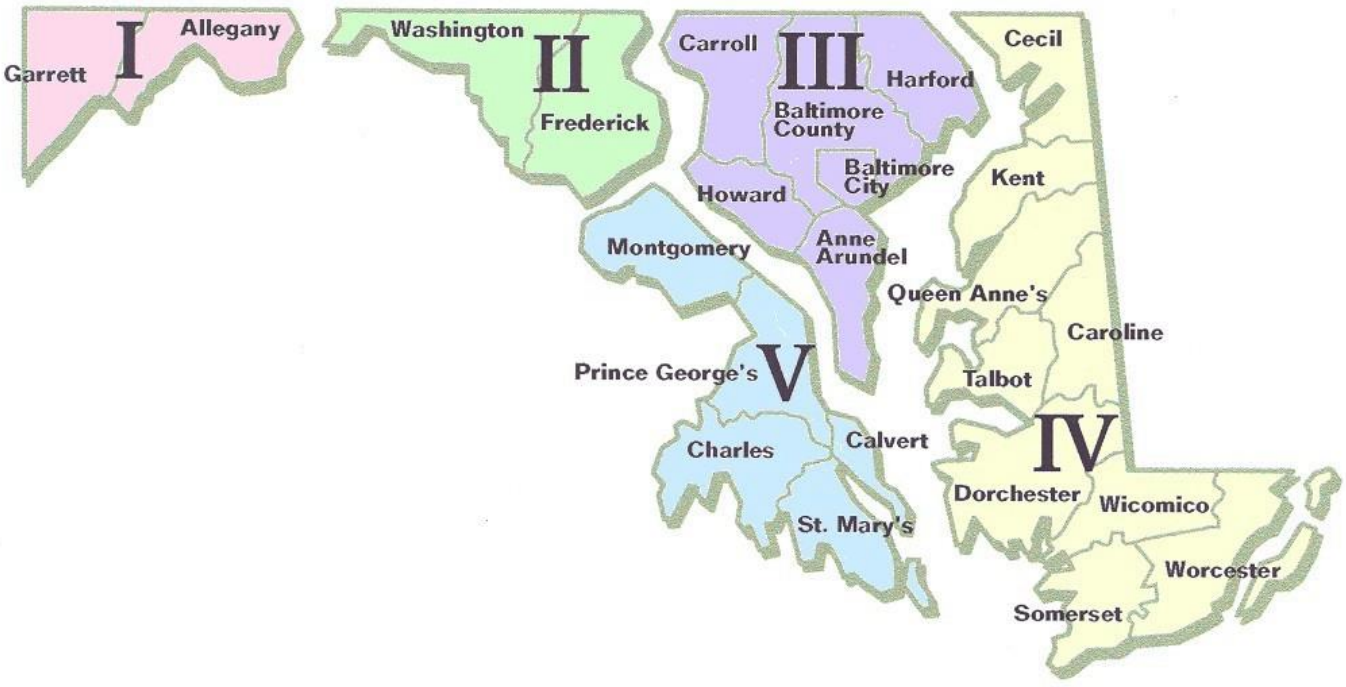
Appendix 1: ESSENCE Syndrome Definitions and Associated Category A Conditions

Syndrome	ESSENCE Definition	Category A Conditions
Botulism-like	(Botulism or (DifficultyFocusing and DifficultySpeaking) or (DifficultySpeaking and DifficultySwallowing) or (DifficultySwallowing and DifficultyFocusing) or DoubleVision or FacialParalysis or GuillainBarre or Ptosis) and not GeneralExclusions	Botulism
Fever	(Chills or (FeverPlus and (Drowsiness or Seizure)) or FeverOnly or SepsisGroup or ViralSyndrome) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Gastrointestinal	(AbdominalCramps or AbdominalPainGroup or Diarrhea or FoodPoisoning or Gastroenteritis or GIBleeding or Peritonitis or Vomiting) and not (GeneralExclusions or Gynecological or Obstetric or Reproductive or UrinaryTract)	Anthrax (gastrointestinal)
Hemorrhagic Illness	(FeverOrChills and (AcuteBloodAbnormalitiesGroup or BleedingFromMouth or BleedingGums or GIBleeding or Hematemesis or Hemoptysis or Nosebleed or Petechiae or Purpura)) and not GeneralExclusions	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever
Localized Lesion	(Boils or Bump or Carbuncle or DepressedUlcer or Eschar or Furuncle or InsectBite or SkinAbscess or (SkinSores and not AllOverBody) or SkinUlcer or SpiderBite) and not (GeneralExclusions or Decubitus or Diabetes or StasisUlcer)	Anthrax (cutaneous) Tularemia
Lymphadenitis	(BloodPoisoning or Bubo or CatScratchDisease or SwollenGlands) and not GeneralExclusions	Plague (bubonic)
Neurological	(([Age<75] and AlteredMentalStatus) or (FeverPlus and (Confusion or Drowsiness or Petechiae or StiffNeck)) or Delirium or Encephalitis or Meningitis or UnconsciousGroup) and not GeneralExclusions	N/A
Rash	(ChickenPox or Measles or RashGeneral or Roseola or (Rubella and not Pregnancy) or Shingles or (SkinSores and AllOverBody) or Smallpox) and not GeneralExclusions	Smallpox
Respiratory	(Anthrax or Bronchitis or (ChestPain and [Age<50]) or Cough or Croup or DifficultyBreathing or Hemothorax or Hypoxia or Influenza or Legionnaires or LowerRespiratoryInfection or Pleurisy or Pneumonia or RespiratoryDistress or RespiratoryFailure or RespiratorySyncytialVirus or RibPain or ShortnessOfBreath or Wheezing) and not (GeneralExclusions or Cardiac or (ChestPain and Musculoskeletal) or Hyperventilation or Pneumothorax)	Anthrax (inhalational) Tularemia Plague (pneumonic)
Severe Illness or Death	CardiacArrest or CodeGroup or DeathGroup or (Hypotension and FeverPlus) or RespiratoryArrest or SepsisGroup or Shock	N/A

Appendix 2: Maryland Health and Medical Region Definitions

Health and Medical Region	Counties Reporting to ESSENCE
Regions 1 & 2	Allegany County Frederick County Garrett County Washington County
Region 3	Anne Arundel County Baltimore City Baltimore County Carroll County Harford County Howard County
Region 4	Caroline County Cecil County Dorchester County Kent County Queen Anne's County Somerset County Talbot County Wicomico County Worcester County
Region 5	Calvert County Charles County Montgomery County Prince George's County St. Mary's County