



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis Schrader, Secretary

## Weekly Cold-related Illness Surveillance Report

January 3, 2018

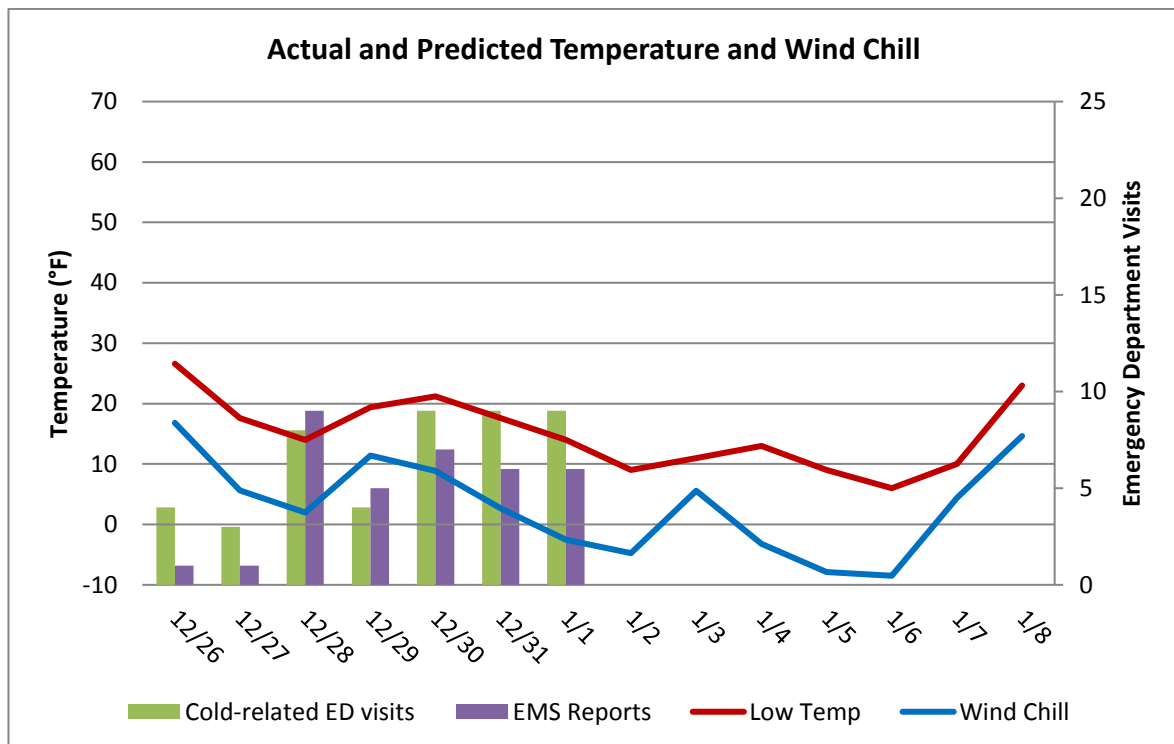
Reporting for December 26, 2017 to January 1, 2018

### National Weather Service Forecast:

Winter Storm Watch for Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore

**Wind Chill Advisories Declared During the Previous Week: 3**

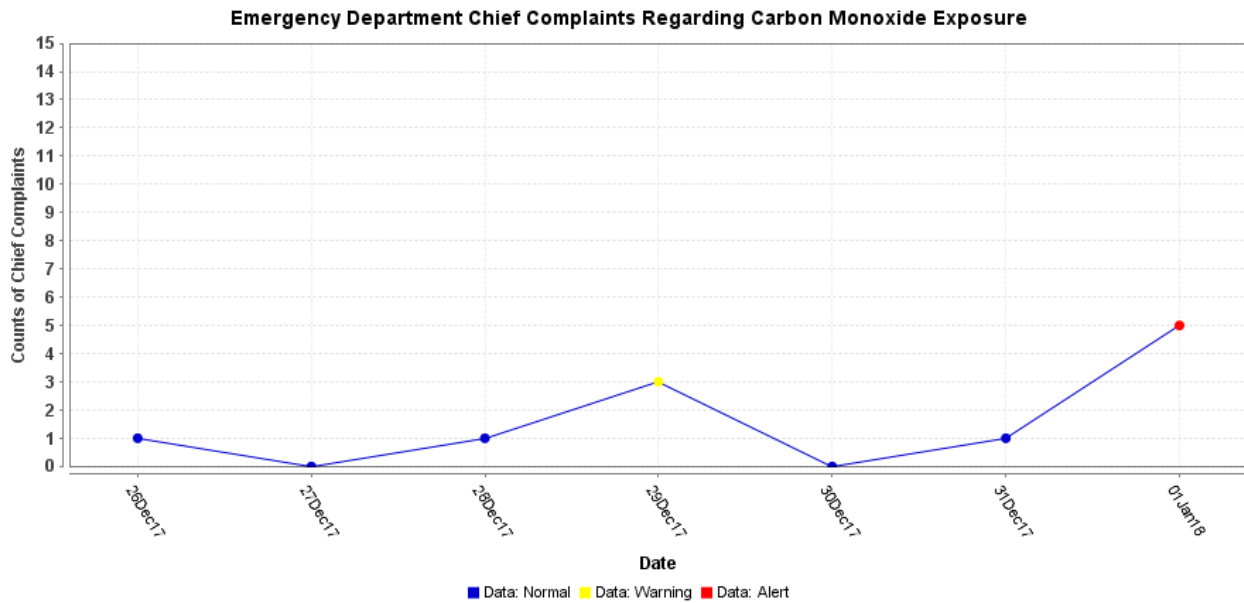
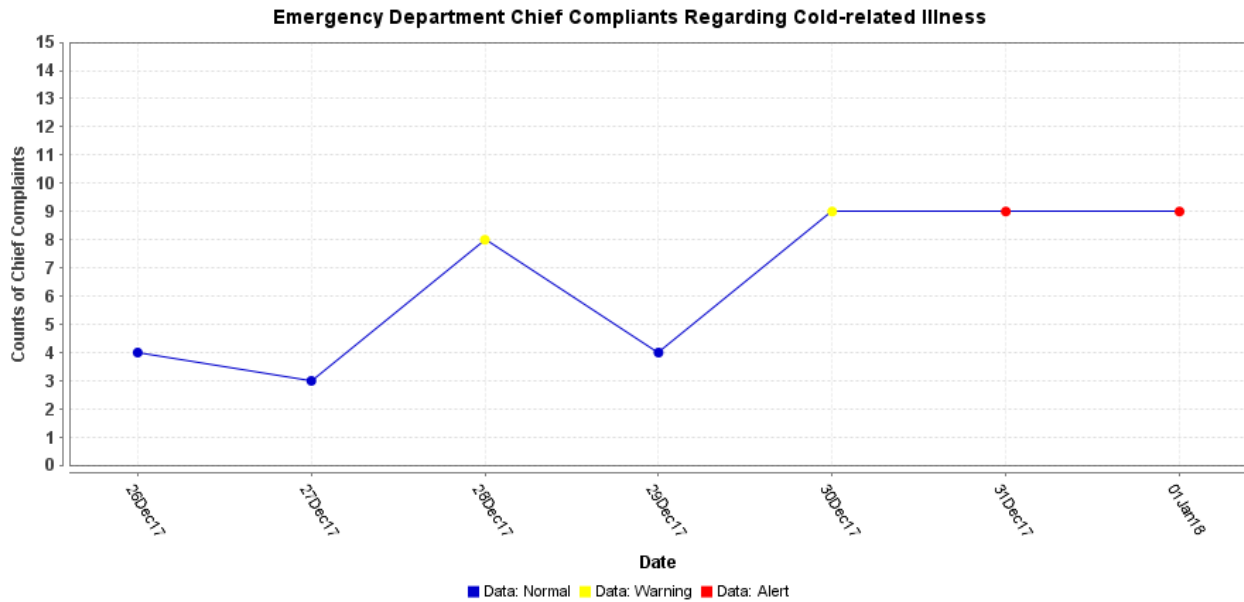
**Total Wind Chill Advisories Declared This Winter: 6**



Wind Chill is only calculated for temperatures below 50°F and wind speeds above 3 mph

**Note on Emergency Department Data:** The results from the query used in ESSENCE, an electronic biosurveillance system, to track cold-related illnesses may be an overestimation of the actual burden of illness related to the cold weather. This overestimation is due to the nature of the query, which includes the term hypothermia and frostbite.

**Note on EMS Data:** These data are based on EMS pre-hospital care reports where the EMS provider has selected hypothermia as a primary or secondary impression 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 cold exposure, the actual numbers may be low. These data are reported for trending purposes only.

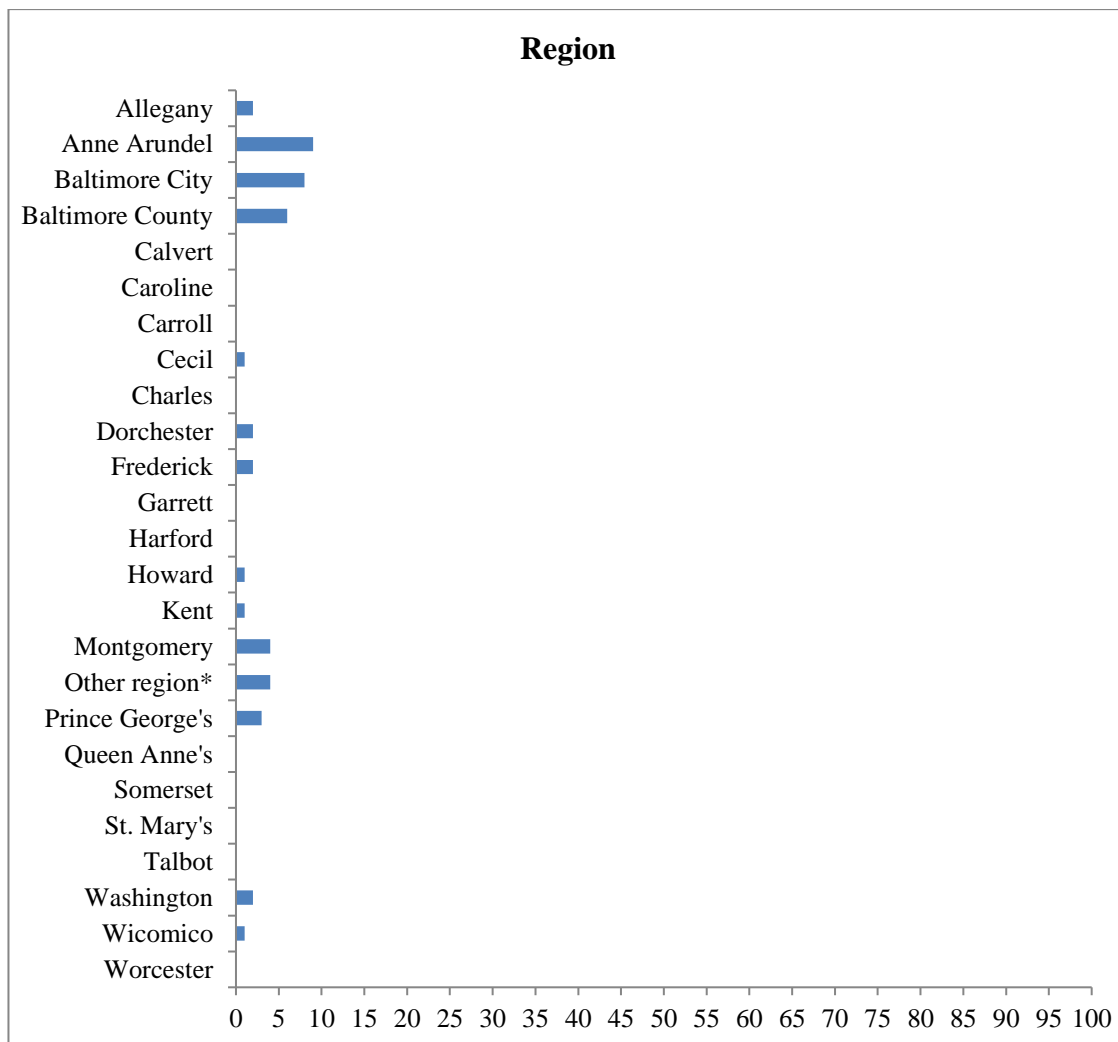


Date	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illness	Number of Chief Complaints Regarding Carbon Monoxide Exposure
December 26	4	1
December 27	3	0
December 28	8	1
December 29	4	3
December 30	9	0
December 31	9	1
January 1	9	5

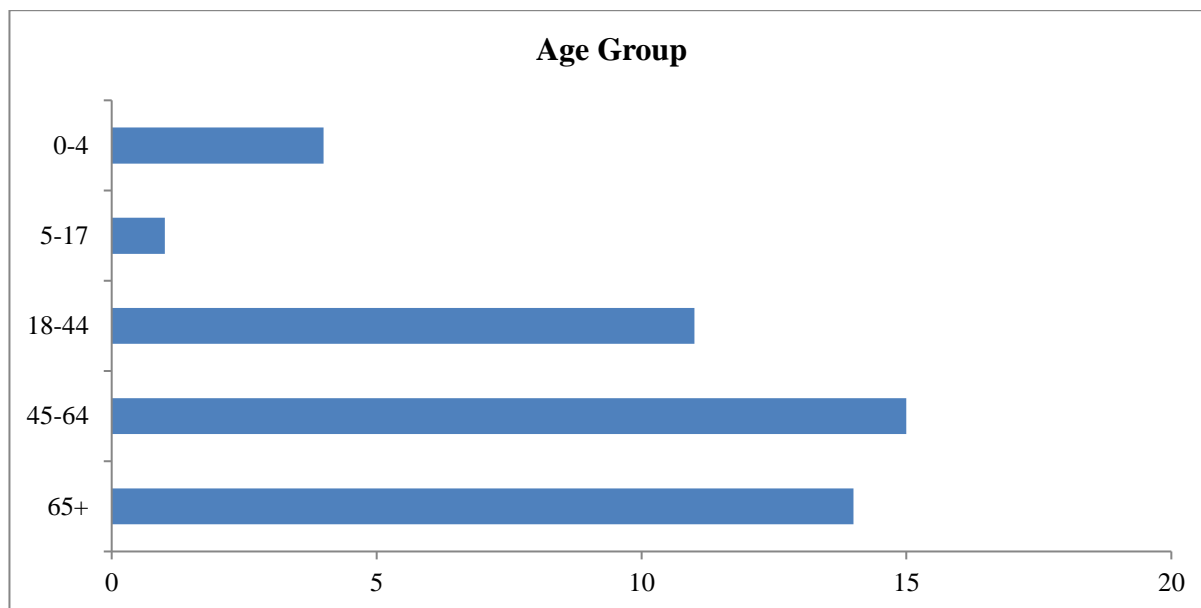
**\*Note: ESSENCE chief complaint query for cold-related illness contains the following terms: frostbite, frostnip, hypothermia, chilblain, and trench foot**

There was one chief complaint cluster identified this week regarding carbon monoxide exposure. The respective jurisdiction has followed up on this cluster.

**Geographical and Age Group Distribution of Emergency Department Chief Complaints Regarding Cold-related Illnesses for December 26, 2017 through January 1, 2018**



\*Geographical distribution of emergency department chief complaints is based on patients' jurisdictions of residence. The "Other Region" category includes patient records without a ZIP code and patients who reside outside of Maryland.



Total Number of Cold-related Deaths	Jurisdiction*	Age Group	Gender
5	Baltimore City	Unknown	Female
	Montgomery	45-64 Years Old	Male
	Garrett	65+ Years Old	Female
	Cecil**	65+ Years Old	Male
	Baltimore City**	65+ Years Old	Male

\*Refers to the jurisdiction where the death occurred. \*\*Refers to a newly listed death

There were two cold-related deaths reported this week.

There have been five cold-related deaths during the reporting period this winter. Three deaths were suspected or presumed homeless individuals.

For media inquiries, please contact the Office of Communications: [410-767-6490](tel:410-767-6490)

**Wind Chill Advisory/Warning Criteria:** The National Weather Service issues a Wind Chill Advisory for projected wind chill factors of -5°F to -25°F, and a Wind Chill Warning when the projected wind chill is for -25° or less.

**Suspected Homeless Death Data:** Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Field Investigators use the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [homeless definition](#) to determine suspected homeless deaths. Homeless deaths are listed as suspected due to the limited information available to the Field Investigators at the time of investigation, which may result in some misclassifications.

For more information about extreme cold and emergency preparedness, follow the Office of Preparedness and Response on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Prepared by:**

Office of Preparedness and Response  
Maryland Department of Health  
300 W. Preston Street, Suite 202  
Baltimore, MD 21201

<http://preparedness.health.maryland.gov>

Kristin A. McMenamin, MS  
Special Projects Coordinator  
Office: 410-767-6201

Email: [Kristin.McMenamin@maryland.gov](mailto:Kristin.McMenamin@maryland.gov)

Adejare Atanda, DDS, MPH, CPH  
Biosurveillance Epidemiologist

Office: 410-767-5668

Email: [Adejare.Atanda@maryland.gov](mailto:Adejare.Atanda@maryland.gov)

Jessica Goodell  
Epidemiology Field Assignee  
Office: 410-767- 6745

Email: [Jessica.Goodell@maryland.gov](mailto:Jessica.Goodell@maryland.gov)

Sara Barra, MS  
Chief Planner

Office: 410-767- 8438

Email: [Sara.Barra@maryland.gov](mailto:Sara.Barra@maryland.gov)

Joseph Anelli, MS  
Emergency Operations Manager  
Office: 410-767-6434

Email: [Joseph.Anelli@maryland.gov](mailto:Joseph.Anelli@maryland.gov)

Carin Morrell  
Public Information Officer  
Office: 410-767-0590

Email: [Carin.Morrell@maryland.gov](mailto:Carin.Morrell@maryland.gov)