



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2017

Contact: Office of Communications 614-644-8562

Flu-Related Hospitalizations Remain at High Level

2016-2017 Flu Season by The Numbers

- During Week 7 (Feb. 12-18), Ohio had 742 new confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations – a continued increase from the previous week’s 576 new hospitalizations.
- Ohio has had 3,388 such hospitalizations thus far during the 2016-17 flu season.
- Ohio has had five pediatric flu deaths so far this season. A 6-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl from Columbiana County, a 7-year-old girl in Fulton County, a 6-year-old girl in Cuyahoga County and a 9-year-old boy from Marion County.
- Among Ohio’s confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations this year, 171 have been children age 4 or younger, and 2,014 have been adults age 65 or older.
- Symptoms of influenza can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), emergency warning signs of flu sickness in children include; fast breathing, fever with a rash, bluish skin color, not drinking enough fluids, not waking up or interacting, and flu symptoms improve but return with a fever and a severe cough.
- Vaccination remains the best protection against the flu, its severity and potential serious complications.
- The CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. You should stay home from work, school, travel, shopping, social events and public gatherings.
- Other effective ways to avoid getting or spreading the flu include washing your hands frequently; covering coughs and sneezes in your elbow or with a tissue; and not touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- More information about influenza, vaccination, prevention and flu activity in Ohio is available at www.flu.ohio.gov.

