



MARYLAND
Department of Health

Public Health Preparedness and Situational Awareness Report: #2021:11

Reporting for the week ending 03/20/21 (MMWR Week #11)

March 26th, 2021

CURRENT HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT LEVELS

National: No Active Alerts

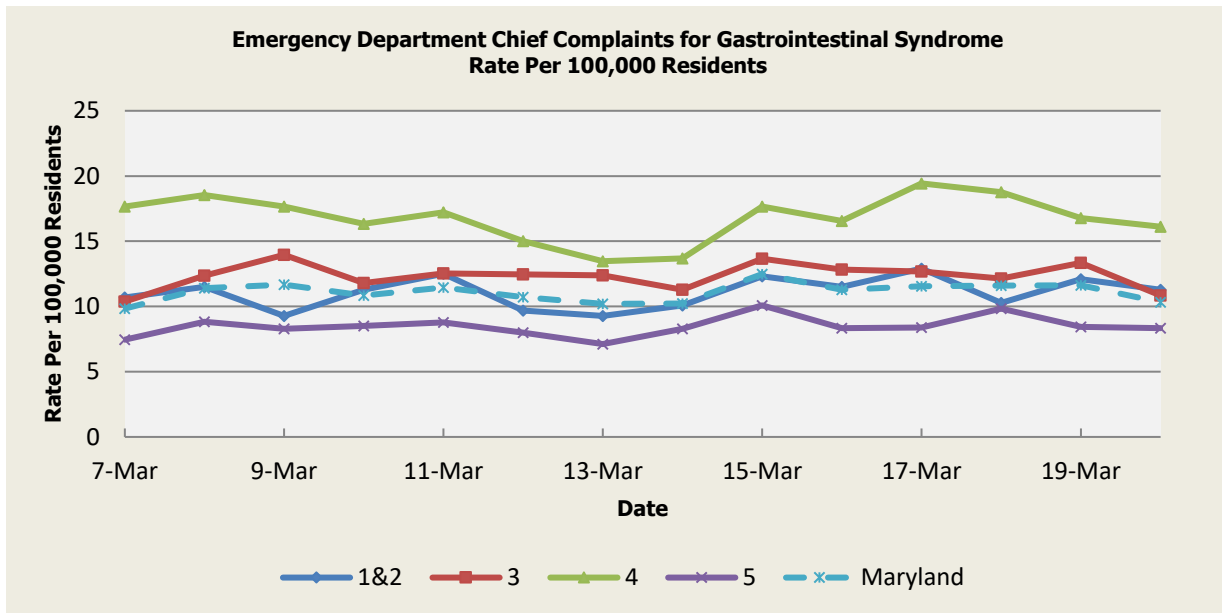
Maryland: **ENHANCED (MEMA status)**

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; 2021.

(report continues on next page)

Gastrointestinal Syndrome



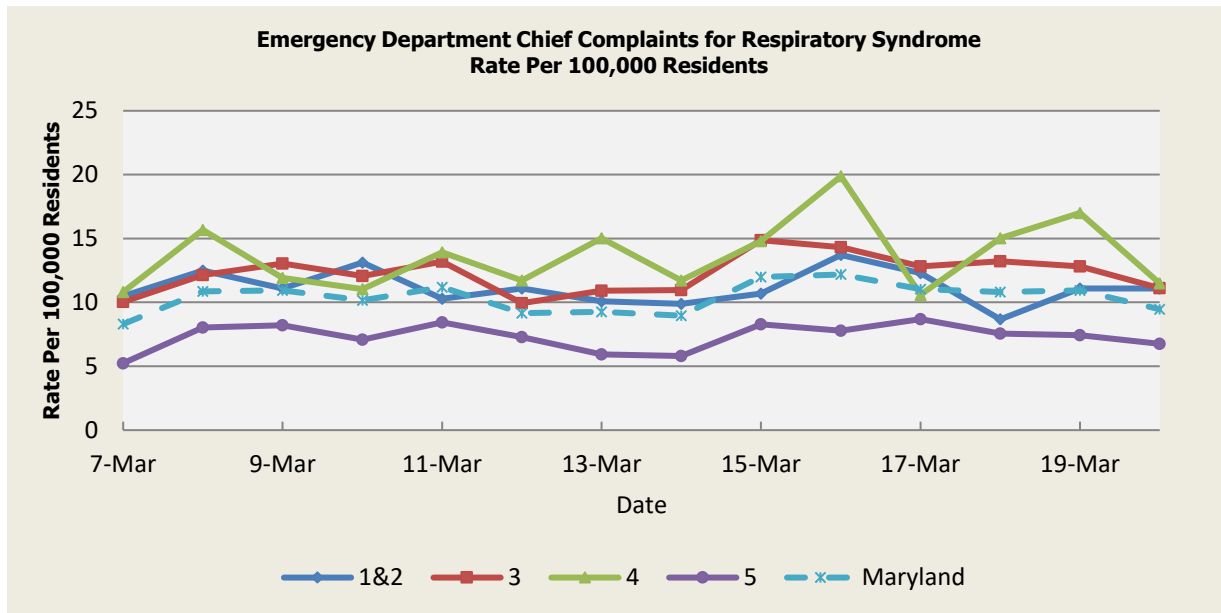
There was no Gastrointestinal Syndrome outbreak reported this week.

Gastrointestinal Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	13.13	14.74	15.81	10.06	12.89
Median Rate*	13.11	14.61	15.46	10.00	12.85

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Respiratory Syndrome



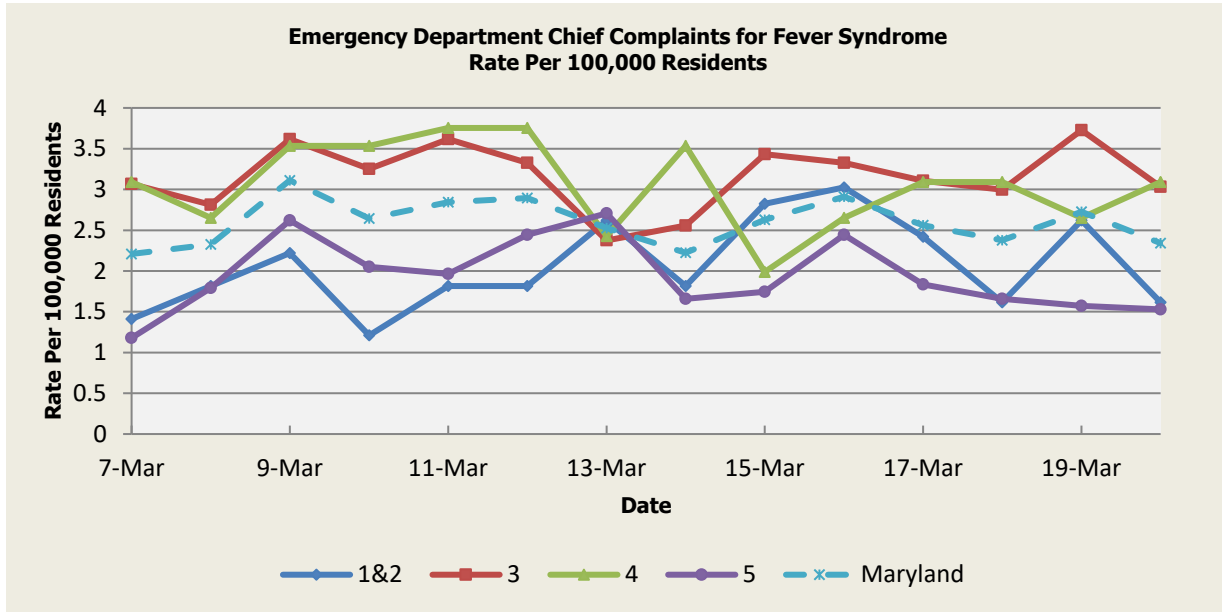
There were ninety-one (91) Respiratory Syndrome outbreaks reported this week: Two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Apartment Buildings (Region 3), six (6) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities (Regions 3,5), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Behavioral Health Facilities (Region 3), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 in a Correctional Facility (Region 3), sixteen (16) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Daycare Facilities (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), twelve (12) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Group Homes (Regions 1&2,3,5), six (6) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Hospitals (Regions 3,5), fifteen (15) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), one (1) outbreak of COVID-19 associated with a Party (Region 4), fourteen (14) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Schools (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), five (5) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Shelters (Regions 1&2,3,5), three (3) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Substance Use Treatment Programs (Regions 1&2,3,4), five (5) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Workplaces (Regions 3,4), two (2) outbreaks of COVID-19 in Youth Sports Clubs (Regions 3,4), one (1) outbreak of Legionellosis in a Hotel (Region 4).

Respiratory Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	12.44	14.69	15.21	9.93	12.72
Median Rate*	12.10	14.03	14.35	9.52	12.15

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Fever Syndrome



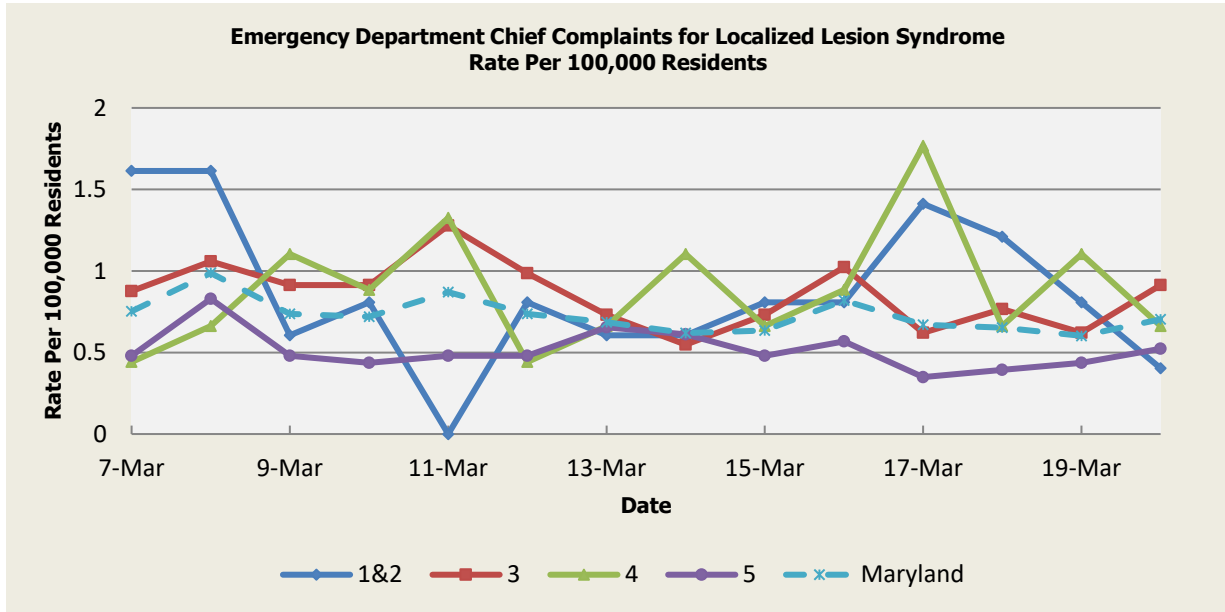
There were no Fever Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Fever Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.04	3.87	4.11	3.00	3.49
Median Rate*	2.82	3.73	3.97	2.88	3.36

*Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Localized Lesion Syndrome



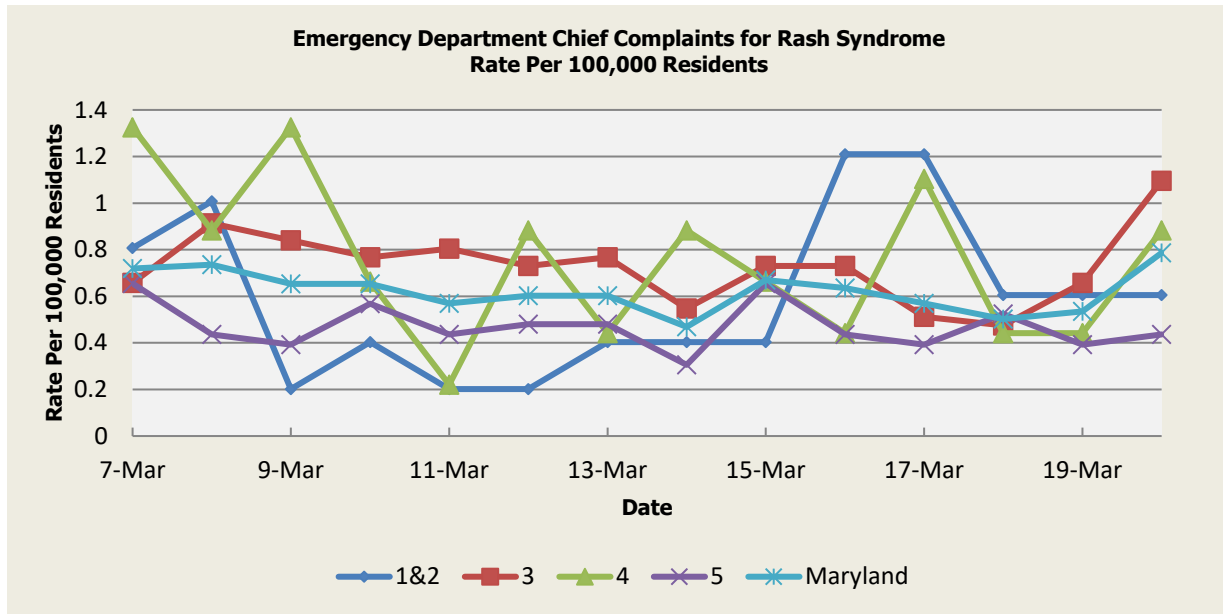
There were no Localized Lesion Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Localized Lesion Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.16	1.68	1.96	0.86	1.34
Median Rate*	1.01	1.64	1.99	0.83	1.31

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Rash Syndrome



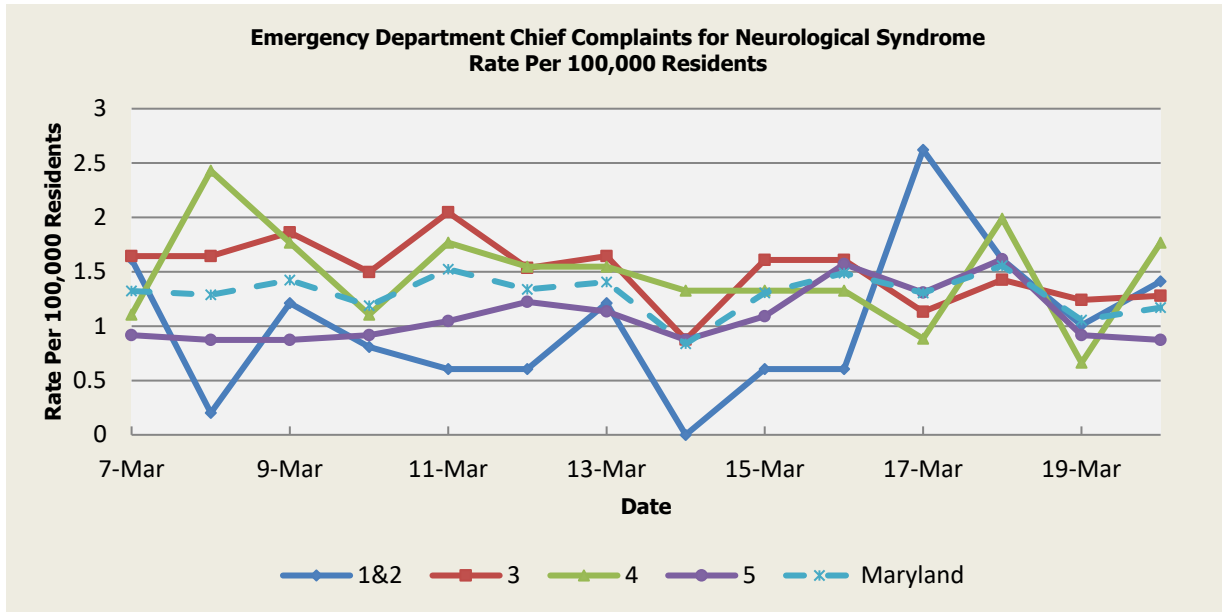
There were no Rash Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Rash Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	1.18	1.57	1.66	0.91	1.29
Median Rate*	1.01	1.53	1.55	0.87	1.27

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Neurological Syndrome



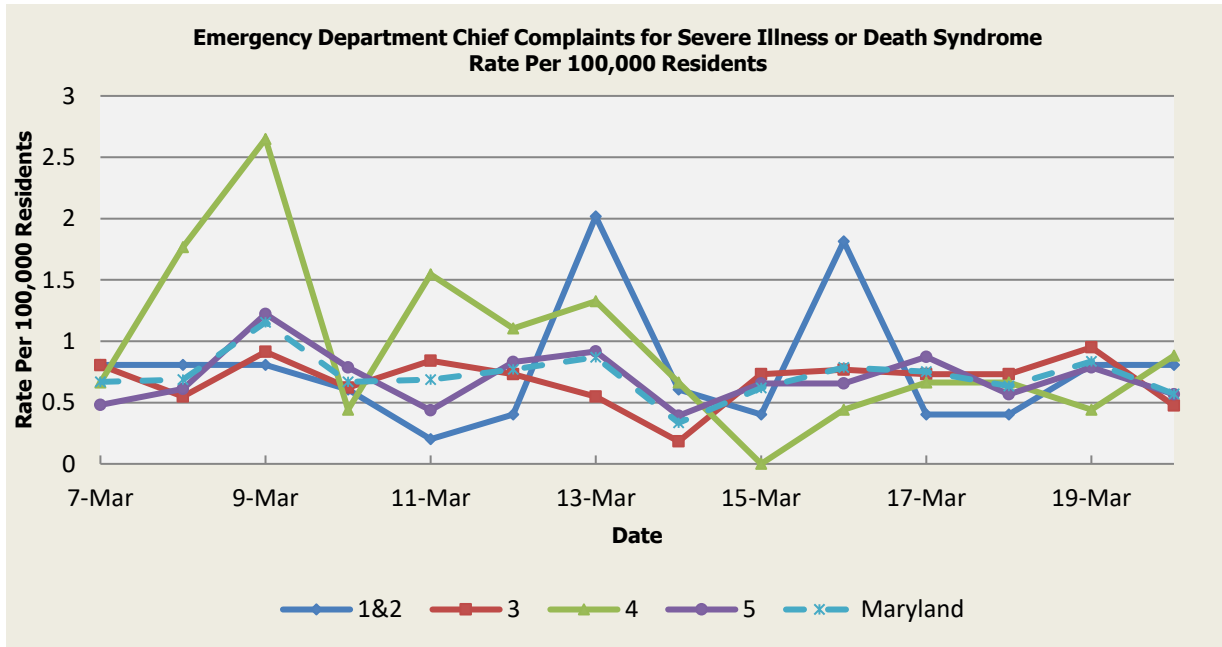
There were no Neurological Syndrome outbreaks reported this week.

Neurological Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.83	1.02	0.95	0.66	0.86
Median Rate*	0.81	0.99	0.88	0.61	0.84

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Severe Illness or Death Syndrome



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

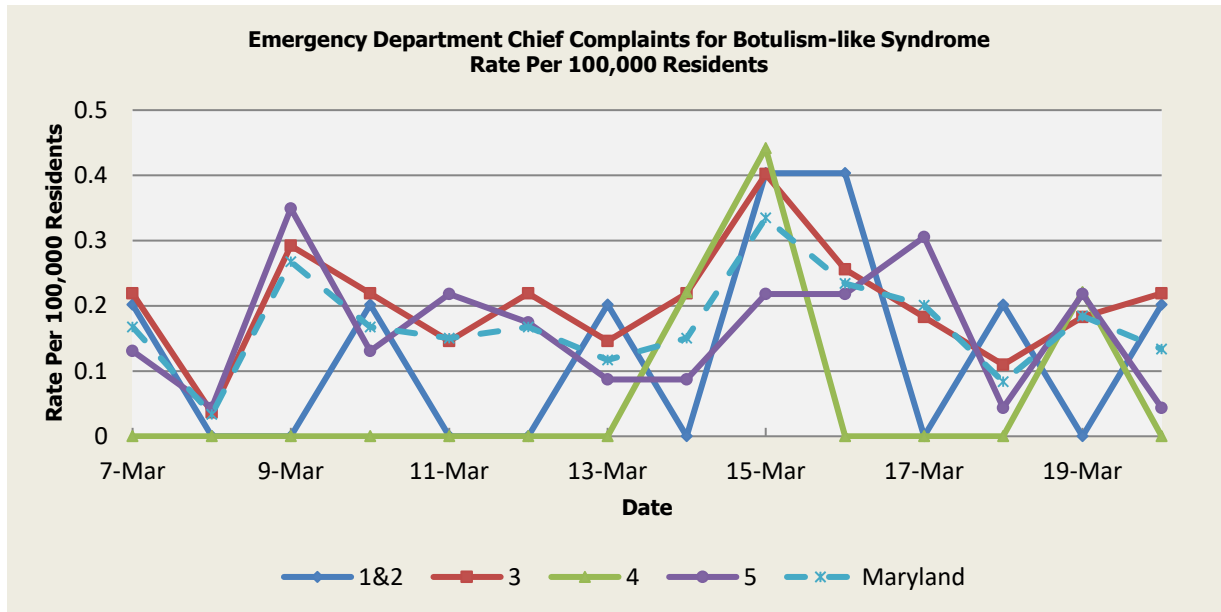
Severe Illness or Death Syndrome Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	0.66	0.88	0.84	0.55	0.73
Median Rate*	0.60	0.84	0.88	0.52	0.70

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

SYNDROMES RELATED TO CATEGORY A AGENTS

Botulism-like Syndrome



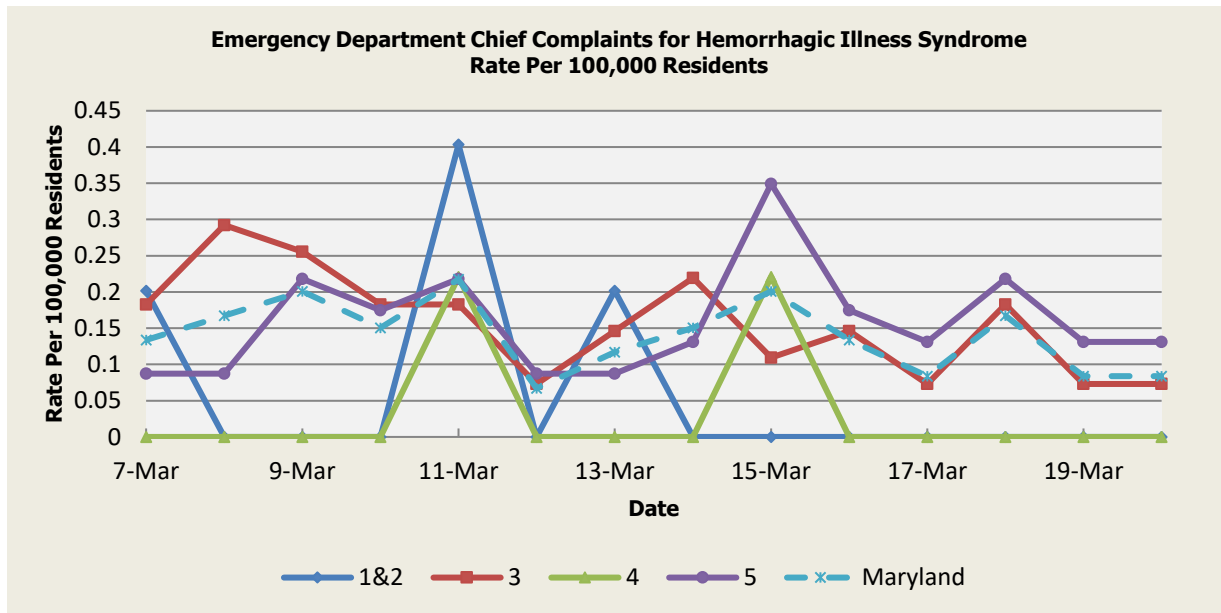
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Botulism-like Syndrome on 3/07 (Regions 1&2), 3/09 (Regions 3,5), 3/10 (Regions 1&2), 3/11 (Region 5), 3/13 (Regions 1&2), 3/14 (Region 4), 3/15 (Regions 1&2,3,4,5), 3/16 (Regions 1&2,5), 3/17 (Region 5), 3/18 (Regions 1&2), 3/19 (Regions 4,5), 3/20 (Regions 1&2). 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	0.07	0.09	0.11
Median Rate*	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.09	0.10

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome



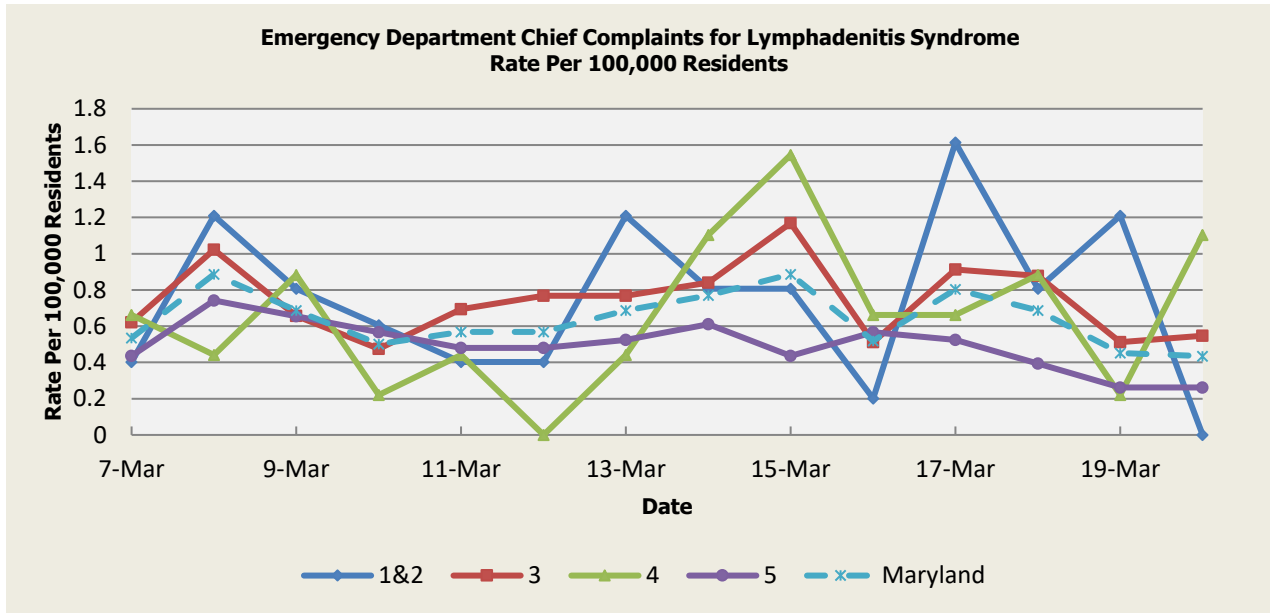
There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Hemorrhagic Illness Syndrome on 3/07 (Regions 1&2), 3/11 (Regions 1&2,4), 3/13 (Regions 1&2), 3/15 (Regions 4,5). These increases are not known to be associated with any outbreaks.

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	0.12

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

Lymphadenitis Syndrome



There was an appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of ED visits for Lymphadenitis Syndrome on 3/08 (Regions 1&2), 3/09 (Regions 1&2,4), 3/13 (Regions 1&2), 3/14 (Regions 1&2,4), 3/15 (Regions 1&2,4), 3/17 (Regions 1&2), 3/18 (Regions 1&2,4), 3/19 (Regions 1&2), 3/20 (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	0.61	0.41	0.40	0.49
Median Rate*	0.40	0.55	0.44	0.35	0.47

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

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 March 26th 2021)

County	Number of Confirmed Cases
Allegany	6,478
Anne Arundel	38,308
Baltimore City	43,578
Baltimore County	54,740
Calvert	3,869
Caroline	2,099
Carroll	8,098
Cecil	5,289
Charles	9,596
Dorchester	2,455
Frederick	17,961
Garrett	1,894
Harford	13,634
Howard	16,959
Kent	1,215
Montgomery	66,113
Prince George's	77,153
Queen Anne's	2,687
Somerset	2,468
St. Mary's	5,378
Talbot	1,944
Washington	13,046
Wicomico	7,039
Worcester	3,342
Total	405,343

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

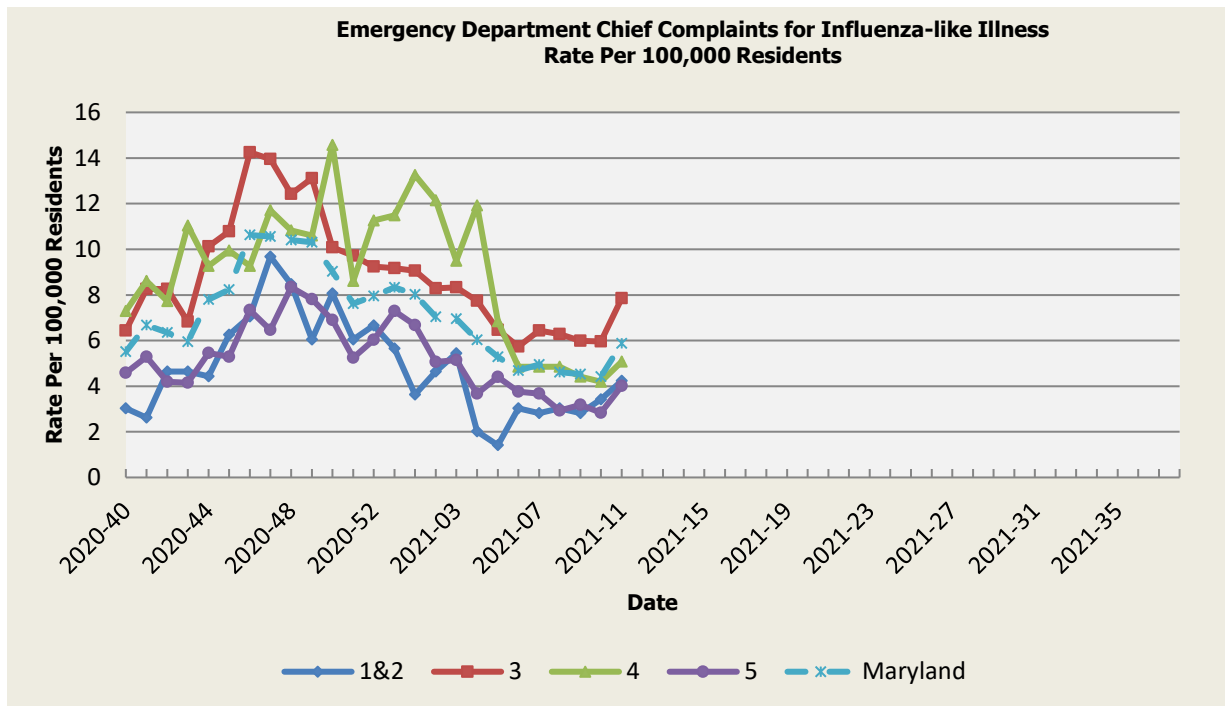
(report continues on next page)

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 11 was: Minimal

Influenza-like Illness

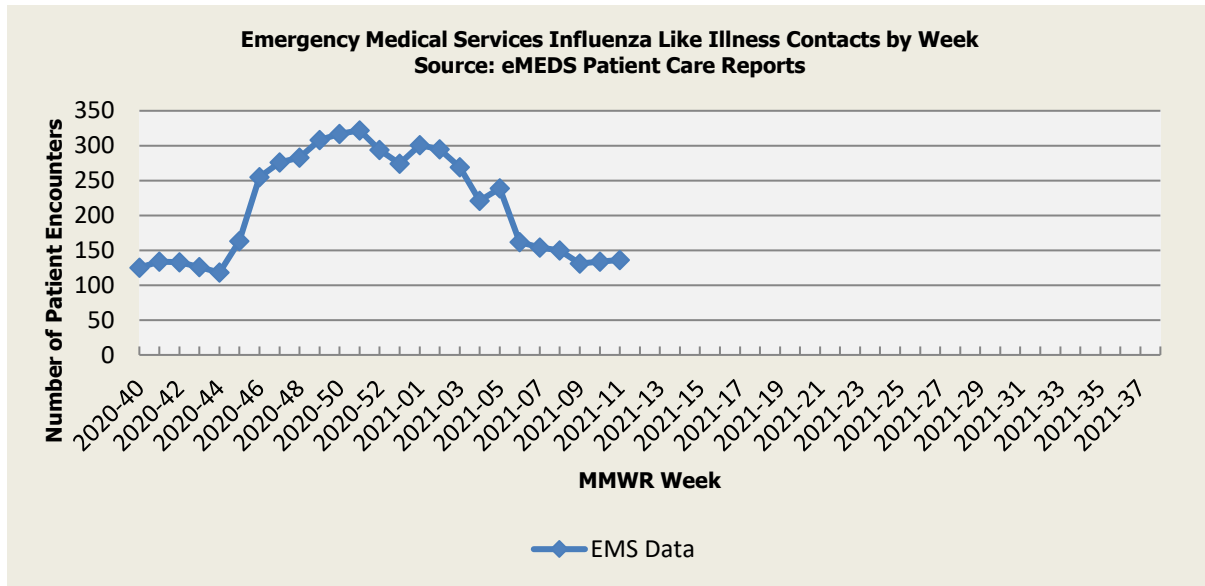


Influenza-like Illness Baseline Data Week 1 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	10.09	13.93	13.27	11.66	12.69
Median Rate*	7.46	10.19	9.50	8.56	9.32

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

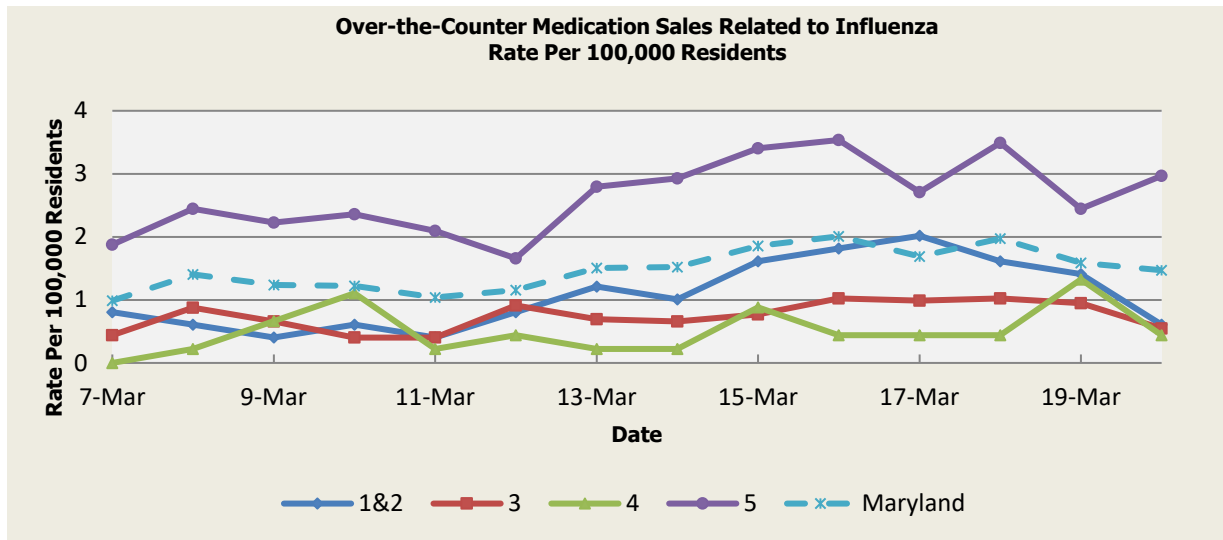
Influenza-like Illness Contacts by Week



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.

(report continues on next page)

Over-the-Counter Influenza-Related Medication Sales



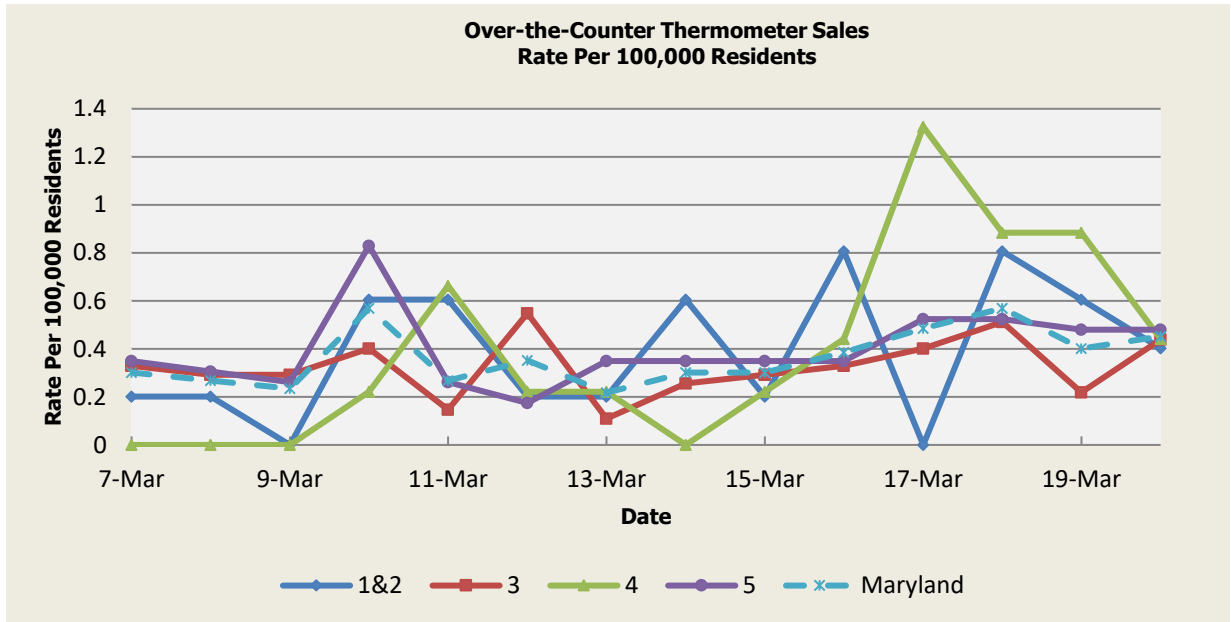
There was no appreciable increase above baseline in the rate of OTC Medication Sales during this reporting period.

OTC Medication Sales Baseline Data January 1, 2010 - Present					
Health Region	1&2	3	4	5	Maryland
Mean Rate*	3.20	4.07	2.50	7.38	5.15
Median Rate*	2.42	3.11	2.21	6.42	4.30

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

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*	2.67	2.52	2.06	3.34	2.81
Median Rate*	2.42	2.48	1.99	3.36	2.84

* Per 100,000 Residents

(report continues on next page)

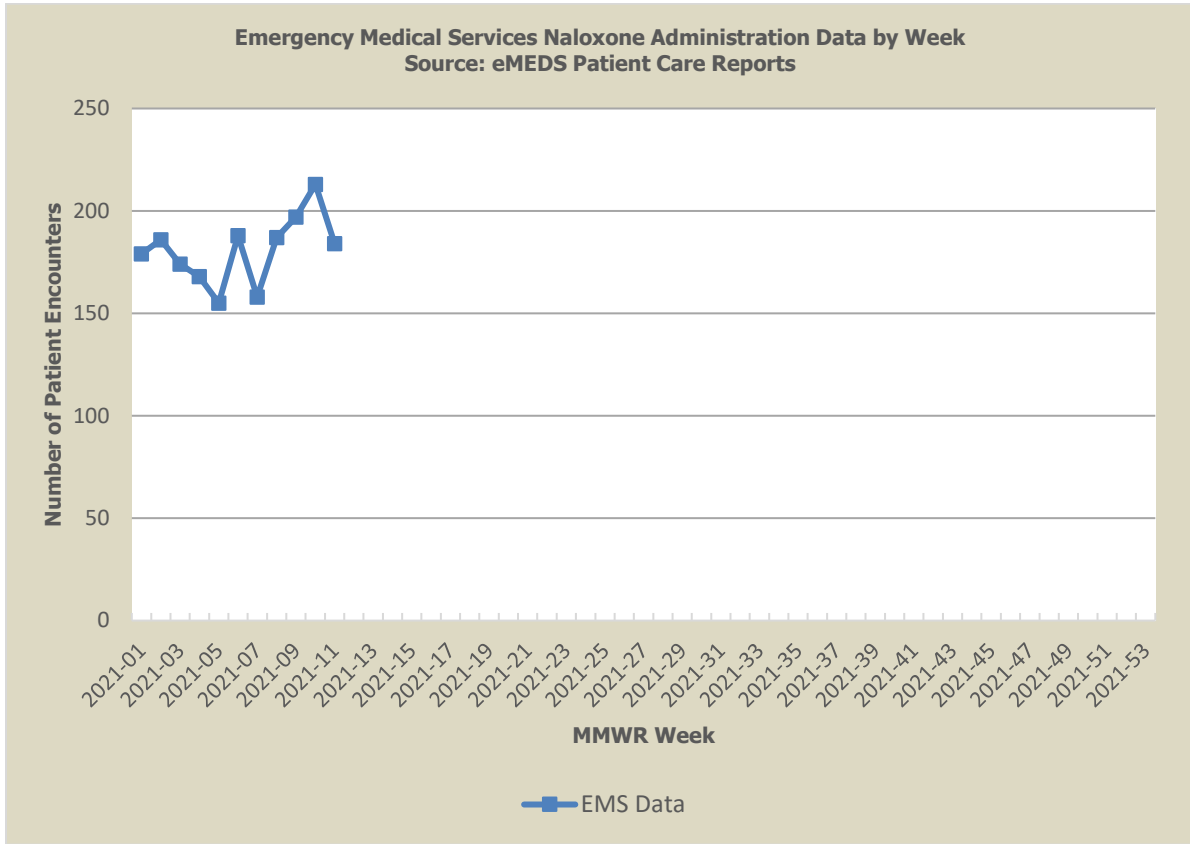
SYNDROMIC OVERDOSE SURVEILLANCE

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.

(report continues on next page)

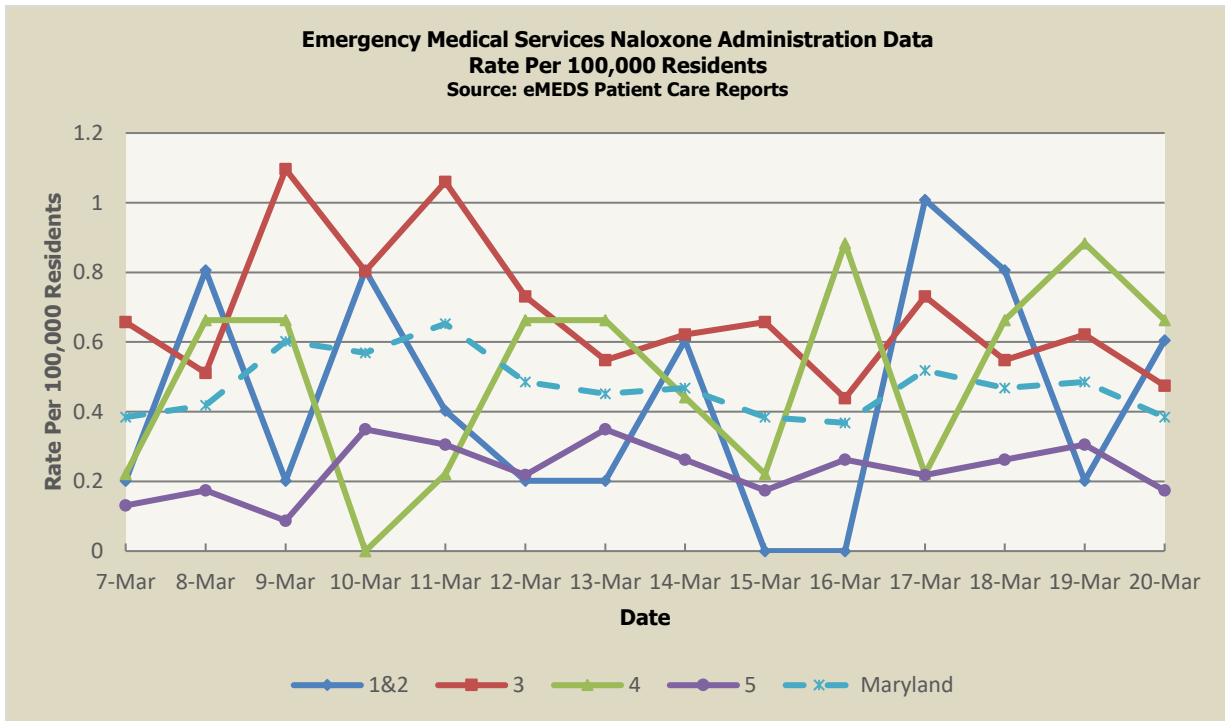
Naloxone Administration Data by Week



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.

(report continues on next page)

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.

(report continues on next page)

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 March 26th, 2021, the WHO-confirmed global total (2003-2020) of human cases of H5N1 avian influenza virus infection stands at 862, of which 455 have been fatal. Thus, the case fatality rate for human H5N1 is approximately 53%.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

AVIAN INFLUENZA (EUROPE), 22 March 2021, Highly pathogenic influenza A viruses (Inf. with) (non-poultry including wild birds), Ukraine. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8262620>

AVIAN INFLUENZA (NIGER), 20 March 2021, Outbreak location 1: Lamorde, Niamey township 4, Niamey. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8259344>

HUMAN AVIAN INFLUENZA

There were no relevant human avian influenza reports this week

report continues on next page)

NATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (USA), 24 March 2021, Americans must recommit to wearing masks and taking other COVID-19 mitigation measures to avoid a new surge of the virus in the USA, a top health official said Monday [22 Mar 2021] as the White House signaled that shipments of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine could fall just short of an early target. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8266393>

SALMONELLOSIS, SEROTYPE HADAR (USA), 20 March 2021, Federal officials are investigating a new multi-state foodborne illness outbreak with turkey products identified as the likely source. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8257940>

INTERNATIONAL DISEASE REPORTS

VIBRIO PARAHAEMOLYTICUS (NEW ZEALAND), 23 March 2021, Two people are sick in New Zealand with food poisoning after eating mussels. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8264645>

BOTULISM (DENMARK), 23 March 2021, A product considered to be an alternative to caviar has been linked to a botulism outbreak in Denmark. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8264644>

CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS, CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS (NORWAY), 23 March 2021, Almost 20 children in Norway have fallen sick after a farm visit that included drinking unpasteurized, raw milk. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8264641>

YERSINIOSIS (SWEDEN), 23 March 2021, An outbreak of *Yersinia* in Sweden has ended with iceberg lettuce as the suspected source of infection. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8263943>

UNDIAGNOSED NEUROLOGICAL ILLNESS (CANADA), 23 March 2021, News last week [week of 15 Mar 2021] that a cluster of cases of an unknown neurological disease has been found in New Brunswick immediately had residents of several communities on edge. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8256422>

MURRAY VALLEY/KUNJIN VIRUSES (AUSTRALIA), 22 March 2021, NT (Northern Territory) Health has issued a warning about mosquito borne diseases in the Top End following a fatal case of a mosquito-borne encephalitis presentation on the Tiwi Islands. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8261229>

FOODBORNE ILLNESS (INDIA), 21 March 2021, An entire hostel of the Osmania Medical College, including 19 students who were admitted to the Gandhi Hospital on Mon 15 Mar 2021, have been affected by food poisoning. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8260761>

FOODBORNE ILLNESS (MADAGASCAR), 20 March 2021, Nineteen people, 9 of them children, have died from food poisoning in Madagascar after eating a turtle, sources said Thursday [18 Mar 2021]. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8259449>

PLAGUE (MADAGASCAR), 20 March 2021, From 1 Jan 2021-11 Mar 2021, at least 21 confirmed cases of bubonic plague have been confirmed in Madagascar; 8 of these cases were reported since 1 Mar 2021 in Amoron'i Mania (Ambositra and Manandriana). Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8250540>

UNDIAGNOSED DEATHS (NIGERIA), 19 March 2021, The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has revealed the strange disease in Kano is caused by dansami food poisoning. Read More: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=8256123>

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>

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.

Prepared By:

Office of Preparedness and Response, Maryland Department of Health
7462 Candlewood Rd, Hanover, MD 21076

Peter Fotang, MD, MPH
Epidemiologist, Biosurveillance Program
Office: 443-628-6555
Email: Peter.Fotang@maryland.gov

Jessica Acharya (Goodell), MPH
Career Epidemiology Field Officer, CDC
Office: 443-628-6583
Email: Jessica.Acharya@maryland.gov

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

