



CDC FluView Weekly Report

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

Application Quick Reference Guide – October 2012

Introduction

This Quick Reference Guide is intended to provide an overview of the ILINet surveillance system and explain the available features and use of the “Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet” web application.

This application is part of the CDC FluView report, which provides weekly influenza surveillance information in the United States. This application was developed to improve communication about influenza with the public health community, clinicians, scientists, and the general public. This application is added to the series of dynamic visualizations that allow Internet users to access influenza information collected by CDC’s monitoring systems. CDC’s FluView report is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

About the Data

Outpatient Illness Surveillance — Information on patient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness is collected through the **U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)**. ILINet consists of more than 3,000 outpatient healthcare providers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands reporting more than 30 million patient visits each year. Each week, approximately 1,800 outpatient healthcare providers around the country report data to CDC on the total number of patients seen and the number of those patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) by age group (0-4 years, 5-24 years, 25-49 years, 50-64 years, and ≥ 65 years). For this system, ILI is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza. Sites with electronic records use an equivalent definition as determined by state public health authorities.

ILI Activity Indicator Map — Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and New York City. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a jurisdiction due to ILI compared with the average percent of ILI visits that occur during weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation (non-influenza weeks). Because the number of sites reporting each week is

variable, baselines are adjusted each week based on which sites within each jurisdiction provide data. To perform this adjustment, provider level baseline ratios are calculated for those that have a sufficient reporting history. Providers that do not have the required reporting history are assigned the baseline ratio for their practice type. The jurisdiction level baseline is then calculated using a weighted sum of the baseline ratios for each contributing provider.

The activity levels compare the mean reported percent of visits due to ILI for the current week to the mean reported percent of visits due to ILI for non-influenza weeks. The 10 activity levels correspond to the number of standard deviations below, at or above the mean for the current week compared to the mean of the non-influenza weeks. There are 10 activity levels classified as minimal (levels 1-3), low (levels 4-5), moderate (levels 6-7), and high (levels 8-10). An activity level of 1 corresponds to values that are below the mean, level 2 corresponds to an ILI percentage less than 1 standard deviation above the mean, level 3 corresponds to ILI more than 1, but less than 2 standard deviations above the mean, and so on, with an activity level of 10 corresponding to ILI 8 or more standard deviations above the mean.

Note: ILINet surveillance data are preliminary and subject to change as more data becomes available.

Accessing the FluView Web-based Application

All FluView applications are accessible by the public on the World Wide Web. To access the National and Regional Level Outpatient Illness and Viral Surveillance web application open a web browser on your computer and go the following internet link:

<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/main.html>

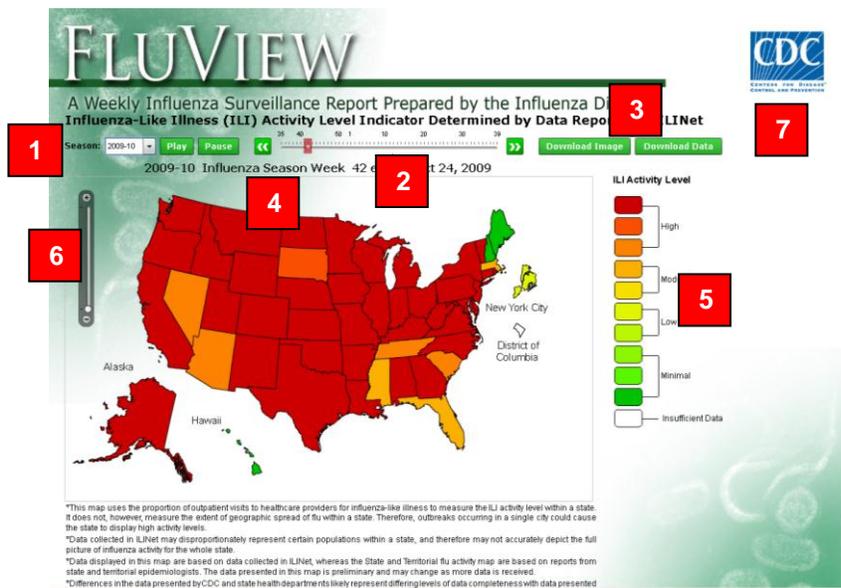
Application requirements:

- Internet Browser
 - Windows Internet Explorer 7 and later
 - Google Chrome
 - Mozilla Firefox
- Adobe Flash plug-in for internet browsers. This plugin can be downloaded at <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/> .

Application Functions and Tool Overview

Below is an image of the default view of the Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet web application. This interactive tool

allows users to display and query information for current and previous flu seasons. The descriptions for each tool are listed below the application image.



1. **Influenza Season Selection Tool** – A drop down menu allows the user to choose which influenza season to display.
2. **MMWR Week Slider Bar** – Use the cursor to move the slider button across the selected time frame. The green and white arrows on either side of the slider bar also can be used to move the slider from one week to another.
3. **Download Image and Download Data Buttons** – To create a static image of the data displayed in your current view, click the “Download Image” button. The file download dialog box will appear providing the option of viewing the image, saving a copy to a local drive or discarding the image. The “Download Data” button when pushed will provide two options. To create a copy of the data in your current view, select the “Data as shown in map” option, and click the “Download Data” button. You will be given the option to open or save the comma separated value (*.csv) file. If you prefer to select the data to be download, select the second option “Custom Download.” You will be given the option to select seasons, or weeks within the current season. Once you have made your selections click the “Download Data” button. You will be given the option to open or save the comma separated value (*.csv) file.
4. **Map** –The map shows ILI activity levels by state for each week. The map will be colored based on the level of ILI activity (i.e. minimal to high). When holding the cursor over a state a bubble will read the state name and activity level being reported. Clicking on a state will redirect you to the state’s influenza surveillance data.

5. **Map Legend** – The map legend displays the fill colors that are displayed in the map to depict the level of ILI activity (i.e. minimal to high). When holding the cursor over a legend level the states displaying that level will become highlighted.
6. **Zoom Tool** –Clicking the zoom in and zoom out button will zoom in or zoom out on the map.
7. **Help** – The Help Menu provides a detailed overview and describes the full functionality of the FluView Web application.