

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PRELIMINARY INFLUENZA ACTIVITY REPORT
For Week 52 (week ending December 27, 2008)**



Preliminary influenza data reviewed from the week ending December 27th, revealed that a “sporadic” but increasing level of activity was observed during the 13^h week of the official 2008-2009 influenza season. These data include a total of 58 laboratory confirmed test results from various Connecticut hospitals that reveal the presence of both type A and type B flu viruses and include reports from all 8 (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham) Connecticut counties (see Table 1, Figure 1). The DPH laboratory has culture-confirmed the presence of influenza virus in 5 clinical specimens. Characterization of these isolates reveals the presence of the influenza A (H1N1) subtype in 2 specimens, the influenza A (H3N2) subtype in 1 specimen, and influenza B in 2 specimens (see Figure 2). Although influenza activity is increasing in Connecticut, the total number of laboratory confirmed test reports received to date are lower than those observed during the last 5 seasons (see Figures 3a & 3b).

Five additional indicators of flu activity are being monitored throughout these initial weeks of the 2008-2009 flu season. Data on Connecticut residents presenting with influenza-like-illness (ILI) are reported by participants of the United States Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) (formerly known as the U.S. Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance Network) including Connecticut physicians, clinics, health centers, and other sites.

These reporting sites also include participants in the Connecticut Influenza Super Sentinel Surveillance Pilot Project organized this year to provide additional information on outpatient ILI activity. The DPH receives reports of institutional outbreaks including clusters of flu cases in residents of long-term care facilities. Data on emergency department visits from our Hospital Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance (HEDSS) System are also analyzed. One category in particular, fever/flu, has been shown to correlate well with influenza activity. Patients with more severe illness who are admitted into Connecticut hospitals are tracked by the Connecticut Hospital Admissions Syndromic Surveillance (HASS) System. Data on one category, total statewide pneumonia admissions, correlates with flu activity. Finally, selected mortality data are monitored each week including pneumonia and influenza deaths from Connecticut cities that participate in the U.S. 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System, and reports of influenza associated pediatric deaths. All 5 surveillance systems provide additional evidence that Connecticut is currently experiencing a low level of flu activity as compared with recent influenza seasons.

The CDC has posted its thirteenth national influenza activity map showing initial “sporadic” flu activity in 30 states, “local” flu activity in 10 states, and a higher “regional” level of activity in 3 states. The most recent CDC weekly influenza activity map can be viewed at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

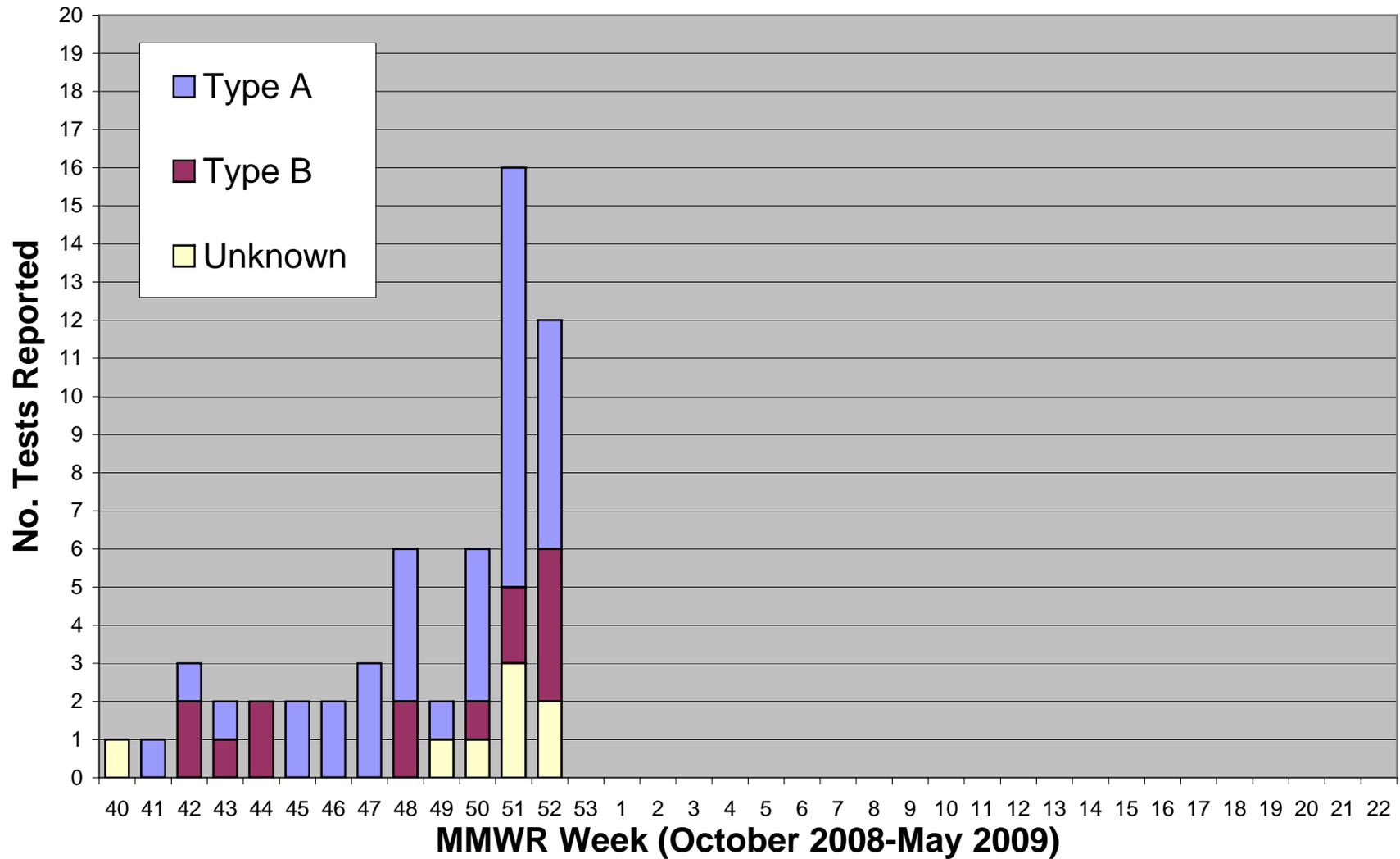
If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact Alan Siniscalchi or Maria Andrews at the Department of Public Health, Epidemiology and Emerging Infections Program, by calling 860-509-7994.

**Connecticut Department of Public Health
2008-2009 Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Testing
For Week 52 (week ending December 27, 2008)**

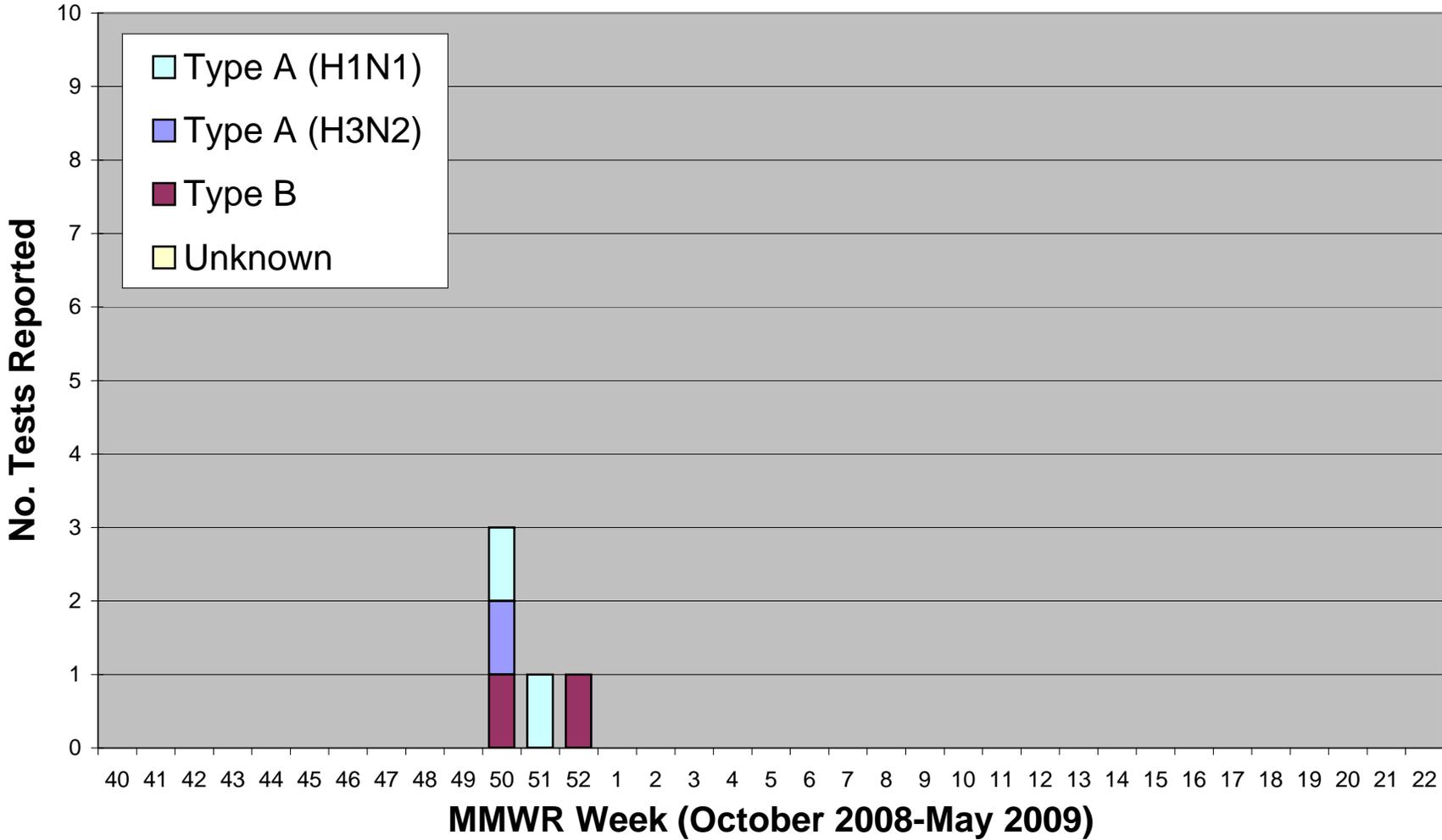
Results by		Previous	New	Total
TEST:	Culture	2	3	5
	Rapid Test	36	17	53
FLU TYPE:	Type A	26	10	36
	Type B	8	6	14
	Unknown	4	4	8
COUNTY:	Fairfield	6	7	13
	Hartford	10	2	12
	Litchfield	3	2	5
	Middlesex	4	0	4
	New Haven	10	6	16
	New London	1	0	1
	Tolland	0	1	1
	Windham	4	2	6
GENDER:	Female	15	12	27
	Male	23	8	31
Total		38	20	58

Age:	Previous	New	Total	Week	Dates - 2009	Total
0-4	2	3	5	1	January 4 - 10	
5-24	10	3	13	2	January 11-17	
25-64	14	9	23	3	January 18-24	
≥65	12	5	17	4	January 25-31	
Age Range: <1 – 88 Average Age: 43.3				5	February 1-7	
				6	February 8-14	
				7	February 15-21	
				8	February 22-28	
				9	March 1-7	
				10	March 8-14	
				11	March 15-21	
				12	March 22-28	
				13	March 29- April 4	
				14	April 5-11	
				15	April 12-18	
				16	April 19-25	
				17	April 26- May 2	
				18	May 3- 9	
				19	May 10-16	
				20	May 17-23	
				21	May 24-30	
				22	May 31- June 6	
Week	Dates - 2008	Total				
40	Sept. 28 - Oct. 4	1				
41	October 5-11	1				
42	October 12-18	3				
43	October 19-25	2				
44	Oct. 26 - Nov. 1	2				
45	November 2-8	2				
46	November 9-15	2				
47	November 16-22	3				
48	November 23 -29	6				
49	Nov. 30 – Dec. 6	2				
50	December 7-13	6				
51	December 14-20	16				
52	December 21-27	12				
53	Dec. 28- Jan. 3					

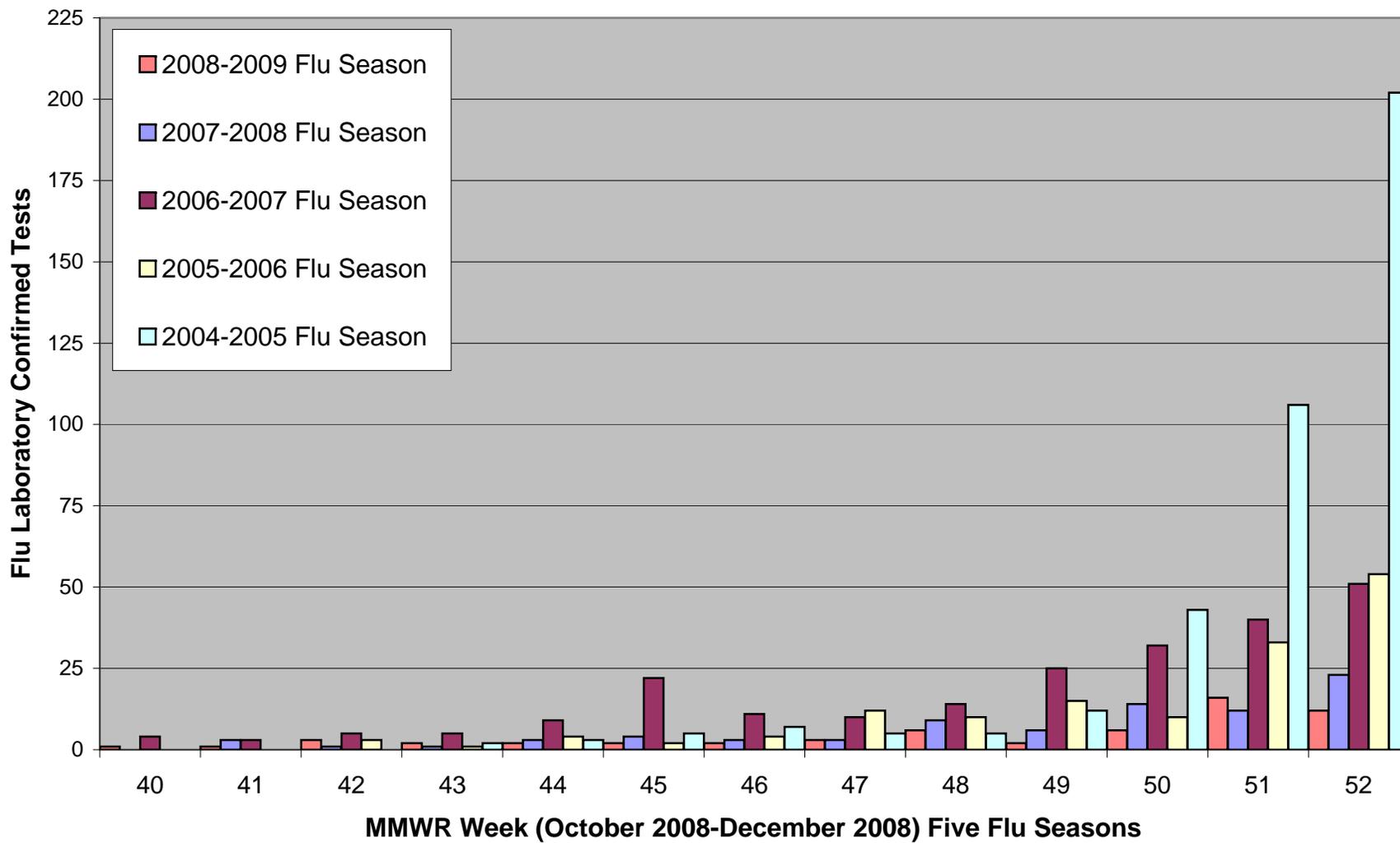
Figure 1. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Type, Connecticut, 2008-2009 Influenza Season



**Figure 2. Department of Public Health Laboratory Culture
Confirmed Tests by Flu Type,
Connecticut, 2008-2009 Flu Season**



**Figure 3a. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Season
Connecticut, 2004-2009**



**Figure 3b. Laboratory Confirmed Tests by Flu Season
Connecticut, 2003-2009**

