Flu in Roscommon County

Epidemiologist Norm Keon of the Central Michigan District Health Department said he sees the number of flu cases go up every year in late January-early February.

"I've been tracking this for years," he said, and there is "no exact reason" for an increase in influenza during this time of year.

In Roscommon County, the number of reported flu cases is not alarming, he said.

"Roscommon's numbers are pretty small," Keon said, based on information provided to the health department.

The last week of 2017 (Week 52), there were 13 cases reported, he said. In Week 1 of 2018 (week ending Jan. 6), there were 44; in Week 2, there were 55; and in Week 3, there were 45, he said. The most recent information he had available was from Week 4 (week ending Jan. 27), which was 43.

Keon said most reporting is from schools, based on self reporting by parents keeping their children home.

"Most people don't go to a doctor," he said.

When they do, he said, a doctor may not send for lab tests, but diagnose the flu based on observed signs and symptoms. Therefore, he said, those cases would "not flow into the reporting system."