

AMCNO COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTIVITIES

AMCNO Pollen Line – 2017 Review

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Allergy/Immunology Associates remains dedicated to serving patients of the Greater Cleveland area reporting daily pollen counts on the AMCNO Pollen Line. We continued to use a Rotorod Aeroallergen device to obtain the samples, which then allowed us to calculate the daily pollen levels throughout the 2017 pollen season. Pollen counts not only benefit patients but allow allergists and physicians to better direct therapy for their patients to achieve symptom relief. For those who suffer from allergic rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, and asthma, the pollen season can be miserable. By following yearly trends, we can predict the timing of certain allergens and prepare our patients so that they can maximize their quality of life.

The 2017 pollen levels were significantly higher than levels seen in 2016. The greatest contributor to this substantial increase was likely the large amount of precipitation throughout the spring and early summer months. Through the first seven months of 2017 Cleveland had 11 more inches of precipitation compared to the same period last year.

In the Greater Cleveland area, the pollen season begins in April with the blooming trees. This spring the tree season showed two peaks which correlate to similar peaks in previous years. This year the tree pollen maximum peak occurred on April 28, just two days later than last year. The calculated maximum tree pollen count was nearly 40% higher than last year.

Grass pollen is known to be the main allergen of the summer months. Grass pollen in Northeast Ohio was present from May through early August, similar to previous years. The

grass pollen peaked on June 12, which was just three days earlier than last year. However, the grass pollen level was nearly three times higher as compared to last year.

As the days begin to shorten and the temperature starts to cool we move into the fall ragweed season. Ragweed appeared in late July this year, just slightly earlier than last year. The ragweed peak occurred on August 24, which is slightly earlier than last year. The peak pollen count this year was twice as high as was seen in 2016.

Each year, Allergy/Immunology Associates, in coordination with the AMCNO, is proud to provide the pollen count for the Greater Cleveland area from April 1 to October 1. The counts are made available to the Pollen Line, (216) 520-1050, as well as www.amcno.org. Stay healthy and warm this winter, and we look forward to helping you prepare for next year's pollen season on April 1, 2018! ■

