



**HOUSTON HEALTH**  
DEPARTMENT

**Office of Surveillance & Public Health Preparedness**  
*Program of Public Health Informatics*

**Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report**  
CDC MMWR Week 48: Nov 29—Dec 05, 2015

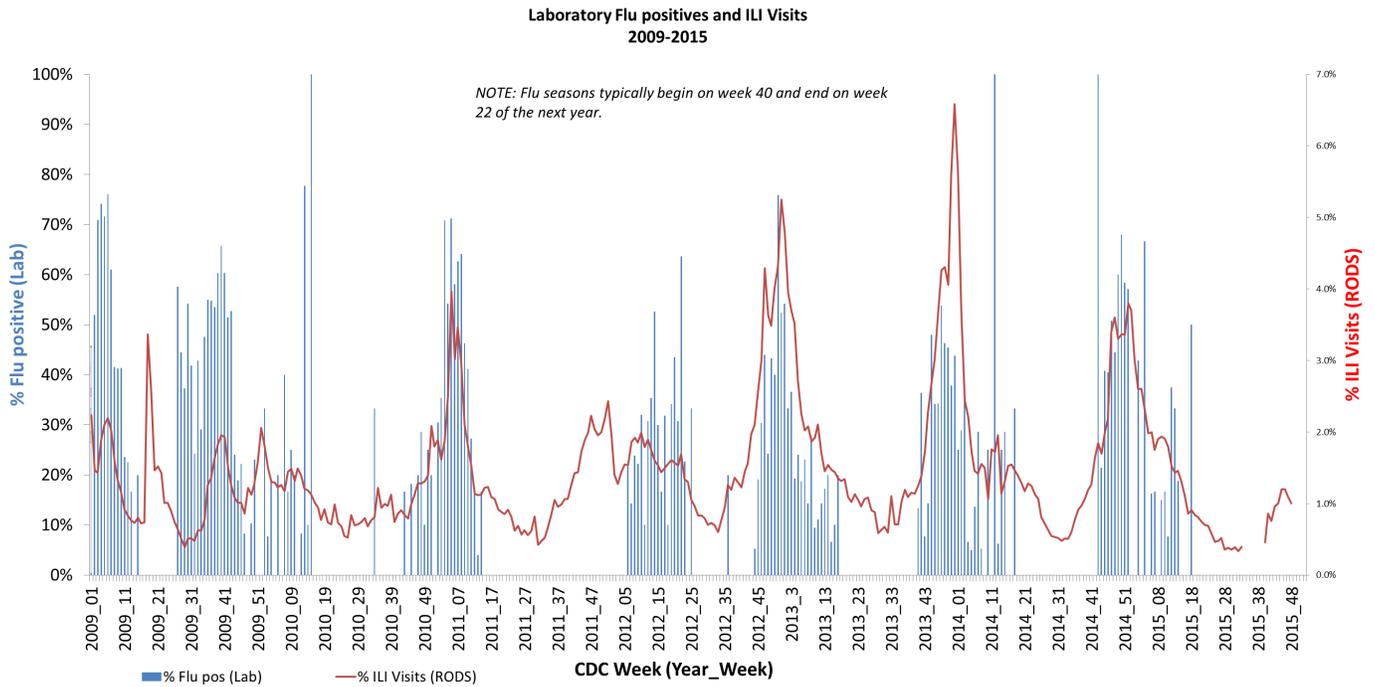
**Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels**

Houston/ Harris County: Week 48	Texas: Week 48	CDC: Week 48
Low	Low	Low

**Highlights**

- The Houston Health Department (HHD) conducts seasonal influenza surveillance from October (week 40) 2015 to May (week 22) 2016. During Week 48, influenza activity increased but overall remains low.
- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) detected from emergency departments in Houston/Harris County for Week 48 will be reported in Week 49.
- During the 2015-2016 influenza season, zero (0) Houston influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.
- The percentage of flu test positives from sentinel providers in Houston **did not change** from 0% in Week 47 to 0% in Week 48. HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical labs. In Week 48, the number of flu positives labs from clinical laboratories was 8 in Week 48 which is an **increase** from 4 in Week 47.
- In week 48, 21 surveillance specimens were tested by the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services (BLS). The following types and number of viruses were detected in these specimens: **Influenza A H3 (0), Influenza A H1N1 (0), Influenza B (0).**
- Cumulatively this season, the City of Houston BLS has tested 156 surveillance specimens. There are zero flu positive lab results and no predominant strain.
- At the national level during week 48, 4.6 % of specimens tested and reported by U.S. public health laboratories to the CDC were positive for influenza and 1.6% of specimens tested and reported by U.S. clinical laboratories were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI 1.8% was **below** the national baseline 2.1% and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza 6.1% was **below** the epidemic threshold of 6.6%.

Laboratory Surveillance: Influenza Rapid Test Results, Houston

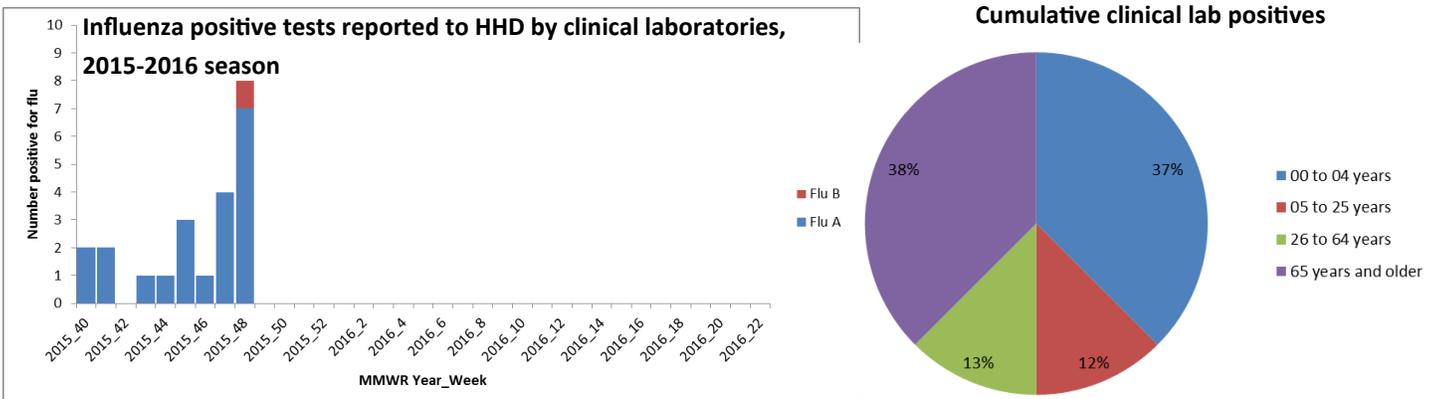


CDC Week Number	46 (Nov 15–21)	47 (Nov 22–28)	48 (Nov 29–Dec 05)
# of Influenza Tests Performed	33	22	21
% Influenza Positive	0%	0%	0%
# Influenza A Positive	0	0	0
% Influenza A Positive	0%	0%	0%
# Influenza B Positive	0	0	0
% Influenza B Positive	0%	0%	0%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0	0	0
% Non-differentiated Positive	0%	0%	0%



## Passive Viral Surveillance

HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical laboratories. In week 48, there were eight (8) additional laboratory confirmed influenza cases from the prior week. Flu A accounts for 95% of the flu positives. Flu B was detected in the > 65 years age group. Cumulatively this season the flu positives were detected in 0 to 4 years (37%), 5 to 25 years (12%), 26 to 64 years (13%), and >65 years (38%).



## School Surveillance

Table 1: ILI and Influenza Cases by Type and School Type<sup>1</sup> per Month

	Total Cases	Lab Confirmed		Flu A	Flu B	A+B	Unclassified	Elem Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Multi-Level Schools
		#	%								
Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sep	03	01	33%				01	01	01	01	00
Oct	04	00	0%	-	-	-	04	03	01	00	00
Nov	04	00	0%				04	02	01	01	00
Dec											
Jan											
Feb											
Mar											
Apr											
Total											

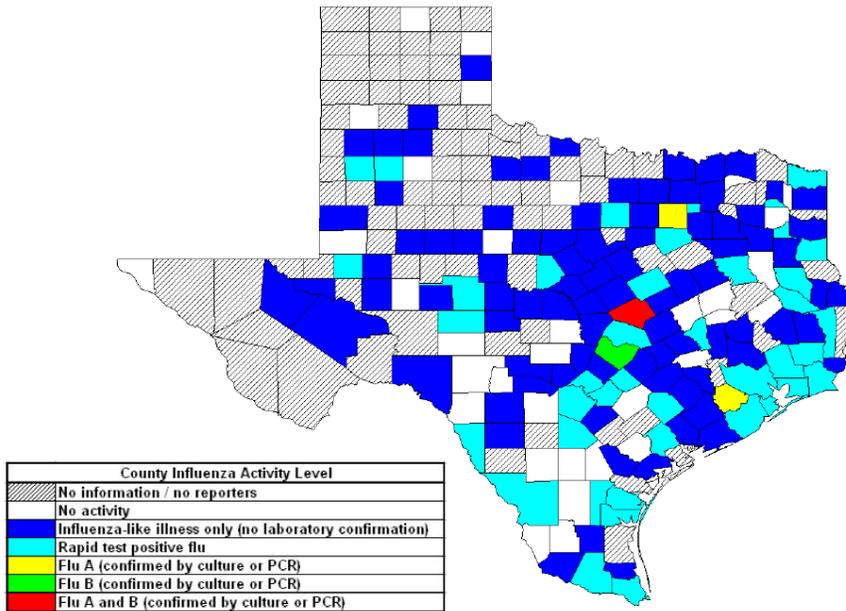
September was the first full month of 2015-2016 school year. ILI cases in HISD students remained the same in November compared to October. There were zero (0) laboratory confirmed flu cases seen in November.

NOTE: Data on student ILI and influenza cases is collected from 306 schools within Houston Independent School District. <sup>1</sup>School will be counted more than once if more than one case from the same school is reported during the

## Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity

### Statewide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 4: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending Dec. 05, 2015 (MMWR Week 48)



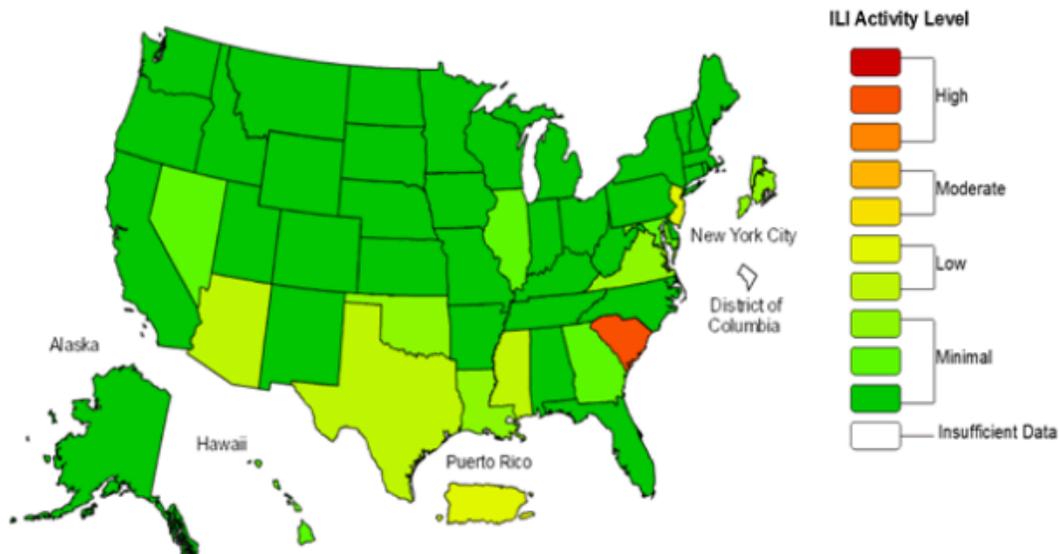
Please note: The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law in Texas. This map contains data from sentinel sites and only displays influenza and ILI cases that were reported to public health. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date, or date received in the laboratory if the former is unknown.

**NOTE:** Influenza activity level corresponds to current MMWR week only and does not reflect previous weeks' activity. The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all influenza cases in the state. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date or date received in the lab if the former is unknown.

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2015/>

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

2015-16 Influenza Season Week 48 ending Dec 05, 2015



**NOTE:** Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity by state. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels. Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore, may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

*The Houston Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report* is available on the Houston Health Department web site at:

[http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology/flu\\_report.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/health/Epidemiology/flu_report.html)

Flu Near You is a participatory surveillance (crowd sourcing) tool which compliments traditional disease surveillance activities. Registered users can obtain real-time information on flu activity and influenza vaccine in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area. Flu Near You features include:

- Report symptoms
- Find vaccines
- Map flu cases in the Greater Houston Metropolitan Area
- Get flu news
- Share on social media



This season HHD invites you to register for Flu Near You at <https://flunearyou.org>

**NOTE:**

*Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever (temperature  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) plus a cough OR a sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.*

*Houston ILI baselines were determined using the same method as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Regional ILI baselines. The baseline is developed by calculating the mean percentage ILI of ED visits during non-influenza weeks for the previous three seasons and adding two standard deviations. A non-influenza week is defined as periods of two or more consecutive weeks in which each week accounted for less than 2% of the season's total number of specimens that tested positive for influenza.*

*Additional information regarding Houston, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at:*

<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/>

<http://http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2015/>

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

<http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>

## Houston Health Department

Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness

Program of Public Health Informatics

8000 N. Stadium Dr, 4th Floor

Houston, TX 77054

**Main Phone Number: (832) 393-5080**

**Disease Reporting Fax Number: (832) 393-5232**

**24-Hour Disease Reporting Number: (832) 393-5080**