



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

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

Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC MMWR Week 12: Mar 20-26, 2016

Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels

Houston/ Harris County: Week 12	Texas: Week 12	CDC: Week 12
Decreased	Decreased	Decreased

Highlights

- The Houston Health Department (HHD) Conducts seasonal influenza surveillance from October (Week 40) 2015 to May (Week 22) 2016. In Week 12, flu activity **decreased** compared to the previous week but remains elevated. Flu activity typically peaks in February. The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older.

Influenza Like Illness

- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) detected from emergency departments in Houston/Harris County **did not change** from 2.0% in week 11 to 2.0% in week 12. The proportion of ILI was above the baseline of 1.9%.
- The percentage of Flu Near You users reporting ILI **decreased** from 1.8% on 03/14/2016 to 1.5% on 03/21/2016.
- The number of ILI cases among HISD students **increased** from 5 in Jan to 67 in Feb.

Virology

- The percentage of flu test positives from sentinel providers in Houston **decreased** from 90% in week 11 to 37% in week 12.
- In week 12, 19 surveillance specimens were tested by the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services. The following types and number of viruses were detected in these specimens: **Influenza A H3 (2), Influenza A H1N1 (2), Influenza B (3)**.
- Cumulatively this season, the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services has tested 430 surveillance specimens. Of the 91 positive lab results, the A H3 strain accounts for 43 (47%) of the positives.
- HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical labs. In Week 12, there were 02 flu positive labs.

Pediatric Mortality

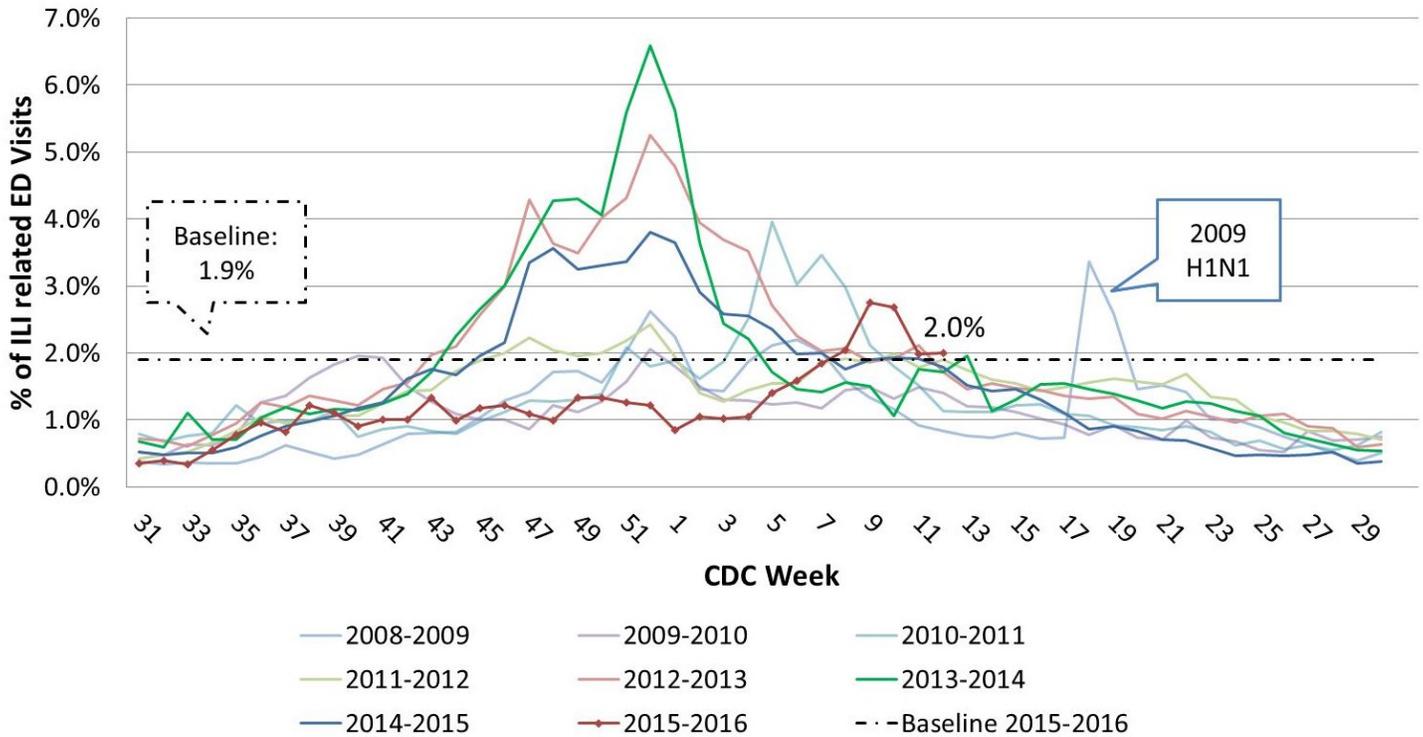
- During the 2015-2016 influenza season, zero (0) Houston influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.

National

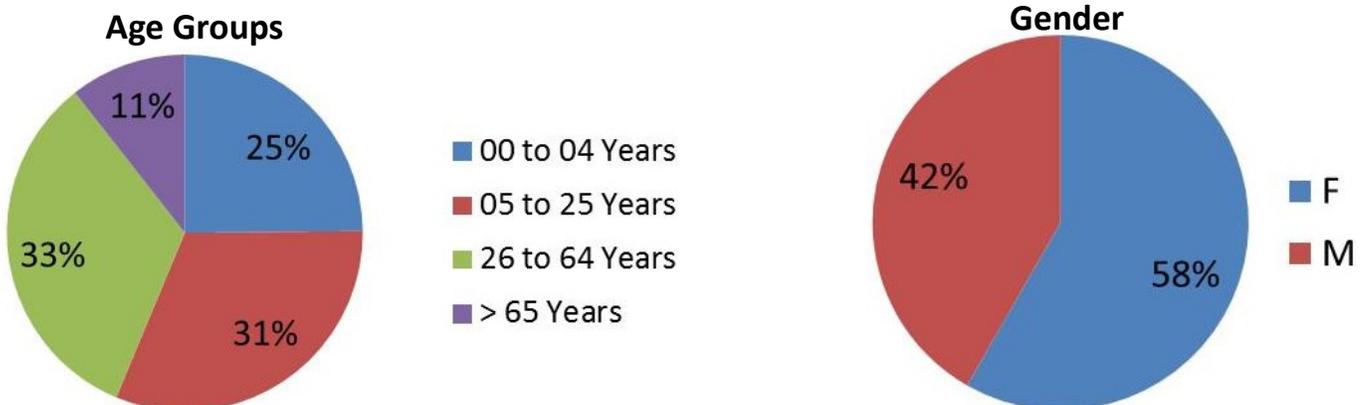
- At the national level during week 12, 18.3 % of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI 2.9% was **above** the national baseline (2.1%) and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (7.7%) was **above** the epidemic threshold of 7.2%.

Syndromic Surveillance: 2015-2016 Influenza Season

Comparison of ILI-Related ED Visits in Houston/Harris County



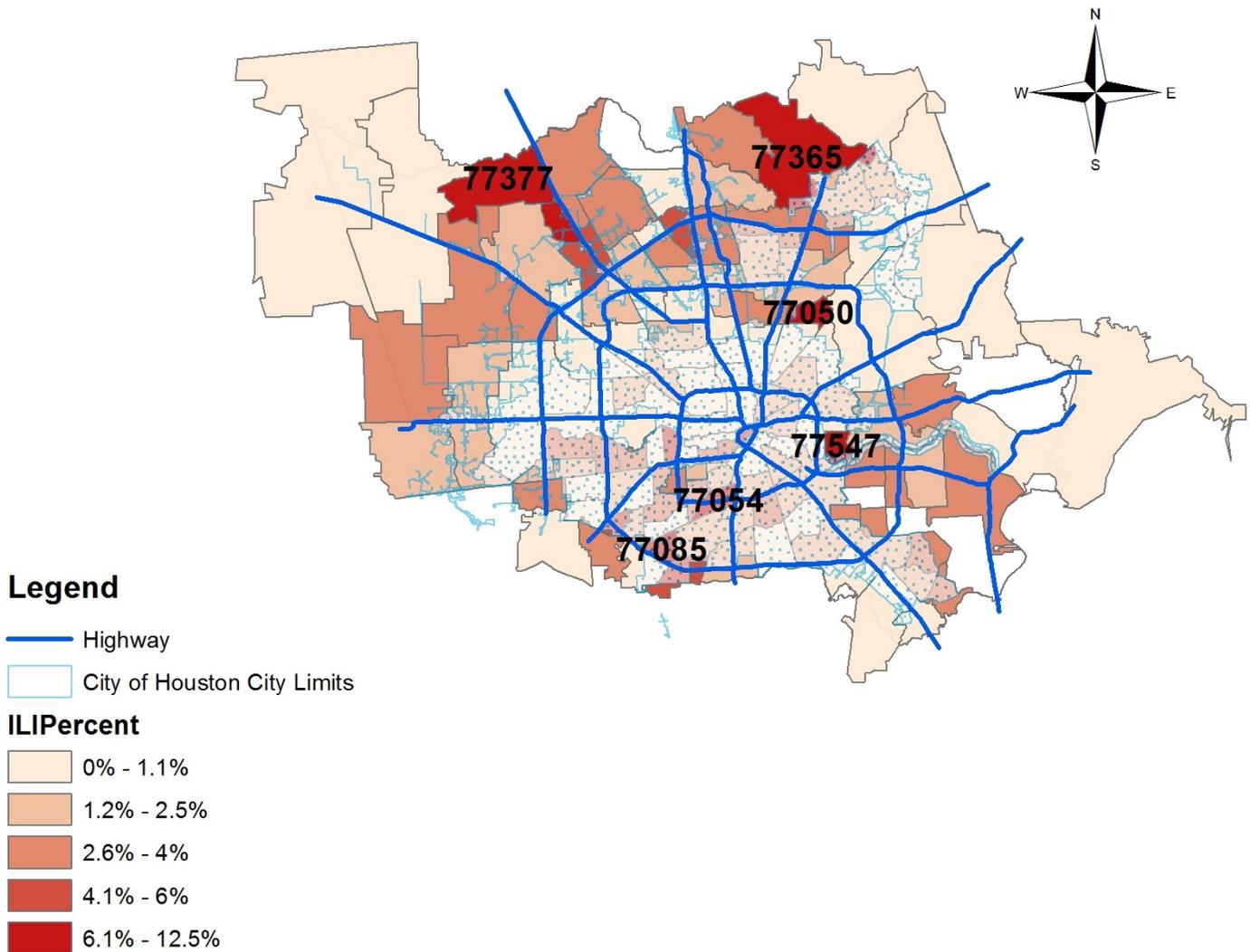
Syndromic Surveillance: 2015-2016 Influenza Season Age and Gender Distribution



In Week 12, 2.0% of emergency department (ED) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 302 patients presenting with ILI, the age group that recorded the most ED visits was the 26 to 64 year olds (33%). Females accounted for 58% of patients presenting with ILI.

NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI activity is assessed using information provided by surveillance participants in the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance System (RODS). For week 12, 36 surveillance participants reported ILI information to Houston Health Department. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient's ED chief complaint. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all ED visits in Houston/Harris County.

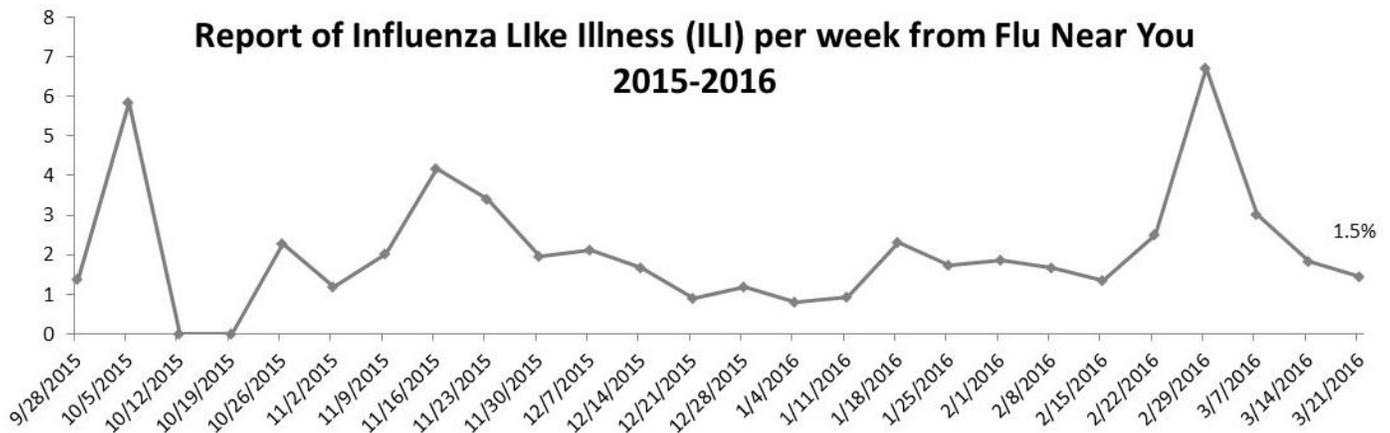
Syndromic Surveillance: Geographic Distribution Map



During week 12, the ZIP codes with the greatest percentage of ED visits related to ILI (6.0% or greater) are: 77054, 77050, 77085, 77377, 77365, 77547

NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI distribution map was created using data provided by 36 hospitals that voluntarily provide data based on chief complaints in the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance System (RODS). This map reflects the percentage of ILI cases from each zip code from the total amount of cases seen in each zip code during the current week of reporting. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient's ED chief complaint. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all ED visits in Houston/Harris County.

Flu Near You: ILI per week



Flu Near You (FNY) is a participatory surveillance tool which compliments traditional disease surveillance. The percentage of FNY users reporting ILI **decreased** from 1.8% on 03/14/2016 to 1.5% on 03/21/2016. The last page has information on how to participate.

School Surveillance

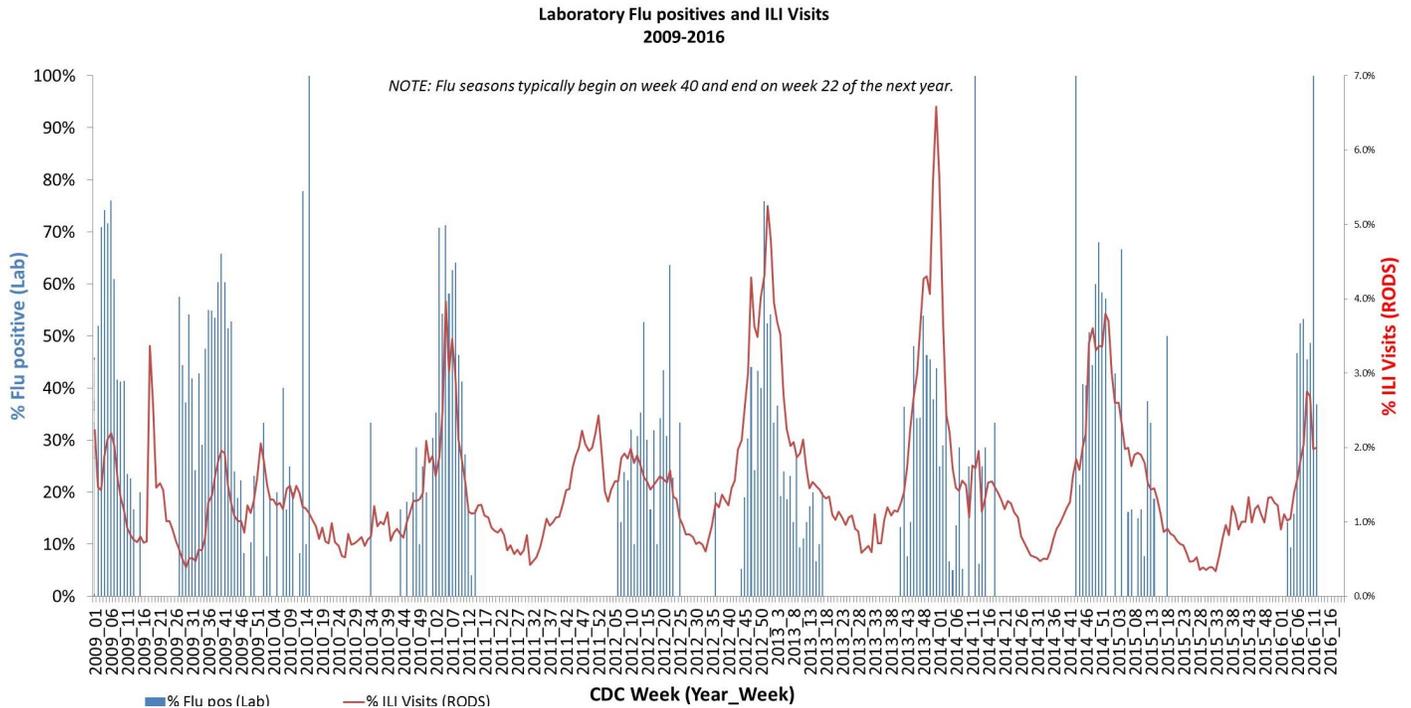
Table 1: ILI and Influenza Cases by Type and School Type¹ per Month

	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%				02	01	01	01	00
Oct	04	00	0%	-	-	-	04	03	01	00	00
Nov	04	00	0%	-	-	-	04	02	01	01	00
Dec	04	00	0%	-	-	-	04	03	01	00	00
Jan	05	00	0	-	-	-	05	04	01	00	00
Feb	67	09	13%	05	00		04	52	08	04	03
Mar											
Apr											
Total											

September was the first full month of 2015-2016 school year. ILI cases in HISD students increased in February (67) compared to January (05). There were 09 laboratory confirmed flu cases seen in February and 05 were confirmed as influenza A.

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

Laboratory Surveillance: Influenza Rapid Test Results, Houston

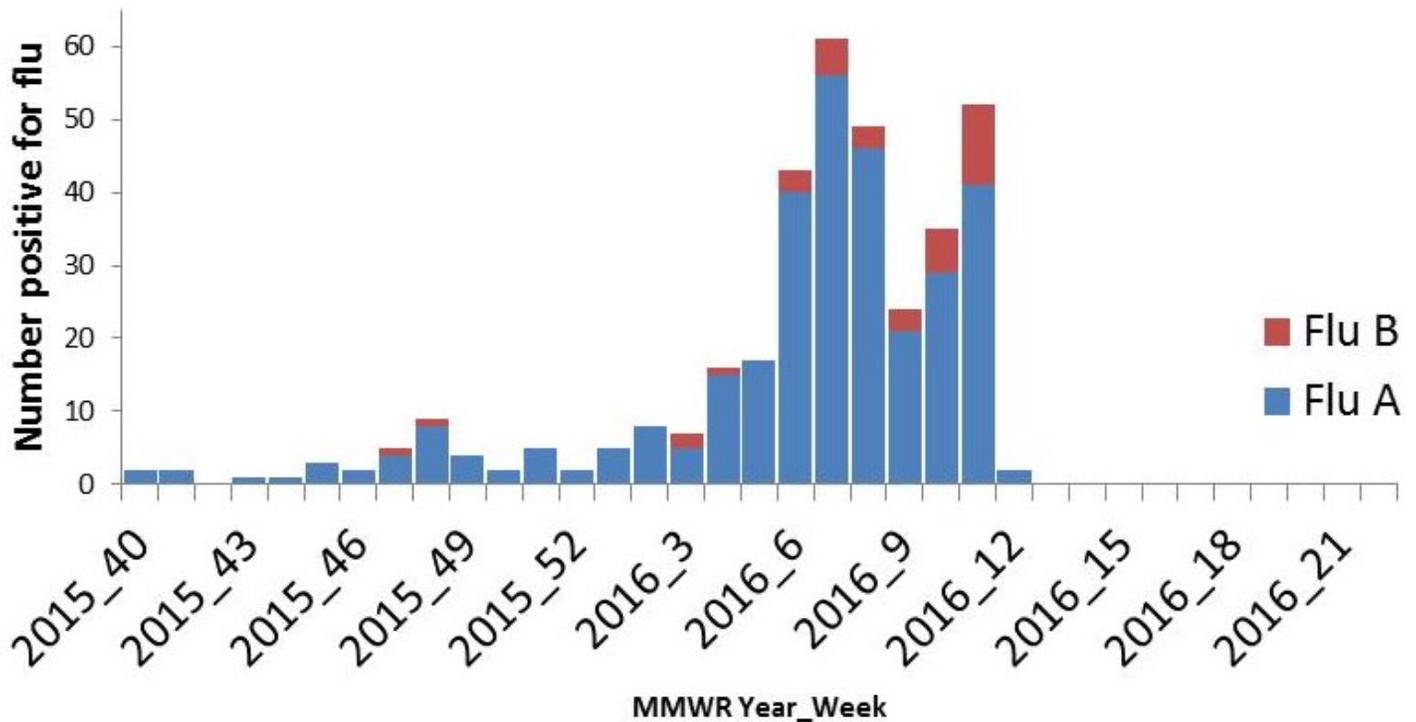


CDC Week Number	10 (Mar 6–12)	11 (Mar 13–19)	12 (Mar 20–26)
# of Influenza Tests Performed	37	10	19
% Influenza Positive	48.7%	90.0%	36.8%
# Influenza A Positive	13	8	4
% Influenza A Positive	72.2%	89.9%	75.0%
# Influenza B Positive	5	1	3
% Influenza B Positive	27.8%	11.1%	25.0%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0	0	0
% Non-differentiated Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Passive Viral Surveillance

HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical laboratories. In week 12, there were 02 additional laboratory confirmed influenza cases from the prior week. Flu A accounts for 91% of the flu positives this season. Week 7 had the highest count (61) of flu positives this season.

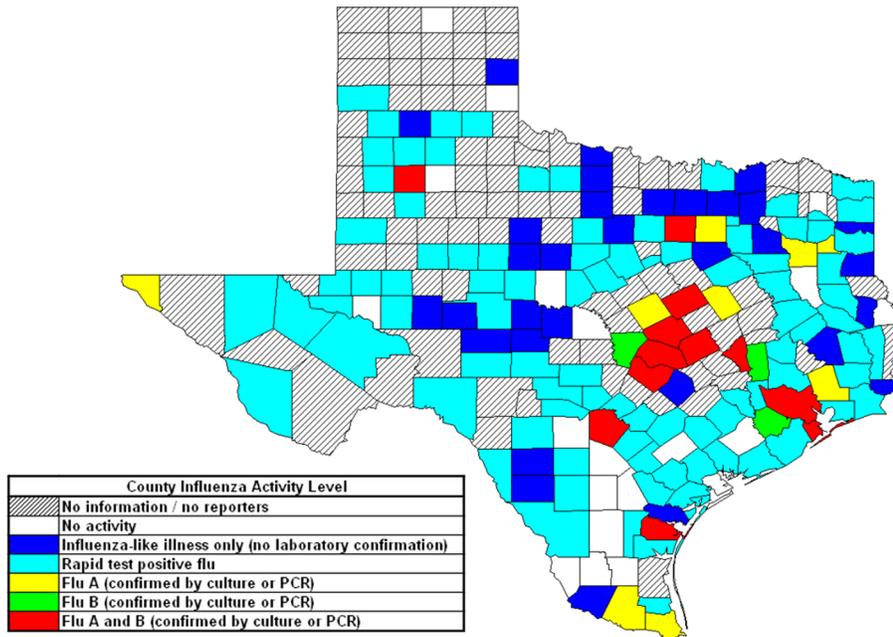
Number of positive flu tests reported via Electronic Lab Reports per Week, 2015-2016



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 Mar. 26, 2016 (MMWR Week 12)

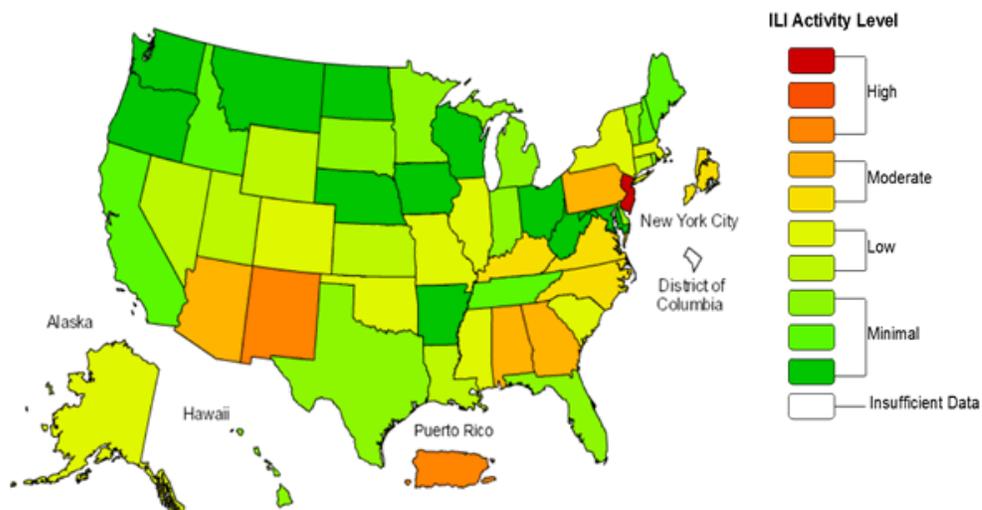


Please note: The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law in Texas. This map contains data from sentinel sites and only displays influenza and ILI cases that were reported to public health. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date, or date received in 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 12 ending Mar 26, 2016



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/weekly-flu-report>

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/>

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