



Houston Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness
Bureau of Epidemiology & Bureau of Laboratory Services

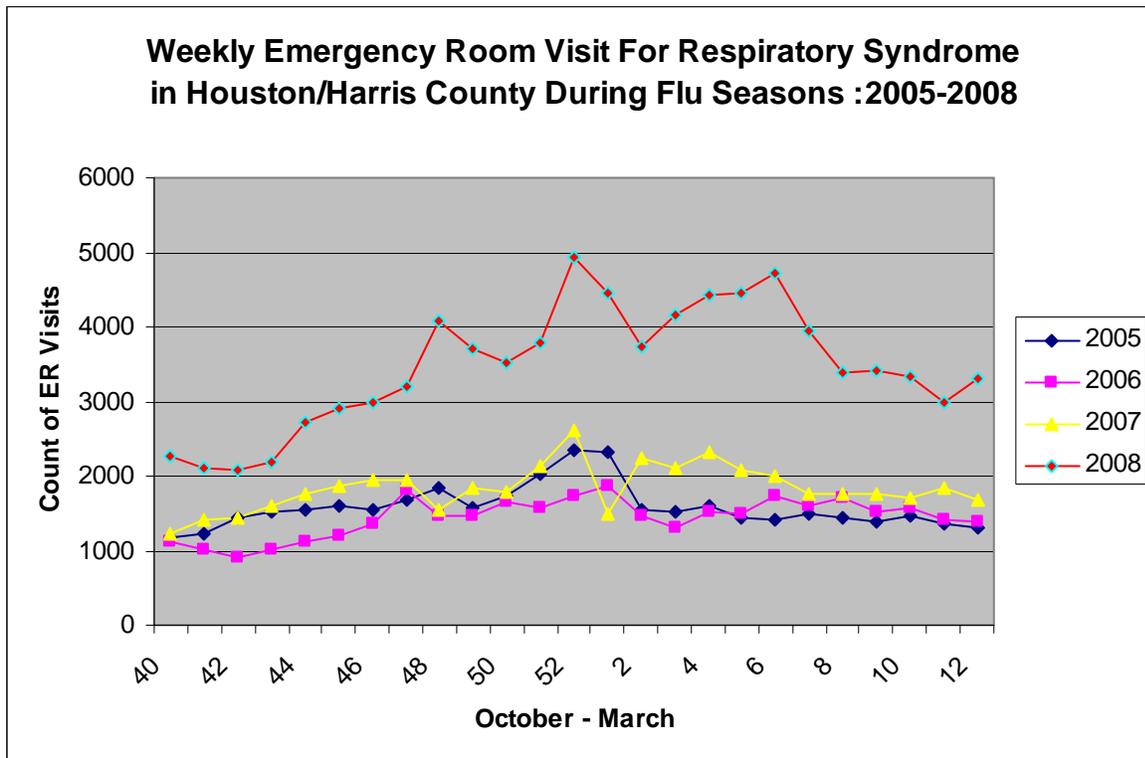
Influenza Report

March 31, 2009

Summary

- Emergency room visit for respiratory syndrome has been declining since the second week of February.
- Houston sentinel culture surveillance results show that both influenza A (49.7%) and B (50.3%) are circulating. Influenza B is the most common virus detected in March and February. In January, Influenza A was the most common.
- Influenza A/H1 (94.1%) is the most common influenza A subtype.
- Passive surveillance (Non-sentinel) shows influenza A & B are circulating. Reporting of influenza was highest in February.
- Texas Children's Hospital data shows influenza B was the most common virus circulating in February and influenza A was the most common in January.

Syndromic Surveillance



*There is a huge increase in the number of ER visits for 2008 compared to the previous years, and this may be due to additional hospitals reporting to the RODS system since July

2008. But evidence from other surveillance system supported increased activities in 2008/2009 season compared to previous years, most especially in February.

*** Flu season: October 1st through May 31st of the following year.**

2005 : October 1st - December 31st 2005 and January 1st - May 31st 2006

2006 : October 1st - December 31st 2006 and January 1st - May 31st 2007

2007 : October 1st - December 31st 2007 and January 1st - May 31st 2008

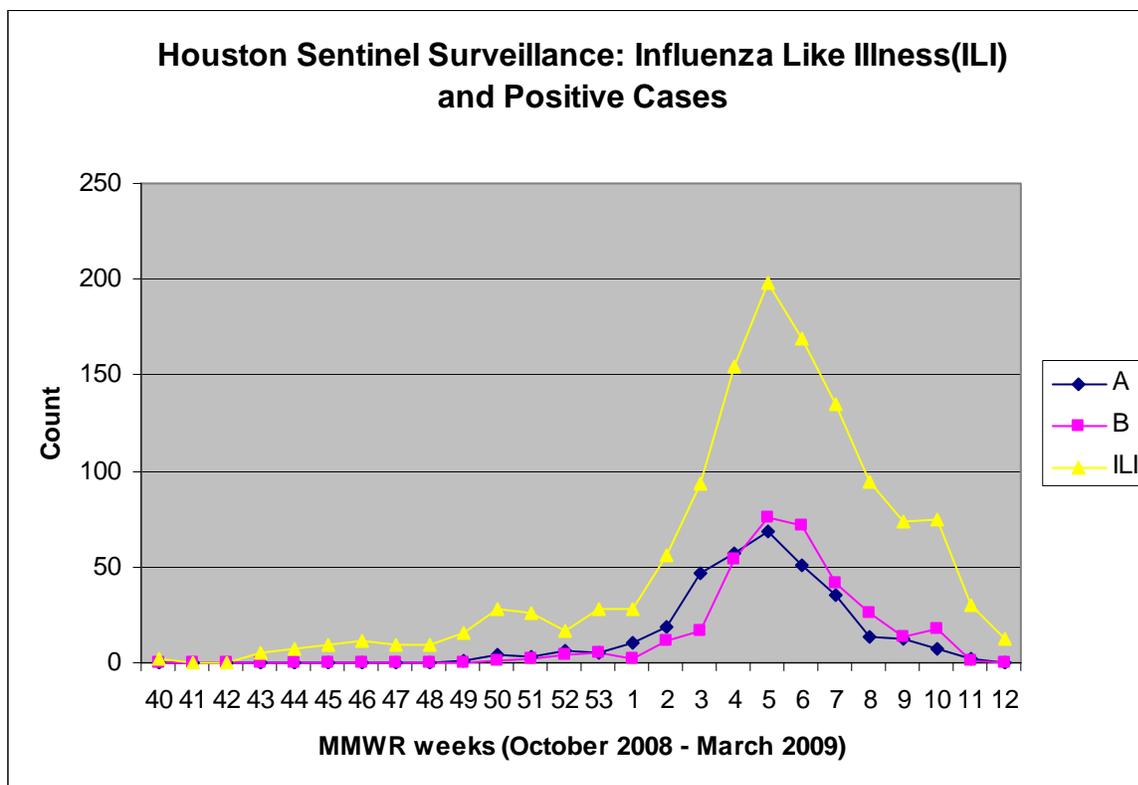
2008 : October 1st - December 31st 2008 and January 1st - May 31st 2009

Houston Sentinel Culture Surveillance

A total of 24 providers including a large private provider network are participating in sentinel culture surveillance.

As of March 30, 2009, 1286 specimens were submitted.

- 686 specimens were positive for influenza by PCR testing.
 - 49.7% (341) influenza A
 - 94.1% A/H1; 3.2% A/H3
 - 50.3% (345) influenza B
- 563 specimens were positive for influenza by culture
 - 48.3% (272) influenza A
 - 51.7% (291) influenza B
- Other respiratory viruses detected
 - 23 Parainfluenza (11 Parainfluenza 1, 2 Parainfluenza 2, 10 Parainfluenza 3)
 - 3 RSV
 - 11 Adenovirus



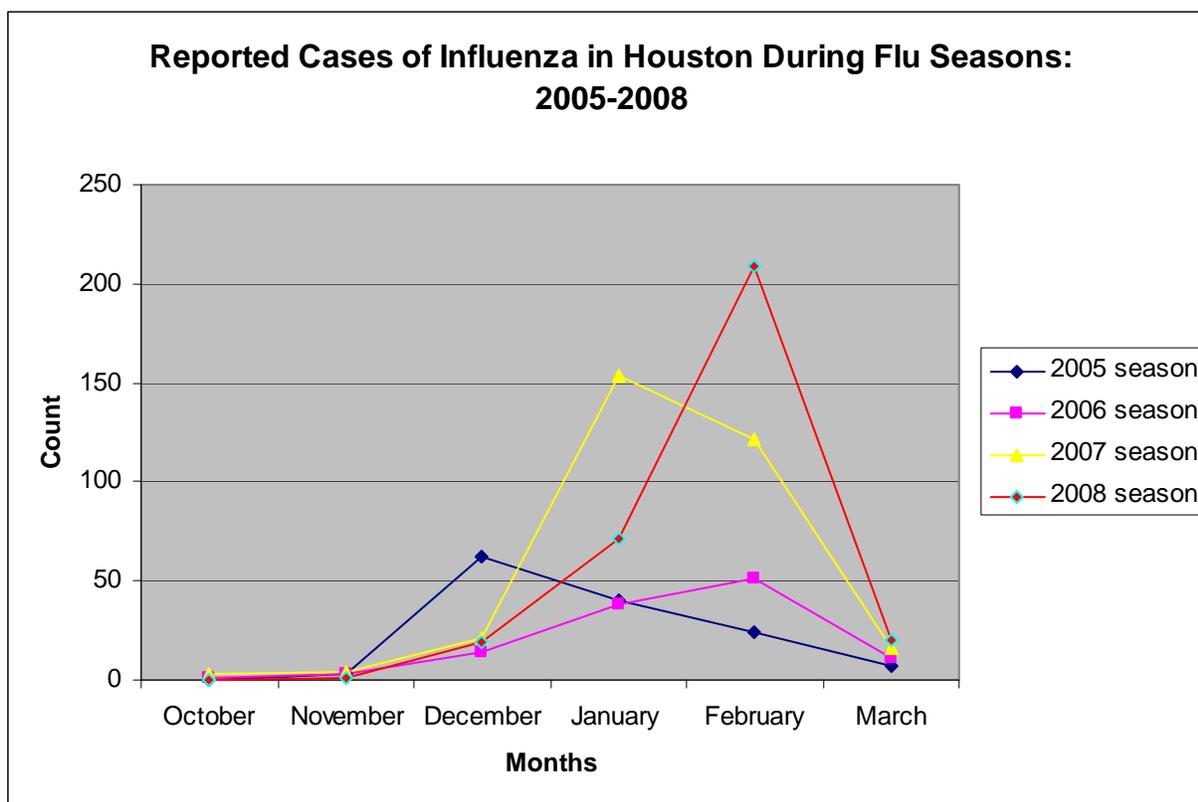
***Flu A & B are positive by PCR.**

***Numbers may change as results are received from the lab.**

Trend shows the peak for both influenza A & B was in the first week of February. In January, there was a predominance of Influenza A while in February and March, Influenza B was slightly higher. There has been a decline in the number of specimens submitted and tested.

Passive Surveillance (Non-sentinel)

As of March 30, 2009: 320 cases were reported for this season. There are 161 Influenza A cases and 130 Influenza B cases. So far, influenza reporting was highest in February.



Count is by date reported to HDHHS

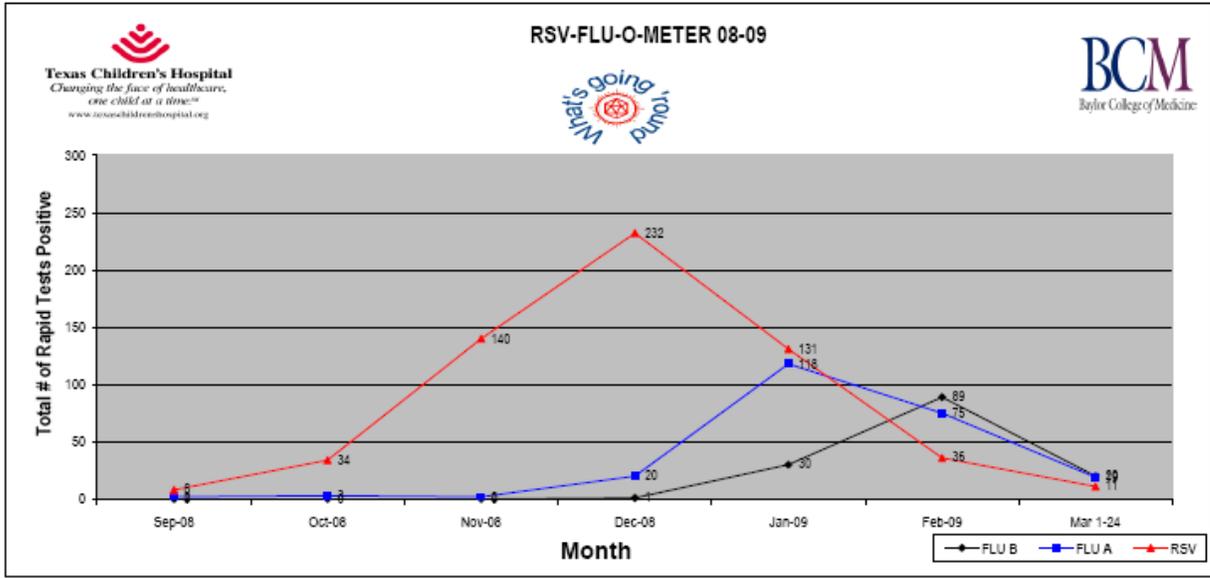
***Number of cases in 2008 may change as reports are received and information is updated.**

Influenza Related Pediatric Death

Four cases of influenza associated pediatric death were reported from a Houston area hospital. One case was a resident of Houston and three were residents of other jurisdictions. Three of the cases were positive for influenza B positive and one was positive for influenza A.

Texas Children's Hospital

Influenza A was the most common virus in January and influenza B was the most common in February. In March, both influenza A & B are circulating at higher proportions than RSV. However, the number of positive RSV and flu rapid tests is declining.



	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar 1-24
FLU B	0	0	0	1	30	89	20
FLU A	2	3	2	20	118	75	19
RSV	8	34	140	232	131	36	11