



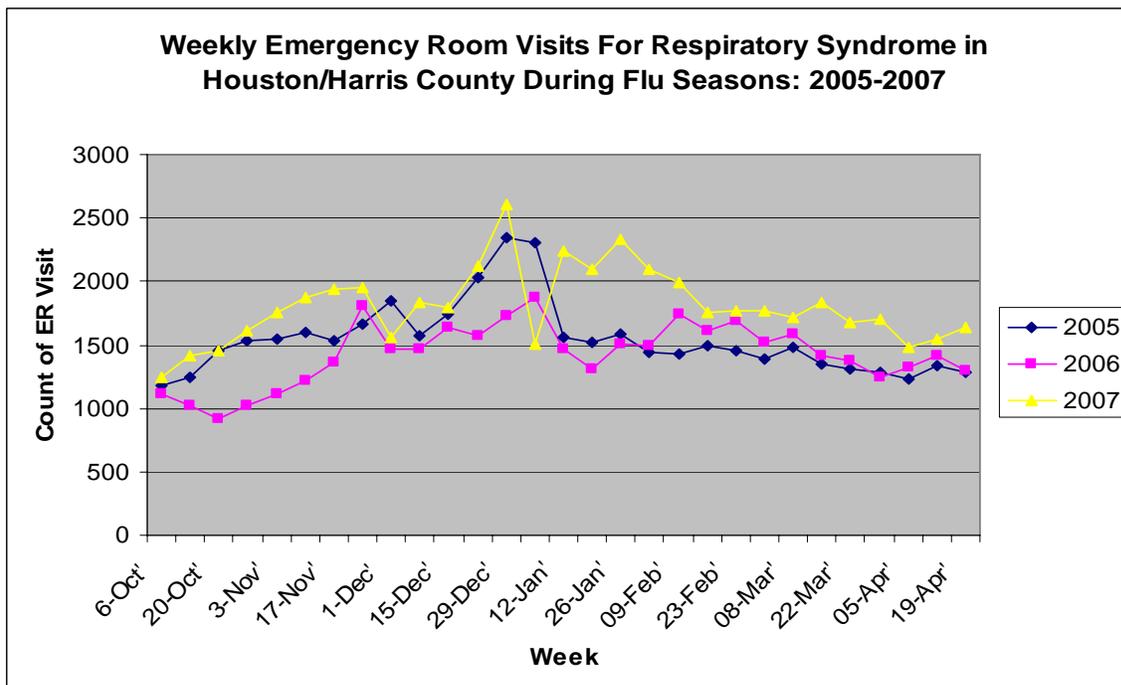
Houston Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness
Bureau of Epidemiology & Bureau of Laboratory Services

Influenza Report
April 21, 2008

Summary

- Influenza B was the most common virus detected in February and March from the Houston culture surveillance. Both influenza A & B activity decreased in March and April.
- Texas Children's virology lab data showed a decrease in influenza A in February, while influenza B activity remained the same.
- Emergency room(ER) visits for respiratory syndrome in Houston/Harris County area showed a decrease from January to February, but the second week of February shows a small peak. The last week of December showed the highest number of visits and there has been a decrease since then.
- Passive surveillance: the number of cases reported has been decreasing since January. This season showed higher number of reported cases compared with previous seasons (05-06, 06-07).
- Four influenza associated pediatric deaths were reported in Houston this season.

Syndromic Surveillance



****The sharp decrease seen in the first week of January is most likely due to loss of data when the RODS system was down.**

For the 2007-2008 season, there was a steady rise in emergency room visit from October to November. The last week of December showed the highest peak for ER visits for this season. A second peak was observed in the second week of February. ER visits showed a decrease in March and April. This trend was similar to 2006-2007 season which also had two peaks, the first in the second week of January and the second in the third week of February.

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

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

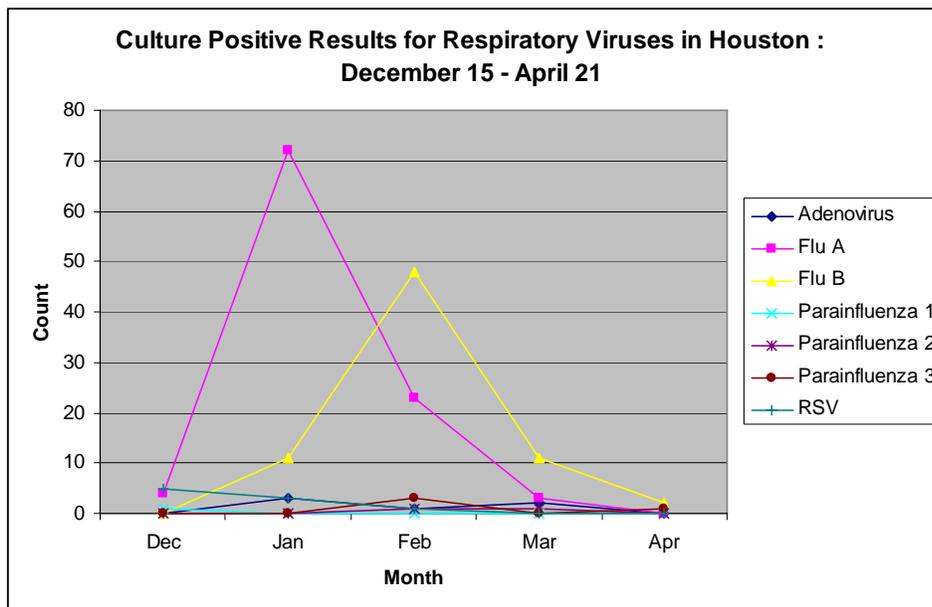
2006 : October 1st - December 31st 2006 and January 1st - May 31st 2007

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

Houston Sentinel Culture Surveillance

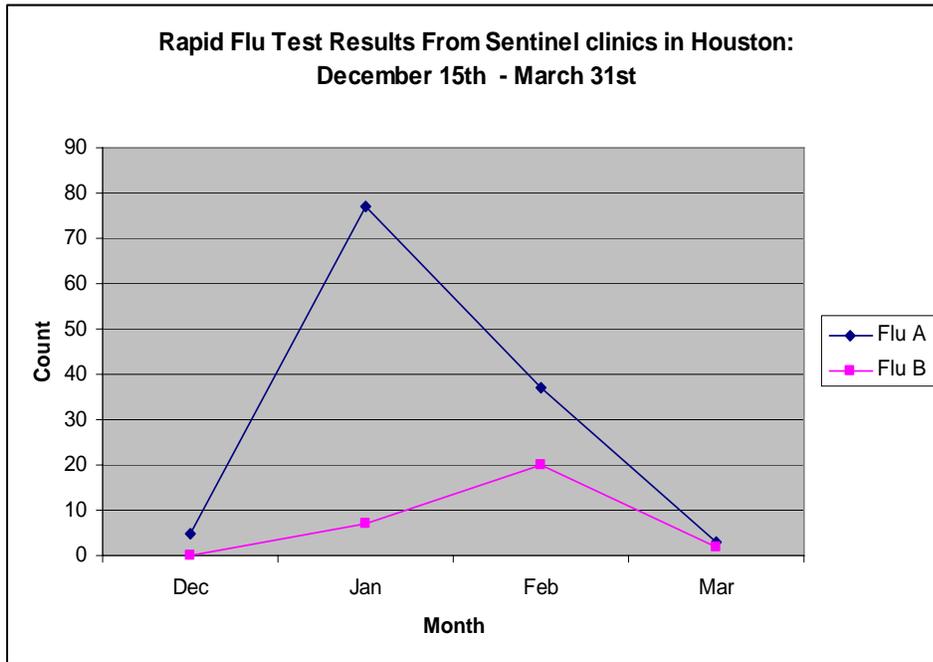
	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Adenovirus	0	3	1	2	0	6
Flu A	4	72	23	3	0	102
Flu B	0	11	48	11	2	72
Parainfluenza 1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Parainfluenza 2	0	0	1	1	0	2
Parainfluenza 3	0	0	3	0	1	4
RSV	5	3	1	0	0	9
Neg	7	82	95	21	2	207
Pending	0	5	14	3	0	22
Total	17	176	186	41	5	425

* March and April numbers are subject to change as culture results are reported.



22 providers have been recruited for the sentinel culture surveillance.

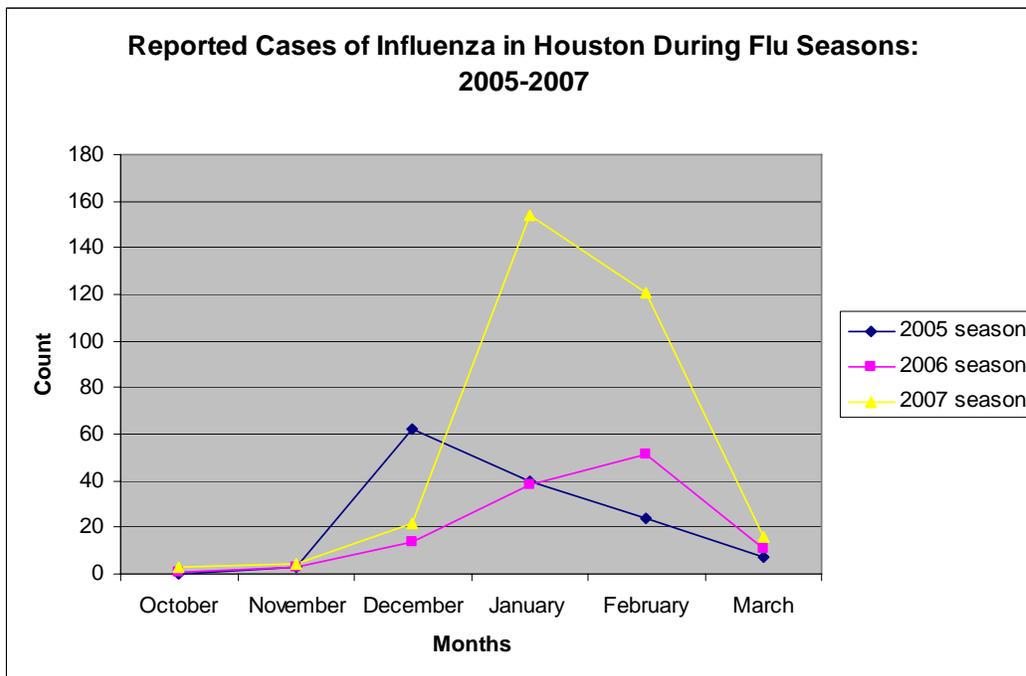
Influenza A activity decreased from January to February, while influenza B activity increased. Influenza A was the most common virus cultured in January and influenza B was the most common in February and March



*Influenza A virus was the most common virus detected by rapid flu test for all the months.

Passive surveillance (Non-sentinel)

This season (07-08) showed an increase of over 200% in the number of reported cases compared to previous seasons (05-06, 06-07).



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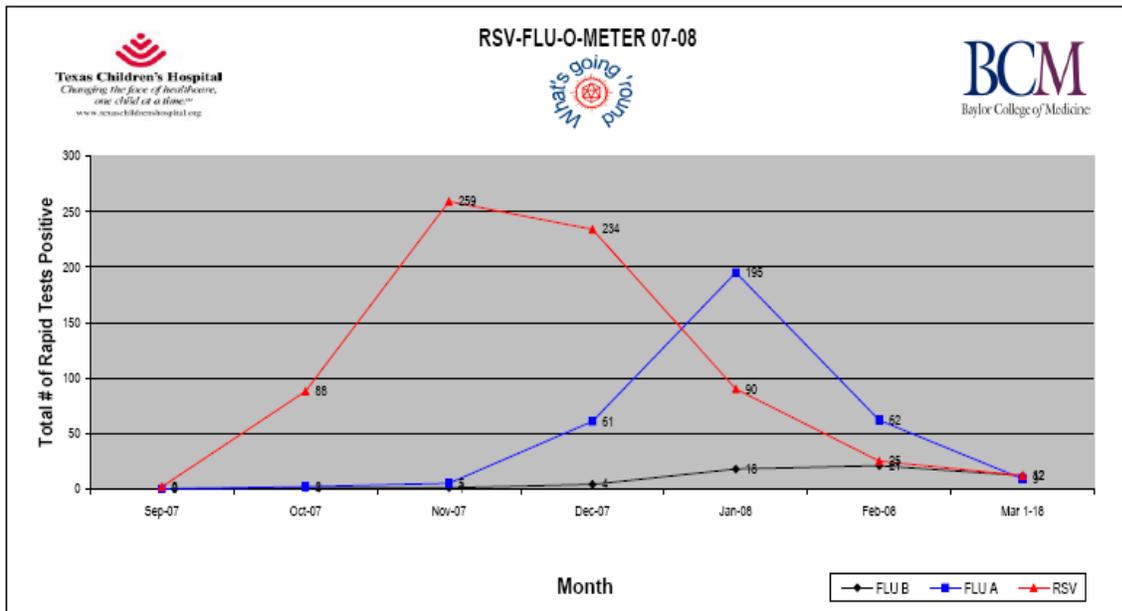
2007 : October 1st - December 31st 2007 and January 1st - May 31st 2008

Reported cases are laboratory confirmed.

* Influenza is not reportable in Texas. Reporting is voluntary from certain hospitals.

Texas Children Rapid Flu Test Results

Showing a decrease in influenza A activity in February and March while influenza B activity remains the same.



	Sep-07	Oct-07	Nov-07	Dec-07	Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar 1-18
FLU B	0	1	1	4	18	21	12
FLU A	0	2	5	61	195	62	9
RSV	2	88	259	234	90	25	12