



Houston Department of  
Health and Human Services

Office of Surveillance & Public Health Preparedness  
*Bureau of Epidemiology*

**Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report**  
CDC Week 50: December 8 - 14, 2013

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

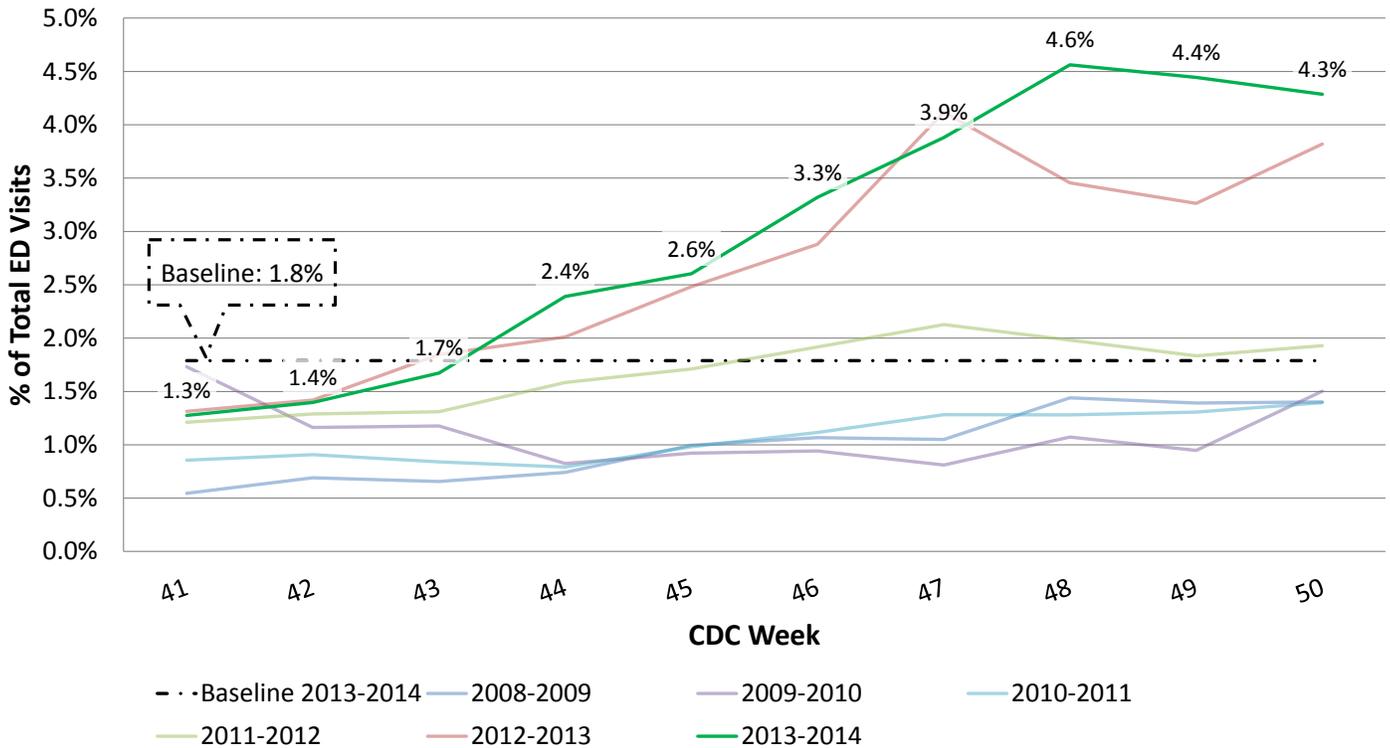
Houston/ Harris County: Week 50	Texas: Week 50	CDC: Week 50
High	High	Moderate

**Highlights**

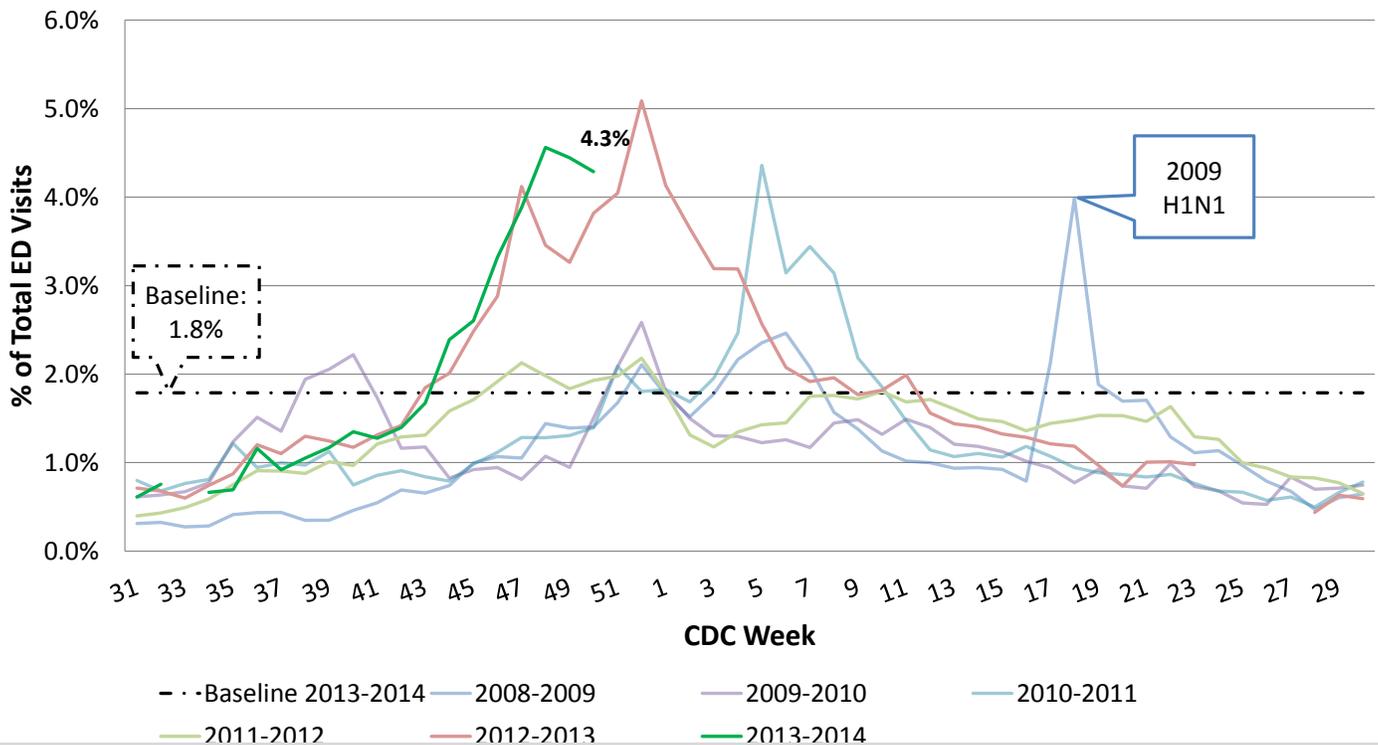
- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Houston/Harris county **decreased** from 4.4% in week 49 to 4.3% in week 50.
- The percentage of flu test positives in Houston **increased** from 46.3% in week 49 to 48.5% in week 50.
- During the 2013-2014 influenza season, zero (0) Houston influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.
- In week 50, 33 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 (1), Influenza A H1N1 (13), Influenza B (1).**
- Cumulatively this season, the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services has tested 264 surveillance specimens. Of the 89 positive lab results, the 2009 H1N1 strain accounts for 78 (87.6%) of the positives.
- The percentage of all cause absenteeism was unavailable for week 50.
- At the national level during week 49, 13.3% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (2.1%) was **above** the national baseline (2.0%) and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (6.2%) was **below** the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for week 49.

## Syndromic Surveillance: 2013-2014 Influenza Season and Age Distribution

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



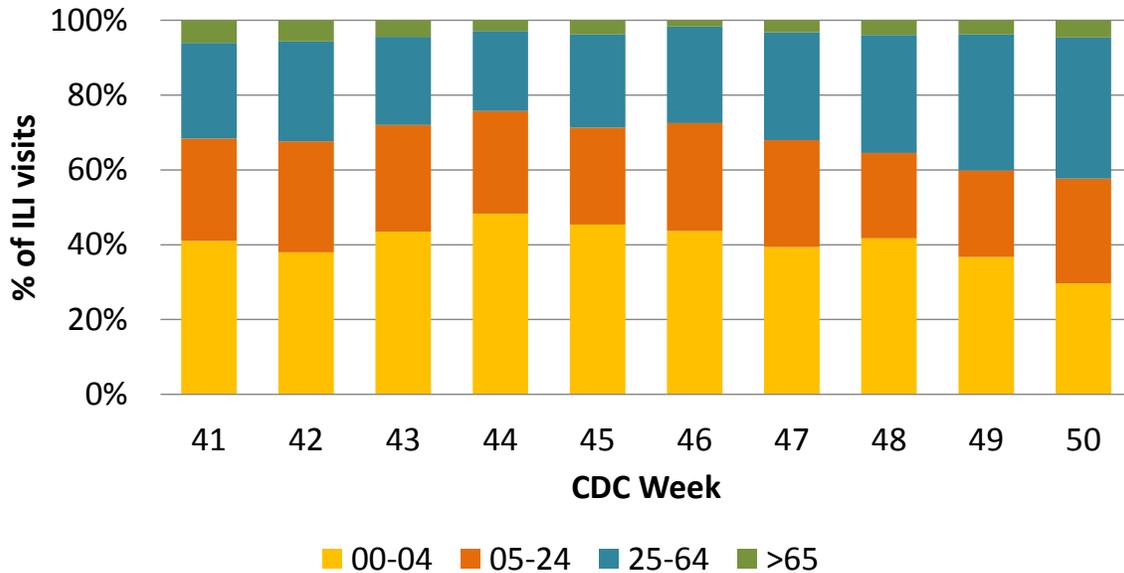
### Comparison of ILI-Related ED Visits in Houston/Harris County



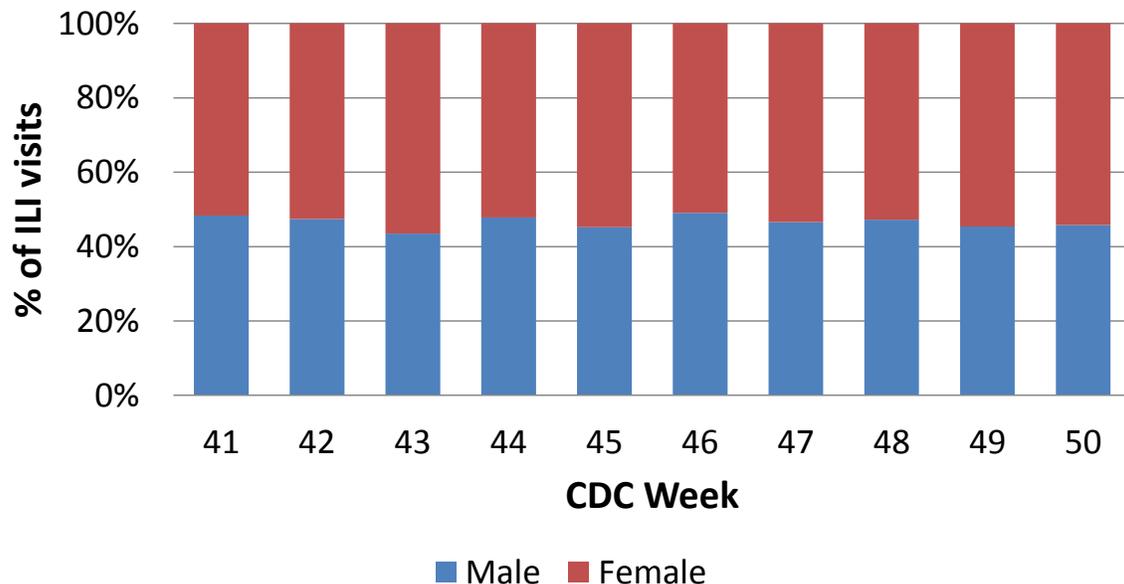
NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI activity is assessed using information provided by surveillance participants in the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance System (RODS). For week 50, 36 surveillance participants reported ILI information to Houston Department of Health and Human Services. Influenza-like 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: 2013-2014 Influenza Season and Age Distribution

**ILI % by Age Groups, Houston/Harris County, 2013-2014**



**ILI % by Gender, Houston/Harris County, 2013-2014**



In week 50, 4.3% of emergency department (ED) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 1,682 patients presenting with ILI, the age group that recorded the most ED visits were the 25-64 year olds (37.7%).

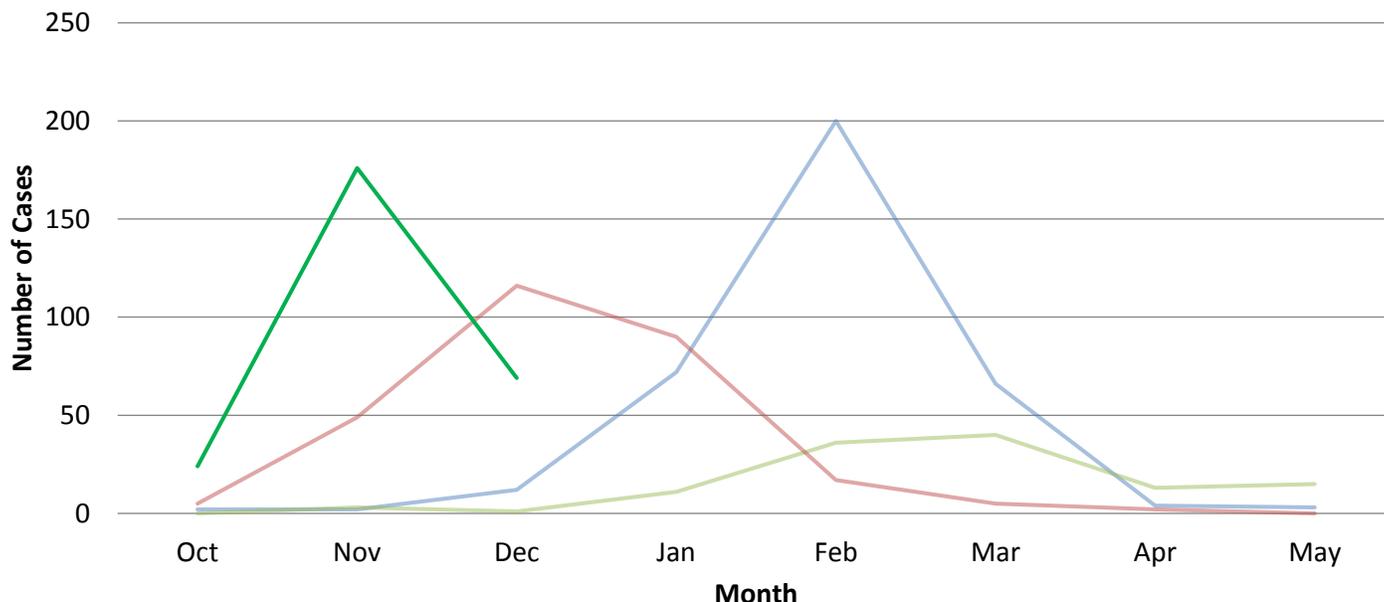
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## Passive Surveillance

In week 50, there were (6) additional influenza cases from the prior week. The largest proportion of patients reported with influenza in December 2013 was among those in the age group of 25 to 64 years (3 cases).

**Houston Passive Influenza Reported Cases 2010-2014\***



\*All data are preliminary and may change as reports are received.

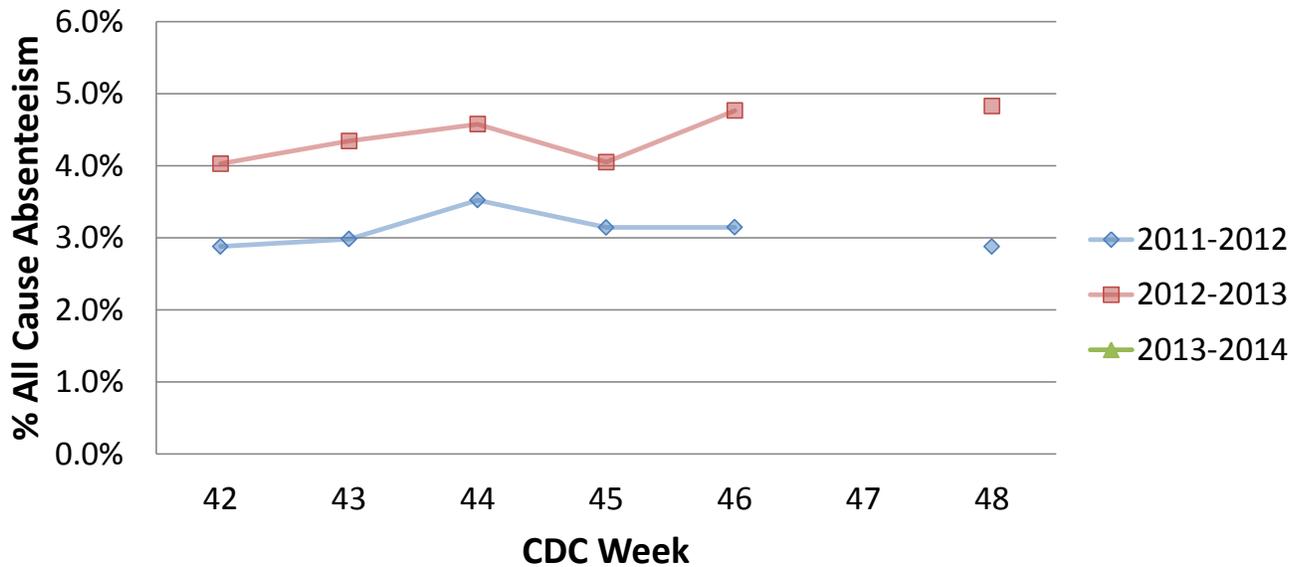
— 2010-2011 — 2011-2012 — 2012-2013 — 2013-2014

## Laboratory Surveillance: Influenza Rapid Test Results, Houston

CDC Week Number	48 (Nov 24-30)	49 (Dec 1-7)	50 (Dec 8-14)
# of Influenza Tests Performed	13	41	33
% Influenza Positive	53.8%	46.3%	48.5%
# Influenza A Positive	6	19	14
% Influenza A Positive	85.7%	100%	87.5%
# Influenza B Positive	1	0	0
% Influenza B Positive	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0	0	2
% Non-differentiated Positive	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%

School Surveillance

Average Weekly % Absenteeism in HISD



The average daily % absenteeism for HISD schools was unavailable at the time of update.

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

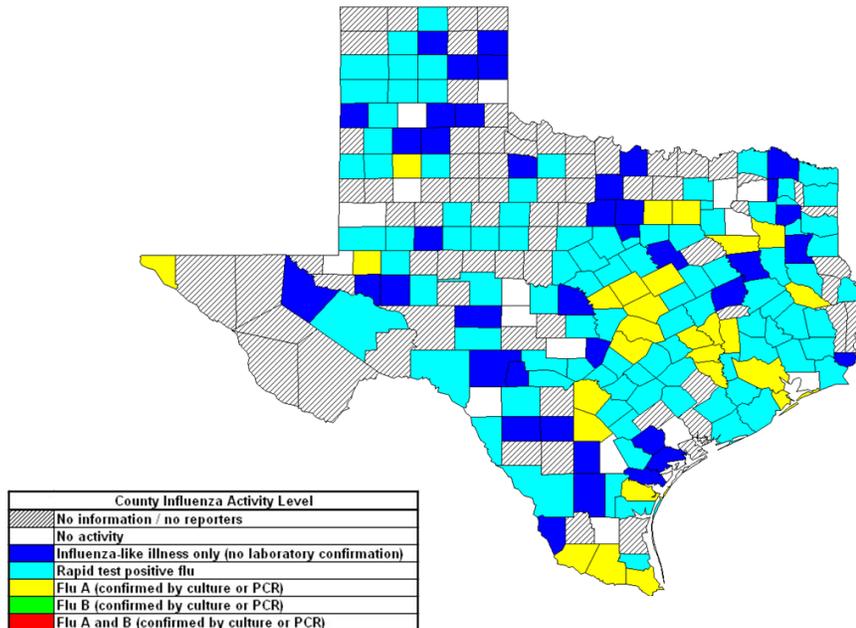
	Total Cases	Lab Confirmed		Flu A	Flu B	A+B	Unclassified	Elem Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Multi-Level Schools
		#	%								
Aug	1	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sep	12	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	10	1	1	0
Oct	45	4	8.9%	0	0	0	4	29	4	10	2
Nov	113	2	1.8%	1	0	0	1	88	16	9	0
Dec											
Jan											
Feb											
Mar											
Apr											
<b>Total</b>	171	6	3.5%	1	0	0	5	128	21	20	2

ILI cases in HISD students increased in November compared to October. There were only 2 laboratory confirmed cases seen in October and only 1 was classified as influenza A.

NOTE: Absenteeism and student ILI 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 report month.

## Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity

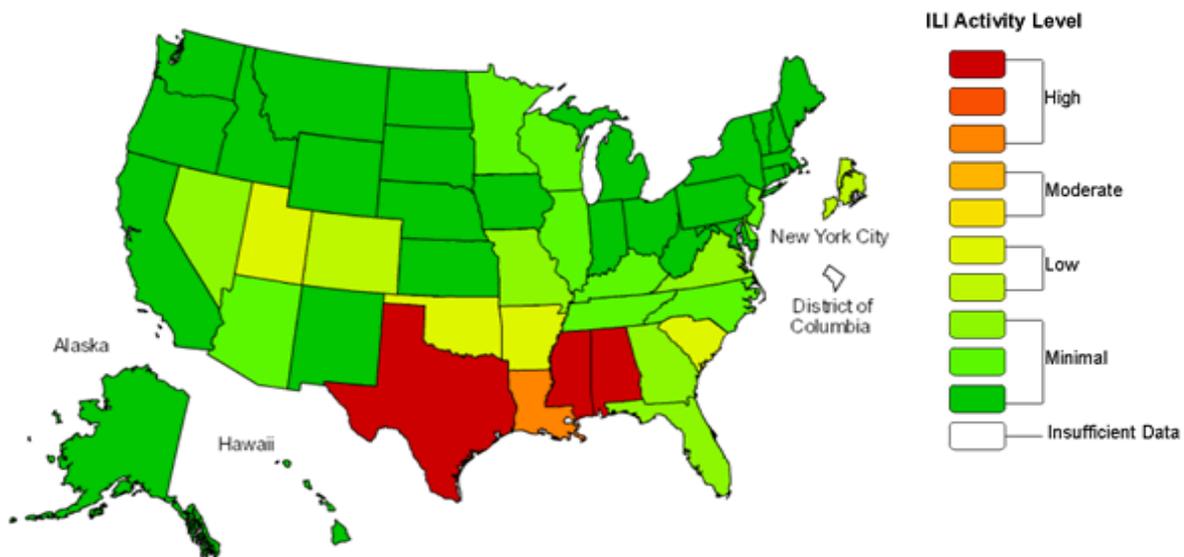
**Statewide Influenza Activity Map**  
 Figure 4: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending December 7, 2013 (MMWR Week 49)



*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/2013/>

### Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet 2013-14 Influenza Season Week 49 ending Dec 07, 2013



*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 Department of Health and Human Services web site at:  
[www.houstontx.gov/health/epidemiology/flu\\_report.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/health/epidemiology/flu_report.html)

**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://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2014/>

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

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

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