

Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS)
Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness
Bureau of Epidemiology
Influenza Report
October 14, 2009

Weekly Highlights 10/4/09 – 10/10/09

- There continues to be an increase in circulation of Influenza A virus as reported by our sentinel providers.
- Novel Influenza H1N1 accounts for about 85% of circulating Influenza virus as reported by our sentinel providers.
- The Elementary and Middle school’s average percent absenteeism dropped to the lowest proportions observed this fall.
- Emergency room visits for constitutional syndrome in Houston/Harris County area shows an increase in 2009 compared with prior year’s proportions. This finding supports increased flu activities among children.

Table 1: Summary Report of nH1N1 Surveillance (# of Cases)

Condition	Geographic Area	Oct 4-Oct 10, 2009	Cumulative	
Hospitalized (48+ hours)	Region 6/5*	NA		
	Houston **	47		
ICU				
ICU	Region 6/5	NA		
	Houston	5		
Deceased				
All cases				
Deceased	Region 6/5	NA		
	Houston	0		
	Pediatric			
	Region 6/5	NA		
	Houston	0		
	Adult			
	Region 6/5	NA		
	Houston	1		

* Regional numbers are cumulative to Oct 3rd 2009 and not reported weekly
 ** Houston numbers are cumulative to Oct 10th 2009. This is the first week
 Hospitalized 48+ has been reported to the BOE.

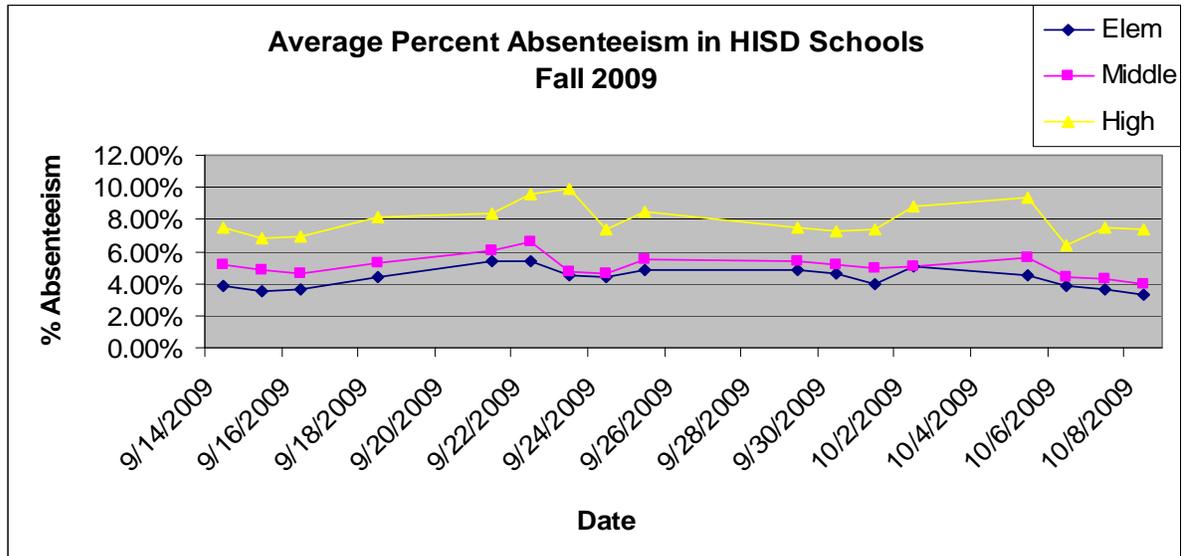
Table 2: Summary Report of nH1N1 Surveillance (Clusters and Closures)

	Oct 4-Oct 10, 2009	Cumulative
Clusters (schools, businesses, assisted living facilities)	1	
Closures (schools, businesses, assisted living facilities)	None reported	

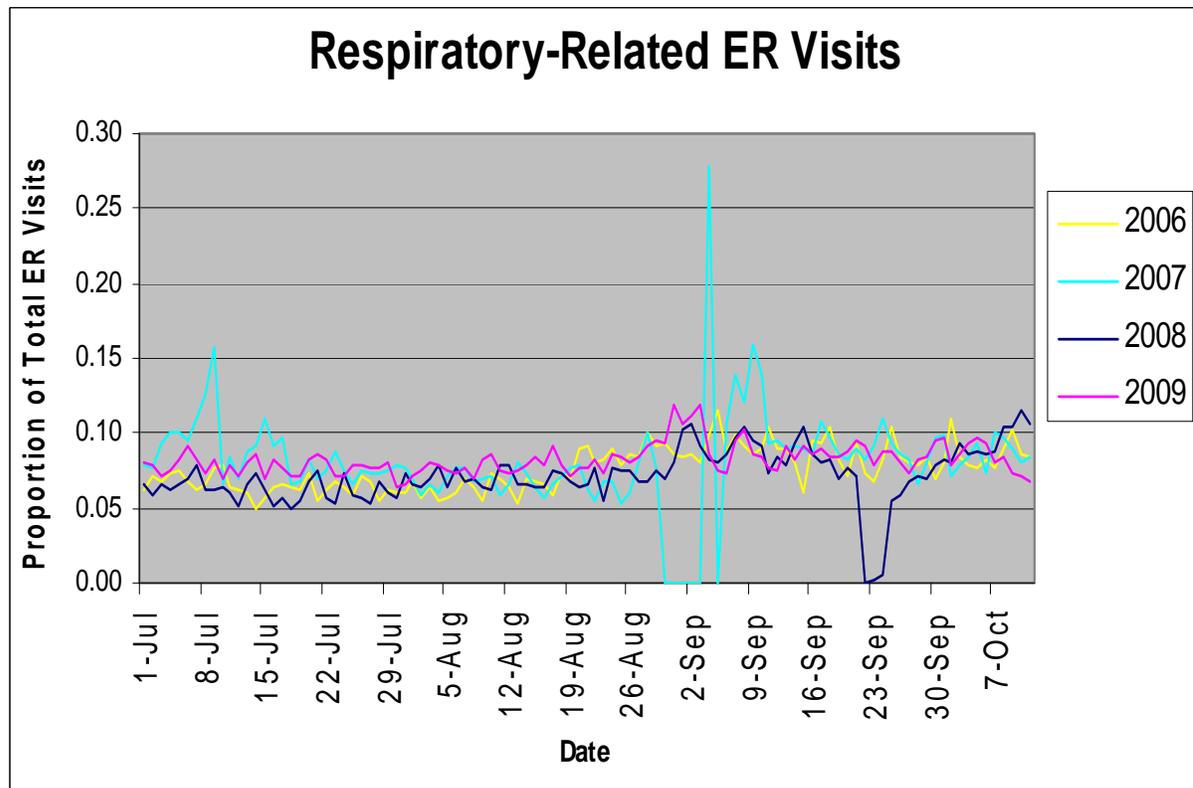
Table 3: Surveillance (Sentinel Providers)

Specimen results by PCR for:	Oct 4-Oct 10, 2009	Cumulative
Influenza A		
Total cases	227	
A/H1	0	
A/H3	0	
A/Subtype Pending	15	
A/Unsubtypable	7	
A/Novel H1N1	123	
Influenza B	1	
Negative	82	

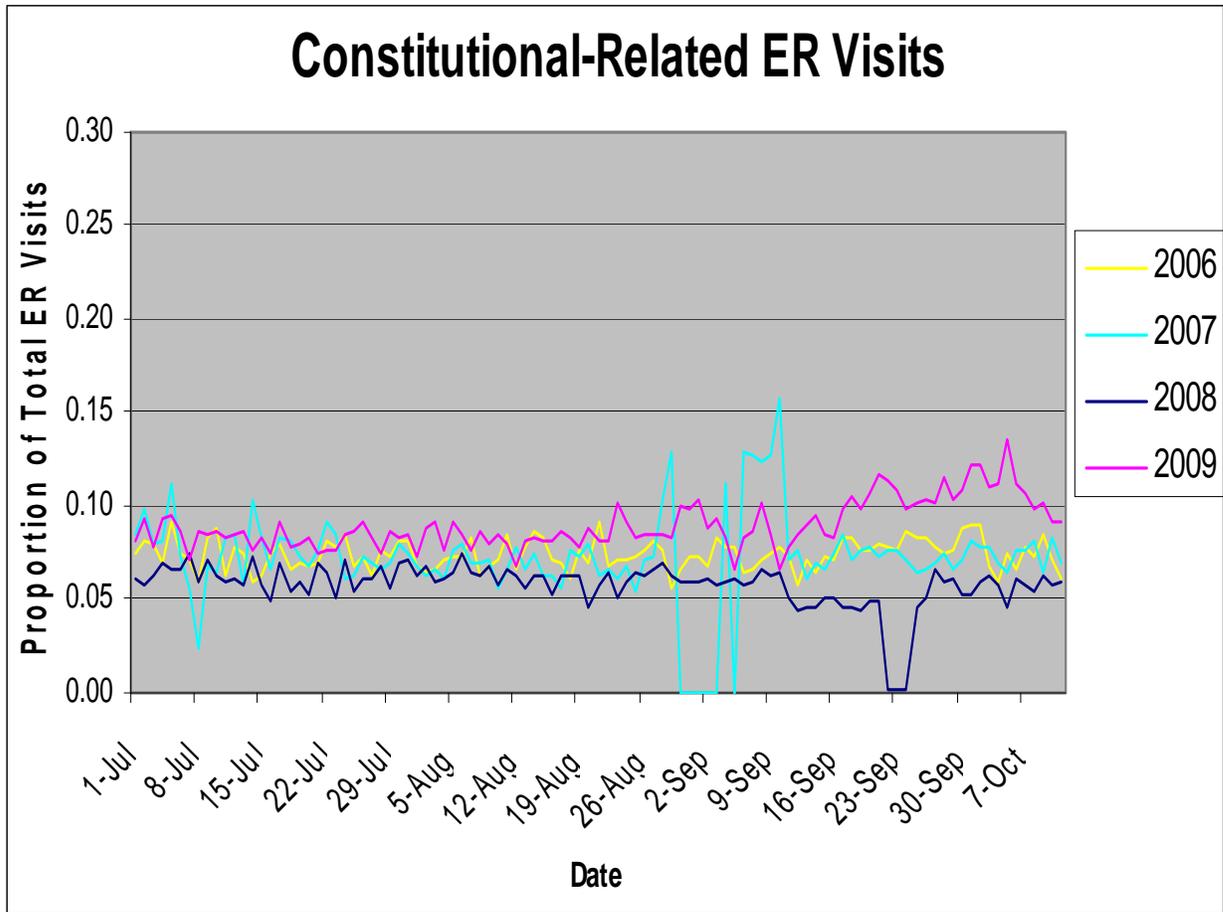
STUDENT ABSENTEEISM



SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE:



Respiratory: problems of the nose (coryza) and throat (pharyngitis), as well as the lungs. Examples of respiratory-related illness include congestion, sore throat, tonsillitis, sinusitis, cold symptoms, bronchitis, cough, shortness of breath, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and pneumonia.

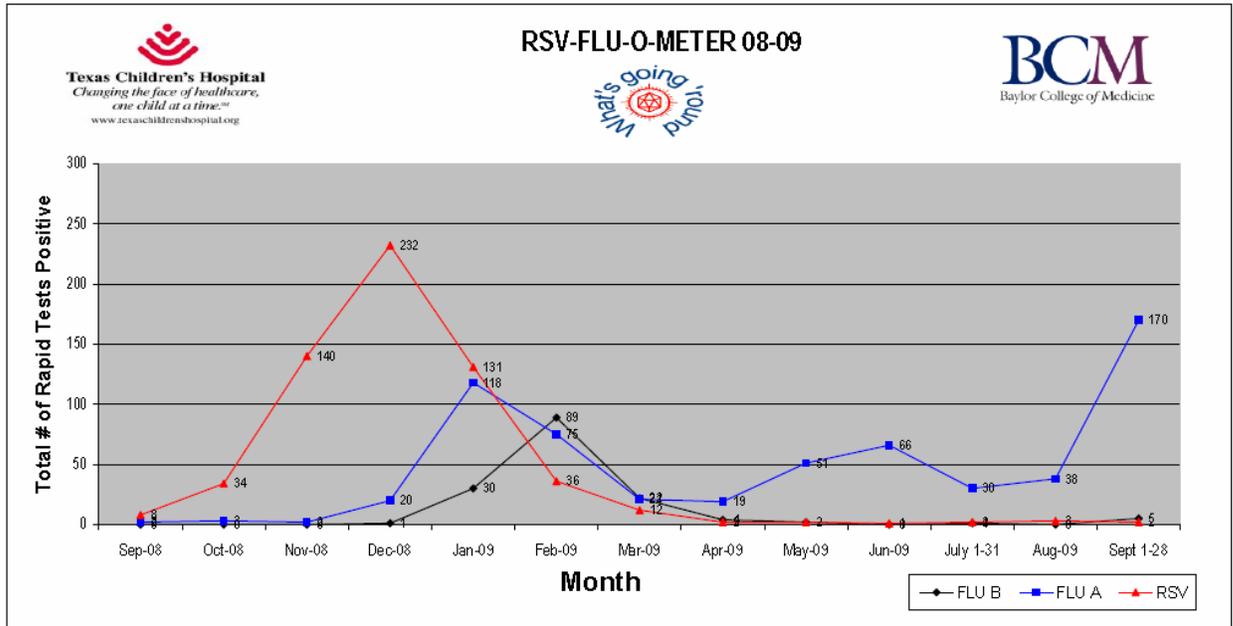


Constitutional: non-localized, systemic problems including fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms (viral syndrome), weakness, fatigue, anorexia, malaise, lethargy, sweating (diaphoresis), light headedness, faintness and fussiness. This syndrome is typically representative of young age groups.

**NOTE: Please note that data drops occurred during the period.*

Texas Children's Hospital

Influenza A was the most common virus in between April 2009 and September 2009. At the beginning of August 2009, there was a significant rise in the number of circulating Influenza A. The number of positive RSV and Influenza B declined significantly during this period.



	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08	Jan-09	Feb-09	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	July 1-31	Aug-09	Sept 1-28
FLU B	0	0	0	1	30	89	22	4	2	0	1	0	5
FLU A	2	3	2	20	118	75	21	19	51	66	30	38	170
RSV	8	34	140	232	131	36	12	2	2	1	2	3	2

Kelsey Seybold Report

Total of Influenza A and B samples tested by Kelsey Seybold were highest beginning August 24 2009 through September 26, 2009. Influenza A positive results also gradually increased between the same period. This increase confirms that Influenza A was the predominant virus circulating during this period.

