Influenza Surveillance Report

Division of Disease Prevention and Control
Public Health Informatics
CDC MMWR Week 2:
January 5, 2020 to January 11, 2020
Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels

### Highlights
- The Houston Health Department (HHD) conducts seasonal influenza surveillance from October (week 40) to May (week 22). In week 2, the percentage of reported influenza-like illnesses (ILI) detected in emergency centers in Houston/Harris County was 3.60% which decreased from the previous week. The flu vaccine is recommended for the entire season.

### Influenza Like Illness (ILI)
- The percentage of Athena ILI reports decreased to 0.29% in week 2 compared to the previous week.

### Virology
- HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical labs. During week 2, the volume of flu tests received remained comparable to the previous week. Flu A activity accounts for 92% of the cumulative flu positives this season.
During week 2, 3.60% of emergency center (EC) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 4677 patients presenting with ILI, the age group that recorded the most EC visits was the 00 to 04 years old (34%). Females accounted for 54% of patients presenting with ILI.

NOTE: ILI activity is assessed using information provided by the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System and includes data from 78 hospitals and 17 school-based clinics. Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as the mention of fever AND cough, OR fever AND sore throat, OR flu in the patient’s Emergency Department (ED) chief complaint. These data do not represent laboratory confirmed cases of influenza nor do they represent all ED visits in Houston/Harris County.
During week 2, the zip codes with the highest percent of ED visits (5.87 or greater) were:
77086, 77046, 77008, 77502, 77003, 77504, 77051, 77503, 77020 and 77507.

NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI report distribution map was created using data provided by the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System and includes data from 78 hospitals and 17 school-based clinics. This map reflects the number of ILI cases from each residential 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.
In week 2, ILI accounted for 0.29% of outpatient visits in the Athena network. The total count of ILI visits reported within the network was 22.
Flu near You (FNY) is a participatory surveillance tool that complements traditional disease surveillance. The count of Flu Near You (flunearyou.org) users reporting ILI in the week of 1/6/2020 is 17, this count is comparable to the previous week. See the last page for information on how to participate.

School Surveillance August 2019 - May 2020

Table 1: ILI and Influenza Cases by Type and School Type\(^1\) per Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Lab Confirmed</th>
<th>Flu A</th>
<th>Flu B</th>
<th>A+B</th>
<th>Unclassified</th>
<th>Elem Schools</th>
<th>Middle Schools</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
<th>Multi-level schools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 100%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>4 13%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>44 22%</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>61 27%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>57 33%</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>Jan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sum</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>167 26%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School surveillance for ILI began in August for the current flu season. In December, a total of 175 cases were reported. The highest number of cases (131) were among elementary school students.

**NOTE:** Data on student ILI and influenza cases is collected from 306 schools within Houston Independent school district.\(^1\) School will be counted more than once if more than one case from the same school is reported during the same reporting period.
HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical laboratories. In Week 2 of 2020, there was 16 laboratory confirmed influenza case***.

HHD received 2 nonelectronic lab reports of flu-positive results from clinical laboratories during this reporting period. February accounts for the highest counts (n=4) of Flu activity in 2019/2020.
Flu Near You is a participatory surveillance (crowd sourcing) tool which complements traditional disease surveillance activities. Registered users can obtain real-time information on flu activity and influenza vaccines 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 ≥ 100°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 baseline.

Data was obtained or accessed through the Southeast Texas Syndromic Surveillance System. However, any conclusions drawn from use of this data do not represent the official views of any consortium member jurisdiction.

Additional information regarding Houston, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at:

http://www.houstontx.gov/health/
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/
http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/

*Below baseline means the % of visits for ILI is below the region-specific baseline of 4.76%.
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm

⊗ The numbers for pediatric flu-related deaths may change as information becomes available.

** Flu-related deaths in adults are not required to be reported to the health department. Numbers for flu-related deaths may change as information becomes available.