



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



Office of Surveillance & Public Health Preparedness
Program of Public Health Informatics

Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC MMWR Week 49: December 6—12, 2015

Influenza Activity by County, State, and National Levels

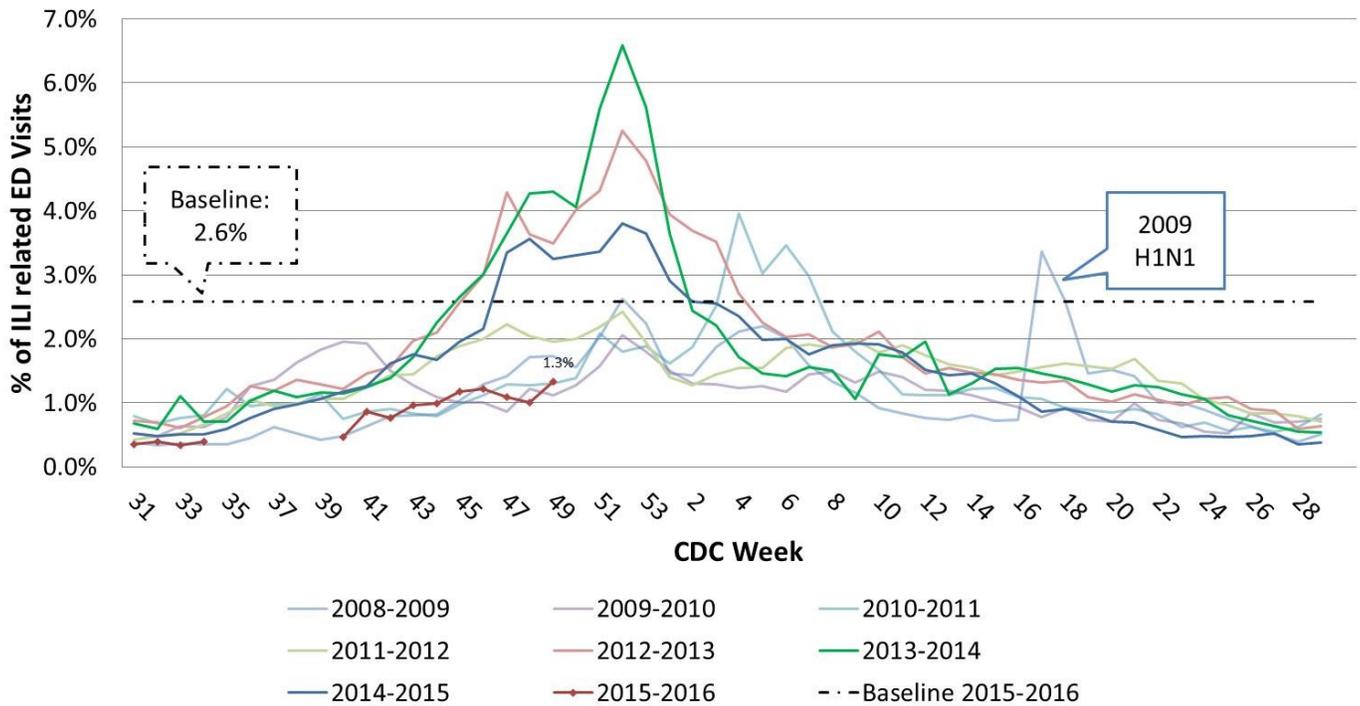
Houston/ Harris County: Week 49	Texas: Week 49	CDC: Week 49
Low	Low	Low

Highlights

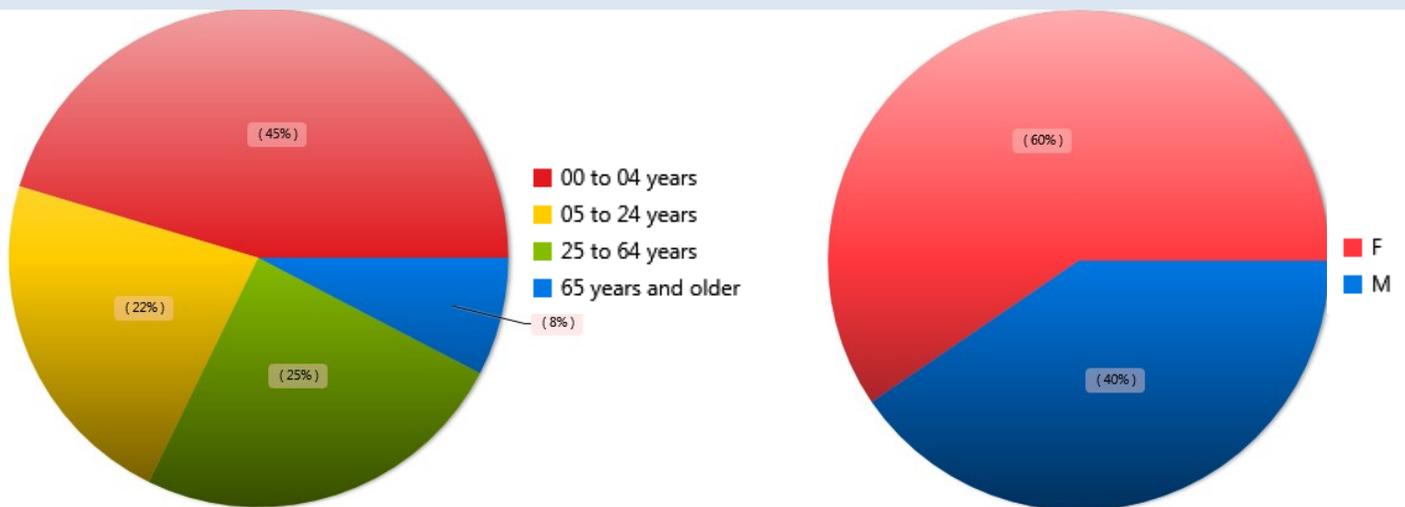
- The Houston Health Department (HHD) conducts seasonal influenza surveillance from October (Week 40) 2015 to May (Week 22) 2016. During Week 49, influenza activity increased from the previous week but overall remains low and widespread.
- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) detected from emergency departments in Houston/Harris County **increased** from 1.0% in week 48 to 1.3% in week 49. The proportion of ILI was below the baseline of 2.6%.
- During the 2015-2016 influenza season, zero (0) Houston influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.
- The percentage of flu test positives from sentinel providers in Houston **did not change** from 0% in week 48 to 0% in week 49. HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical labs. In Week 49, the number of flu positives labs from clinical laboratories was 3 in Week 49 which is a **decrease** from 8 in Week 48.
- In week 49, 17 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 (0), Influenza A H1N1 (0), Influenza B (0).**
- Cumulatively this season, the City of Houston Bureau of Laboratory Services has tested 173 surveillance specimens. There are zero flu positive labs and no predominant strain.
- At the national level during week 49, 5.21% of specimens tested and reported by U.S. public health laboratories to the CDC were positive for influenza and 1.7% of specimens tested and reported by clinical laboratories to CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI 1.9% was **below** the national baseline 2.1% and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza 6.0% was **below** the epidemic threshold of 6.7%.

Syndromic Surveillance: 2015-2016 Influenza Season

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



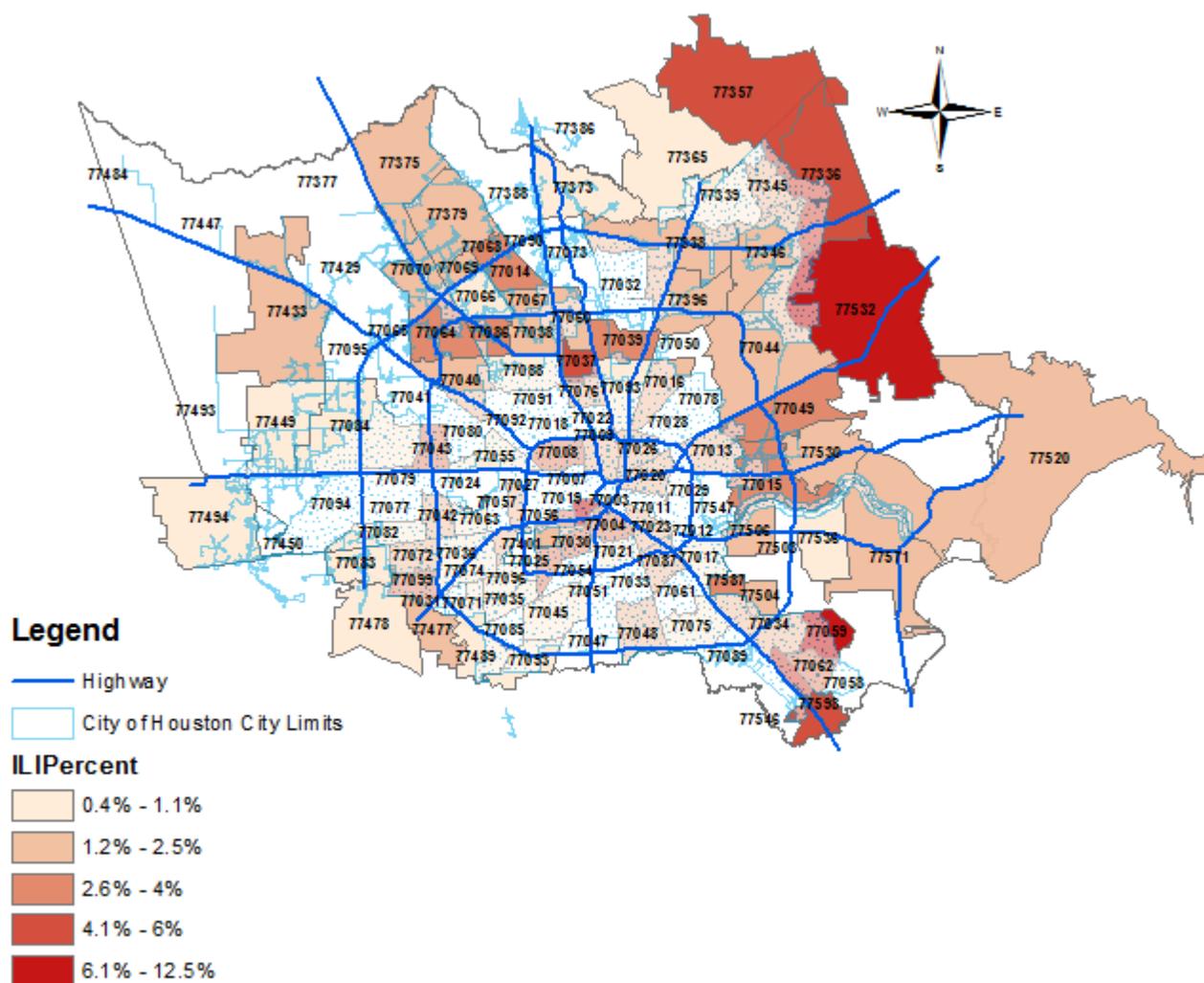
Syndromic Surveillance: 2015-2016 Influenza Season Age and Gender Distribution



In Week 49, 1.3% of emergency department (ED) visits were due to influenza-like illness (ILI) complaints. Of the 183 patients presenting with ILI, the age group that recorded the most ED visits was the 00 to 04 year olds (45%). Females accounted for 60% of patients presenting with ILI.

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 49, 36 surveillance participants reported ILI information to Houston Health Department. 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.

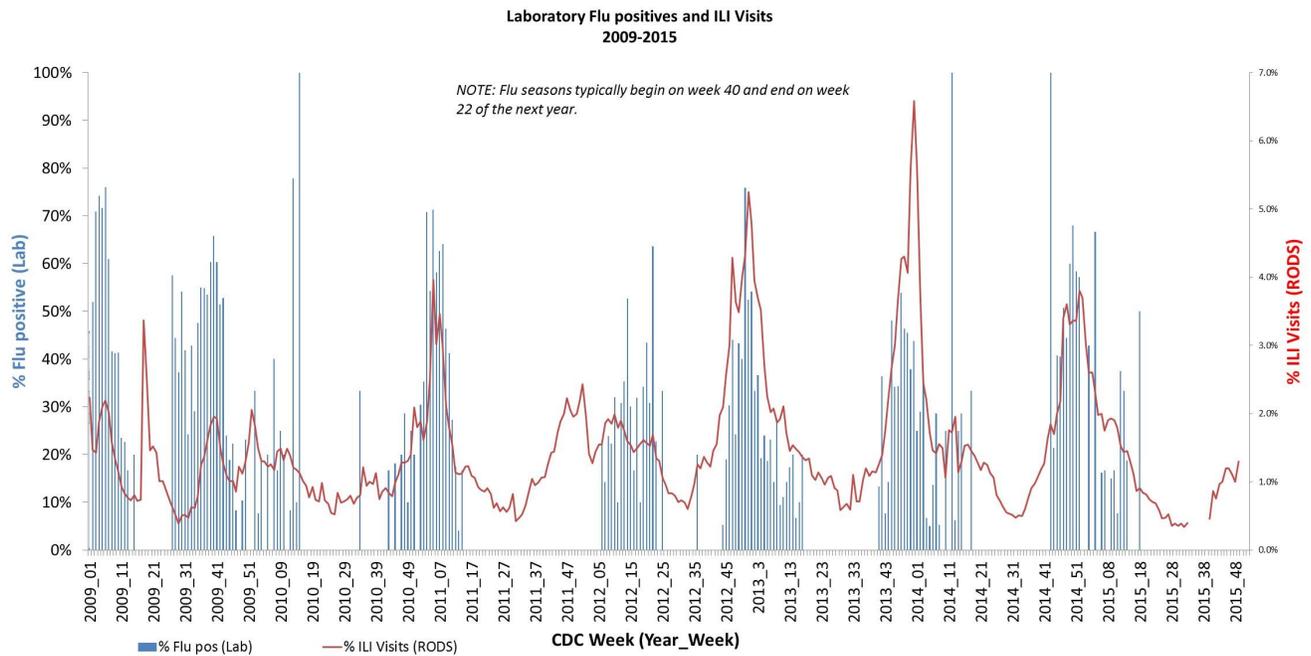
Syndromic Surveillance: Geographic Distribution Map



During week 49, the ZIP codes that have the greatest percentage of ED visits related to ILI (6.0% or greater) are: 77006, 77059, 77357, 77532, 77598

NOTE: Houston/Harris County ILI distribution map was created using data provided by 36 hospitals that voluntarily provide data based on chief complaints in the Real-time Outbreak Disease Surveillance System (RODS). This map reflects the percentage of ILI cases from each zip code from the total amount of cases seen in each 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.

Laboratory Surveillance: Influenza Rapid Test Results, Houston

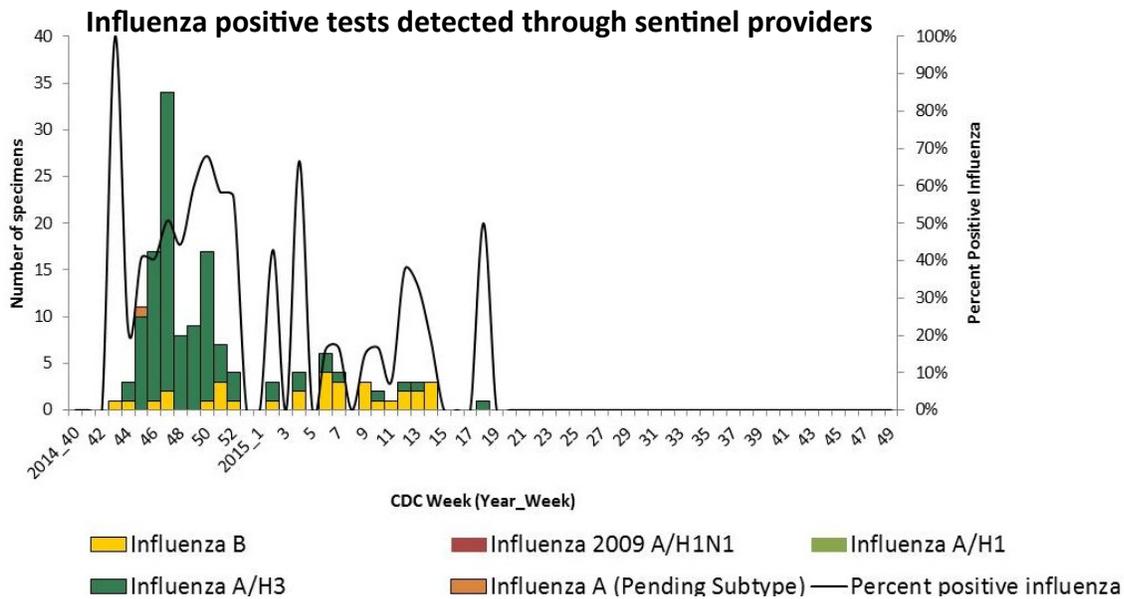


CDC Week Number	47 (Nov 22–28)	48 (Nov 29– Dec 05)	49 (Dec 06–12)
# of Influenza Tests Performed	22	21	17
% Influenza Positive	0%	0%	0%
# Influenza A Positive	0	0	0
% Influenza A Positive	0%	0%	0%
# Influenza B Positive	0	0	0
% Influenza B Positive	0%	0%	0%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0	0	0
% Non-differentiated Positive	0%	0%	0%

Laboratory Based Respiratory Viruses Surveillance: 2014-2015, 2015-2016

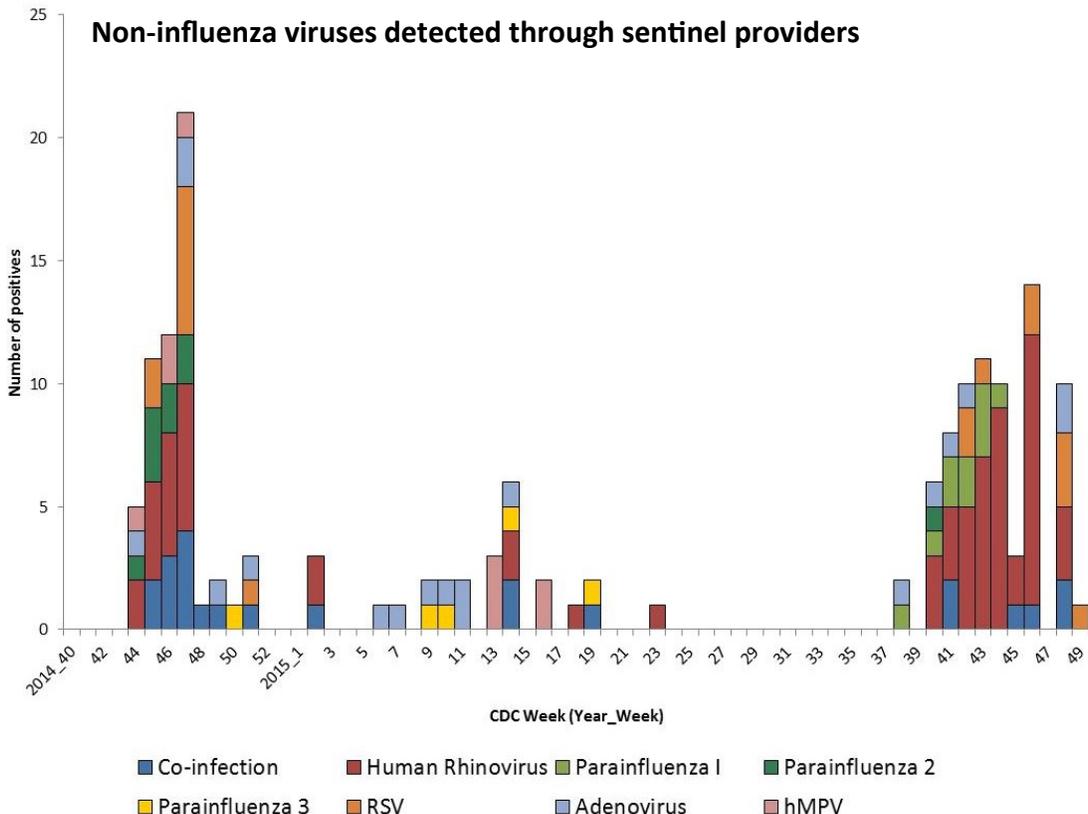
Influenza Viral Surveillance Summary

- During the 2015-2016 flu season the HHD Office of Surveillance and Public Health Preparedness tested 173 specimens from sentinel providers and detected zero influenza activity.



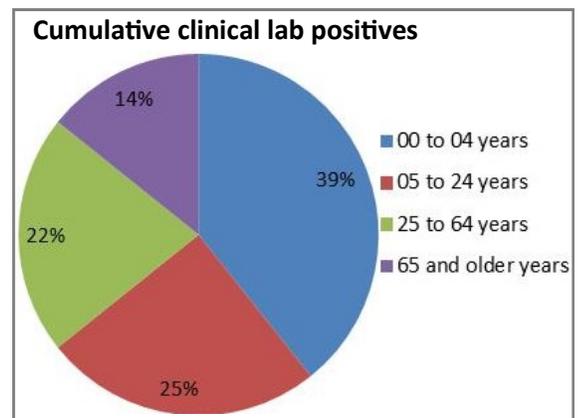
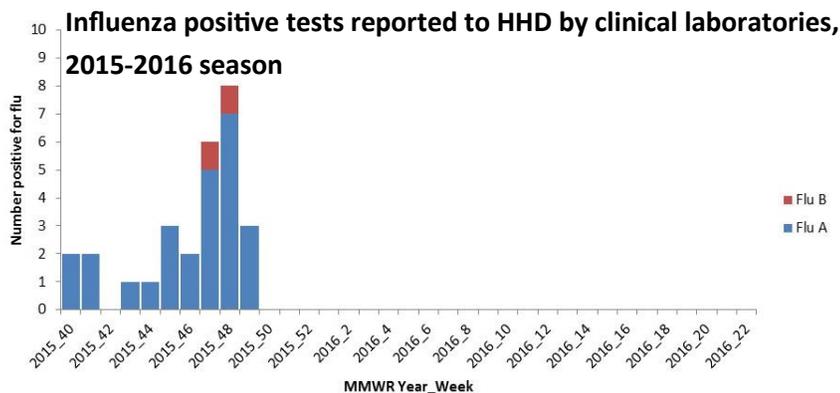
Non-influenza respiratory virus surveillance

OSPHP tested for seven non-influenza viruses and co-infection in 17 specimens from week 49. The virus types are listed with counts of lab positives in parenthesis. During week 49, non-influenza viruses detected include RSV (1).



Passive Viral Surveillance

HHD receives electronic lab reports from clinical laboratories. In week 49, there were three (3) additional laboratory confirmed influenza cases from the prior week. Flu A accounts for 93% of flu positives. Cumulatively this season the flu positives were detected in 0 to 4 years (39%), 5 to 24 years (25%), 25 to 64 years (22%), and > 65 years (14%).



School Surveillance

Table 1: ILI and Influenza Cases by Type and School Type¹ per Month

	Total Cases	Lab Confirmed		Flu A	Flu B	A+B	Unclassified		Elem Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Multi-Level Schools
		#	%									
Aug	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sep	03	01	33%				01		01	01	01	00
Oct	04	00	0%	-	-	-	04		03	01	00	00
Nov	04	00	0%	-	-	-	04		02	01	01	00
Dec												
Jan												
Feb												
Mar												
Apr												
Total												

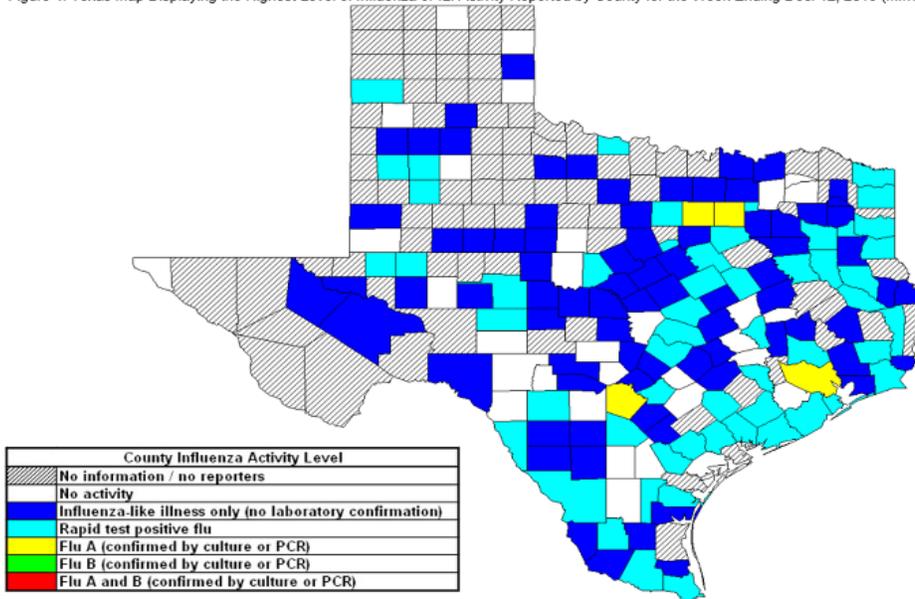
September was the first full month of 2015-2016 school year. ILI cases in HISD students increased in November compared to October. There were zero laboratory confirmed flu cases seen in November.

NOTE: Data on student ILI and influenza cases is collected from 306 schools within Houston Independent School District. ¹School will be counted more than once if more than one case from the same school is reported during the

Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity

Statewide Influenza Activity Map

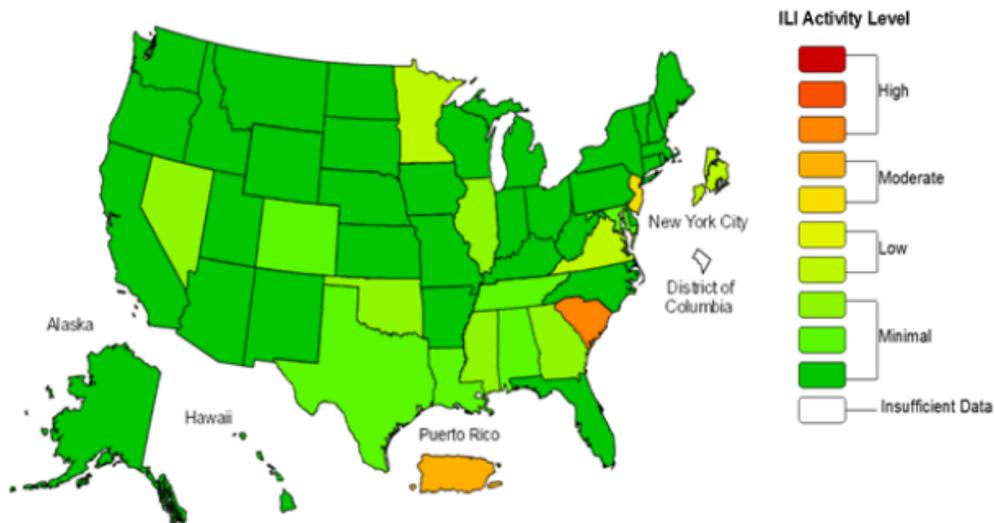
Figure 4: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending Dec. 12, 2015 (MMWR Week 49)



Please note: The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law in Texas. This map contains data from sentinel sites and only displays influenza and ILI cases that were reported to public health. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date, or date received in the laboratory if the former is unknown.

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/2015/>

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet
 2015-16 Influenza Season Week 49 ending Dec 12, 2015



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 Health Department web site at:

<http://www.houstontx.gov/health/weekly-flu-report>

Flu Near You is a participatory surveillance (crowd sourcing) tool which compliments traditional disease surveillance activities. Registered users can obtain real-time information on flu activity and influenza vaccine 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 $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) 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://http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2015/>

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

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

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