

Texas Influenza Summer Surveillance Report 2016–2017 Season/2017 MMWR Week 36

(September 3, 2017– September 9, 2017)

Report produced on 9/15/2017

Summary

Influenza (flu) activity is low across the state of Texas. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by public health laboratories and the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) marginally increased. The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by hospital laboratories slightly decreased. Four influenza-associated/ILI-associated outbreaks were reported. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially rhino/enteroviruses—were detected in Texas during week 36.

Table 1: Summary of Texas Influenza (Flu) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity for the Current Week

Texas Surveillance Component	Change from Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week†	Page of Report
Statewide influenza activity level reported to CDC (geographic spread of influenza)	Not determined during the summer	N/A	N/A	--
Statewide ILINet Activity Indicator assigned by CDC (intensity of influenza-like illness)	Not determined during the summer	N/A	N/A	--
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by hospital laboratories	▼ 1.51%	0.87%	2.38%	1
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by public health laboratories	▲ 38.10%	38.10%	0.00%	2
Percentage of visits due to ILI (ILINet)	▲ 0.67%	2.65%	1.98%	2
Number of regions reporting increased flu/ILI activity	▲ 3	4	1	4
Number of regions reporting decreased flu/ILI activity	▼ 3	1	4	4
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	No new cases reported	0	0	4
Number of ILI/influenza outbreaks	▲ 4	4	0	4
Number of pediatric influenza deaths	No new cases reported	0	0	5

†Data displayed have been updated since last week's flu report with any new reports received.

Laboratory Results

Influenza

Hospital laboratories across Texas voluntarily report influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). Providers throughout Texas also submit specimens for influenza testing (PCR) to Texas public health laboratories, including the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) state laboratory in Austin and the nine Texas Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories. The results reported by Texas NREVSS participants and public health laboratories for the current week are summarized in the two tables below. Additional influenza test results (rapid tests, culture, PCR) and ILI activity were reported from providers and public health departments throughout the state (see county map at the end of this report).

Table 2: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 36	Season to Date
Number of labs reporting flu tests	4	
Number of specimens tested	460	100668
Number of positive specimens (%)†	4 (0.87%)	13976 (13.88%)
Percentage of total tests that were antigen detection tests	25.87%	
Positive specimens by type/subtype/lineage [n (%)]		
Influenza A	3 (75.00%)	10169 (72.76%)
Subtyping performed	2 (66.67%)	2339 (23.00%)
A (H1N1)	2 (100.00%)	379 (16.20%)
A (H3N2)	0 (0.00%)	1960 (83.80%)
Subtyping not performed	1 (33.33%)	7830 (77.00%)
Influenza B	1 (25.00%)	3807 (27.24%)

†Laboratory data in 2016-2017 season reports may not be comparable to reports from previous seasons because of the inclusion of DSHS and LRN laboratory data for the current season.

Table 3: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Public Health Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 36	Season to Date
Number of labs reporting flu tests	4	
Number of specimens tested	21	3729
Number of positive specimens (%) [†]	8 (38.10%)	1895 (50.82%)
Positive specimens by type/subtype/lineage [n (%)]		
Influenza A	8 (100.00%)	1533 (80.90%)
Subtyping performed	8 (100.00%)	1525 (99.48%)
A (H1N1)	0 (0.00%)	212 (13.90%)
A (H3N2)	8 (100.00%)	1313(86.10%)
Subtyping not performed	0 (0.00%)	8 (0.52%)
Influenza B	0 (0.00%)	362 (19.10%)
Lineage testing performed	0 (0.00%)	360 (99.45%)
B/Victoria	0 (0.00%)	77 (21.39%)
B/Yamagata	0 (0.00%)	283 (78.61%)
Lineage testing not performed	0 (0.00%)	2 (0.55%)

[†]Laboratory data in 2016-2017 season reports may not be comparable to reports from previous seasons because the data only includes DSHS and LRN laboratory data for the current season.

Other Respiratory Viruses

The NREVSS system collects information on a variety of respiratory viruses in addition to influenza including parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus, human metapneumovirus (HMPV), seasonal coronavirus, and respiratory adenovirus. The results for the current week are summarized below.

Table 4: Non-Influenza Respiratory Virus Testing Performed by Texas NREVSS Laboratories for the Current Week

Virus	Number of Laboratories Testing	Tests Performed	Positive Tests	Percentage of Tests Positive
Adenovirus (respiratory)	5	310	4	1.29%
HMPV	6	343	0	0.00%
Parainfluenza virus	6	442	14	3.17%
Rhinovirus	5	310	128	41.29%
RSV ^{†^}	10	368	6	1.63%
Seasonal coronavirus (does not include MERS-CoV)	3	179	3	1.68%

[†]RSV tests displayed in the table are a combination of antigen detection, PCR, and culture tests. Some non-NREVSS reporters also contribute to the RSV data.

[^]Numbers and percentage may differ from the weekly RSV report. The weekly RSV report may be accessed at <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/rsv/Data.doc>.

U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

Table 5: Texas ILINet Reporting and Patient Visit Summary for the Current Week

	Week 36
Number of providers reporting [†]	74
Number of providers reporting patient visits	73
Number (%) of providers with at least one ILI case	56 (76.71%)
Percentage of all visits due to ILI	2.65%
Texas ILINet baseline [‡] , 2016–2017	6.64%

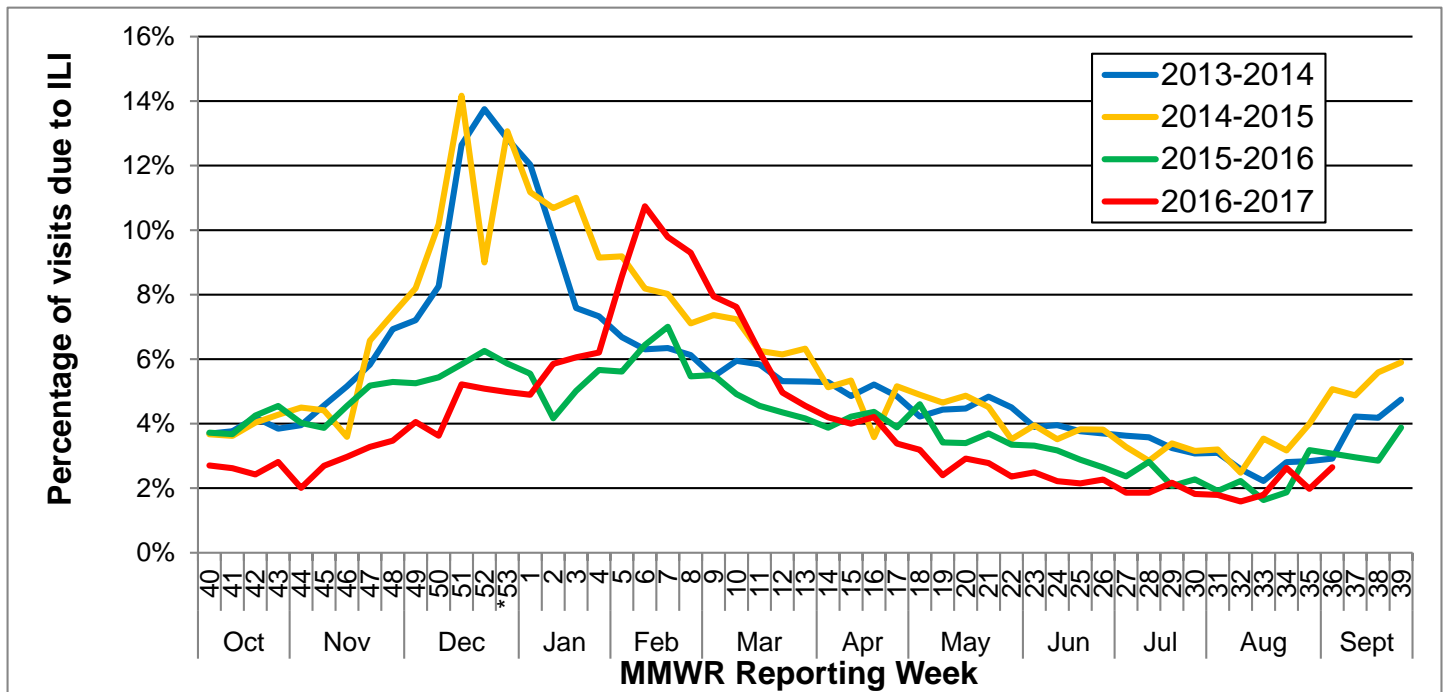
[†]Reporting providers include both ILINet and RVSP providers.

[‡]The baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. A "non-influenza week" is defined as a week that accounted for less than 2% of the season's total number of specimens that tested positive for influenza

Table 6: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Providers (as of 09/14/2017 12:40 PM)

Week	Providers Reporting	Number of ILI Cases by Age Group (Years)					Total ILI (all ages)	Total Patients	% ILI
		0-4	5-24	25-49	50-64	65+			
201640	125	166	345	142	106	145	904	33457	2.70%
201641	123	140	303	151	87	137	818	31233	2.62%
201642	119	132	263	127	118	109	749	30871	2.43%
201643	119	138	314	149	139	125	865	30754	2.81%
201644	112	115	295	102	36	33	581	28878	2.01%
201645	121	153	273	167	104	133	830	30824	2.69%
201646	121	186	357	143	116	148	950	31953	2.97%
201647	119	146	215	141	115	116	733	22334	3.28%
201648	117	197	302	185	165	192	1041	29957	3.47%
201649	118	226	337	219	182	196	1160	28629	4.05%
201650	112	241	377	184	93	67	962	26540	3.62%
201651	113	232	342	316	210	200	1300	24910	5.22%
201652	114	180	233	357	220	185	1175	23112	5.08%
201701	118	188	316	394	222	212	1332	27199	4.90%
201702	117	223	628	420	296	243	1810	30922	5.85%
201703	117	242	731	413	255	225	1866	30815	6.06%
201704	109	261	933	424	176	74	1868	30099	6.21%
201705	118	380	1422	680	354	270	3106	36254	8.57%
201706	118	418	1739	938	476	326	3897	36284	10.74%
201707	95	201	1268	779	444	264	2956	30208	9.79%
201708	111	339	1212	744	397	224	2916	31344	9.30%
201709	112	291	1042	683	323	226	2565	32282	7.95%
201710	110	225	969	645	331	204	2374	31148	7.62%
201711	109	215	502	458	247	151	1573	25249	6.23%
201712	109	175	510	391	240	181	1497	30155	4.96%
201713	106	161	469	316	183	171	1300	28537	4.56%
201714	107	160	431	283	152	151	1177	28030	4.20%
201715	104	122	433	223	143	141	1062	26544	4.00%
201716	88	152	329	151	130	143	905	21516	4.21%
201717	106	134	340	230	152	140	996	29420	3.39%
201718	102	130	288	213	119	118	868	27247	3.19%
201719	103	89	191	134	99	121	634	26461	2.40%
201720	103	112	230	164	102	146	754	25845	2.92%
201721	99	104	210	143	100	110	667	24012	2.78%
201722	98	80	140	121	72	93	506	21444	2.36%
201723	101	95	157	132	101	96	581	23364	2.49%
201724	100	84	126	118	78	98	504	22659	2.22%
201725	98	90	118	104	71	94	477	22169	2.15%
201726	83	40	82	108	91	100	421	18546	2.27%
201727	99	53	94	86	51	82	366	19701	1.86%
201728	100	72	96	84	63	84	399	21459	1.86%
201729	97	60	75	68	62	85	350	16119	2.17%
201730	99	73	97	91	63	67	391	21507	1.82%
201731	100	70	97	84	65	85	401	22400	1.79%
201732	97	63	78	68	60	84	353	22265	1.59%
201733	81	39	76	83	70	98	366	20390	1.79%
201734	77	56	212	87	70	88	513	19523	2.63%
201735	71	37	180	66	19	28	330	16659	1.98%
201736	74	57	194	100	59	75	485	18270	2.65%

Figure 1: Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2013–2017 Seasons*



*There was a week 53 in the 2014-2015 influenza season, but there is not a week 53 in the 2016-2017 influenza season or the other previous seasons; therefore the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of week 52 and 1.

Reports from Health Service Regions

Reports were received from seven Health Service Regions (HSRs) during week 36.

Table 7: Influenza Activity Compared to Week 35 by Health Service Region (HSR)

Influenza Activity Comparison	Health Service Region (HSR)
Increased	2/3, 6/5S, 7, 8
Same	4/5N and 11
Decreased	1
Unsure	

Variant/Novel Influenza Viruses

No new variant/novel influenza viruses were reported during week 36.

One human infection with an influenza A variant virus was reported during week 17 (week ending April 29, 2017). The infection was in a child less than 5 years of age who is a resident of HSR 8. The child was infected with an influenza A (H3N2) variant (H3N2v) virus. This H3N2v virus was detected through the Department of Defense Global, Laboratory-based Influenza Surveillance Program. The child became ill with respiratory symptoms in February 2017, was not hospitalized, and has fully recovered from their illness. Swine contact at an agricultural event was reported in the week preceding illness onset.

Influenza viruses that circulate in swine are called swine influenza viruses when isolated from swine, but are called variant influenza viruses when isolated from humans. Early identification and investigation of human infections with novel influenza A viruses are critical so that the risk of infection can be more fully understood and appropriate public health measures can be taken. Additional information on influenza in swine, variant influenza infection in humans, and strategies to interact safely with swine can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm>.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

Two influenza-associated outbreaks were reported during week 36 in HSR 6/5S. The first outbreak occurred at a shelter. Eleven people reported symptoms of ILI. Ten people were tested for influenza via rapid test. Nine out of 10 test results were positive for influenza A. The 10th test came back as influenza negative but strep positive. Eight people tested positive for influenza A (H3) via PCR test. Two tests are still pending results but tested positive for influenza A by rapid test. The second outbreak was reported at an office complex. Eight employees tested positive for influenza A/B.

No school closures were reported during week 36 but two outbreaks at schools were reported in HSR 7. The first school outbreak had 9 students who reported symptoms of ILI. The second outbreak at a school reported 6 students with symptoms of ILI. Five of those students tested positive for influenza B by rapid test. Various control measures such as providing educational materials to facility, sanitizing shared surfaces, requiring students with symptoms to stay home for at least 24 hours after fever subsides, and providing hand sanitizer were implemented.

TX P&I Mortality Surveillance Data

Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) death data are obtained from death certificates of Texas residents whose underlying or contributing cause(s) of death is reported as pneumonia or influenza. P&I deaths are identified based on multiple ICD-10 cause of death codes. In particular, P&I deaths are based on ICD-10 pneumonia and influenza mortality codes.

Nine thousand five hundred and fifty-two P&I deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2016-2017 influenza season.

Table 8: Texas P&I Deaths Occurring Oct. 02, 2016- Sep. 13, 2017* by Age

Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths ⁺	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
0 - 4	51	2.46
5 - 17	31	0.57
18 - 49	540	4.24
50 - 64	1561	30.93
65 +	7369	209.81
Overall	9552	33.17

*NOTE: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

⁺ If the cell count is less than 10, the number of P&I deaths is suppressed and <10 is written in the cell.

Table 9: Texas P&I Deaths Occurring Oct. 02, 2016- Sep. 13, 2017* by Health Service Region (HSR)

HSR	Number of P&I Deaths ⁺	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
1	385	42.31
2/3	2630	31.59
4/5N	746	46.48
6/5S	2168	28.86
7	1093	31.27
8	1092	36.66
9/10	528	34.00
11	908	37.57
Unknown	<10	N/A
Overall	9552	33.17

*NOTE: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

⁺ If the cell count is less than 10, the number of P&I deaths is suppressed and <10 is written in the cell.

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported during week 36.

Eight influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2016-2017 influenza season. Cases of influenza-associated pediatric mortality (children <18 years of age) are reportable year-round and by law in Texas.

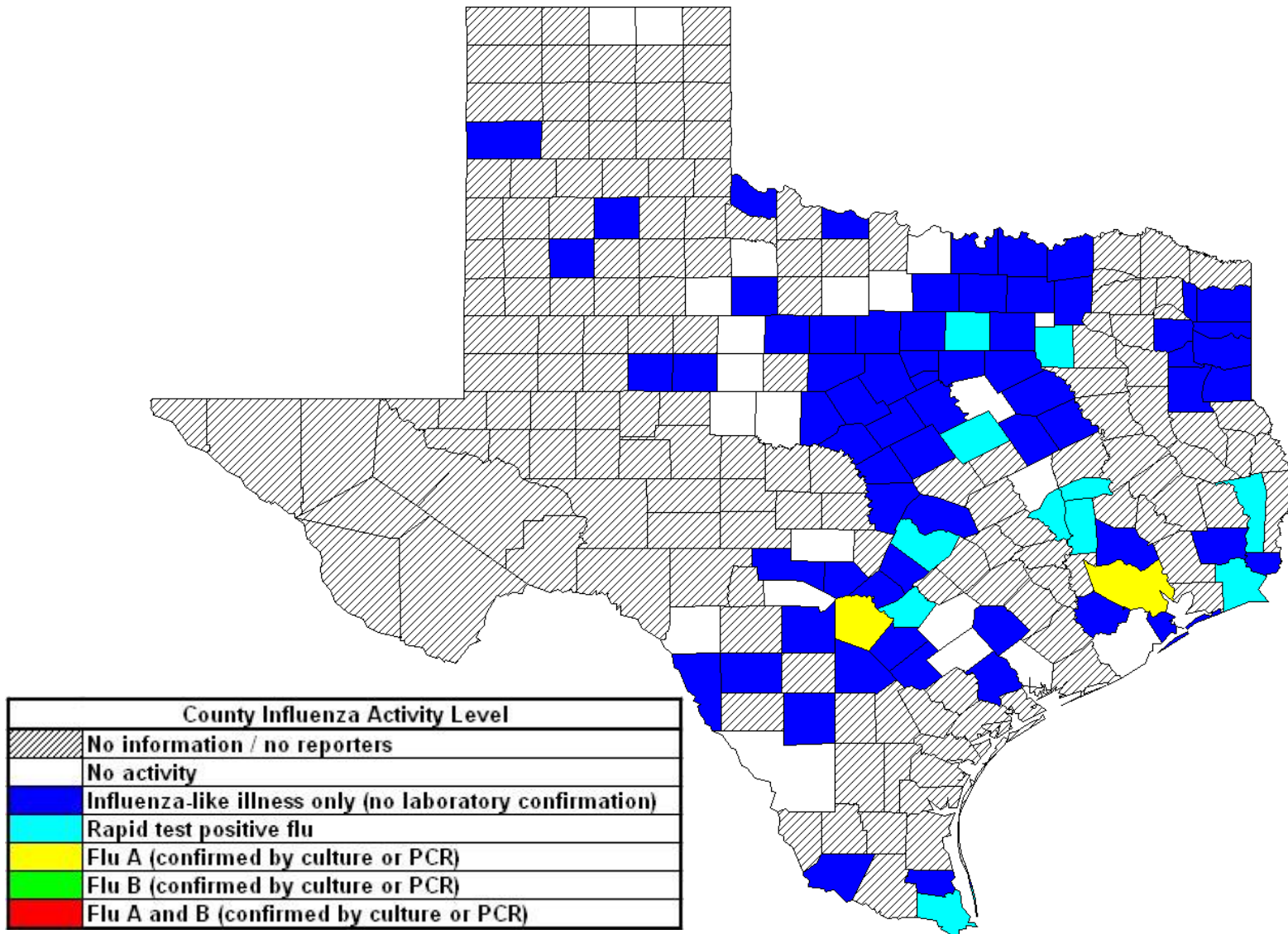
Table 10: Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths Reported in Texas during the 2016–2017 Season

Month of Pediatric Death	Influenza A (H1N1) [#]	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza A (Not Subtyped)	Influenza B	Influenza, Not Typed / Not Differentiated	Influenza virus co-infection: A (not subtyped) and B	Total, All Influenza Types / Subtypes
2016							
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
2017							
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
March	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
April	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	3	1	3	0	0	8

[#]Based upon additional information, the influenza-associated pediatric mortality reported earlier in the season was determined to be a non-Texas resident and will not be counted as a Texas case.

Statewide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 2: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending September 9, 2017 (MMWR Week 36)



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.

Texas Influenza Surveillance Components and Measures

Activity codes (see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>)

Statewide influenza activity level

A code reported weekly by states and territories to CDC indicating the geographic spread of influenza in the state. Levels are no activity, sporadic, local, regional, and widespread.

ILINet Activity Indicator

A statewide level of influenza-like illness intensity (on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the lowest level) assigned to each state weekly by CDC based on data reported through ILINet.

Morbidity

Novel/variant influenza

Thorough investigations are performed on all cases of novel/variant influenza. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Texas ILINet

Providers voluntarily report weekly to CDC's ILINet system on the number of outpatient visits for ILI and total outpatient visits. Providers may submit up to 5 specimens per month for influenza testing. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/ILINet/> for information on how to become an ILINet provider.

ILI activity

Non-ILINet providers report ILI or influenza data weekly to local or regional health departments.

Outbreaks

Healthcare, schools, and childcare facilities report ILI and influenza outbreaks to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Mortality

Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance

The DSHS Vital Statistics Unit collects death certificate information for all deaths on Texas residents from various partners such as funeral homes and local registrars around the state. The death certificates are then sent to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) where the cause of death and underlying causes of death on the death certificates are coded with ICD-10 mortality codes. Once death certificates are coded, the information is sent back to DSHS Center for Health Statistics (CHS). CHS produces a Weekly Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Death Report and sends it to the State Influenza Surveillance Coordinator for inclusion in the Texas Weekly Flu Report. P&I deaths are identified based on ICD-10 multiple cause of death codes, and in particular, pneumonia and influenza mortality codes. Delays inherent in death reporting and coding practices may cause the number of reported P&I deaths to vary considerably each week.

Influenza-associated pediatric deaths

Deaths that are associated with influenza in children < 18 years of age are reported to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.* <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/IAPM/>

Laboratory

DSHS Austin laboratory

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to the DSHS Austin laboratory for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to one of the 9 Texas LRNs for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

NREVSS

Laboratories voluntarily report influenza and other respiratory virus data weekly through the CDC's online NREVSS reporting system. **Laboratories sign up for this program by contacting DSHS.** <http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/>

Recommended Resources

Texas Department of State Health Services

DSHS influenza page: <http://www.texasflu.org/>

Influenza surveillance data and reports: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>

Map of Texas Health Service Regions: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/state.shtm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National FluView weekly flu report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Variant and novel influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>; <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm>

Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/>

Seasonal Flu Information for Schools and Childcare Providers: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm>

World Health Organization

Influenza page: <http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/>

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