This Report Includes...

⇒ information on influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Harris County as well as on the state and national level.

Important Notes:

⇒ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as an illness including a fever (temperature of at least 100°F) with a cough OR a sore throat, without another known cause (such as strep throat).

⇒ Influenza/ILI is reported on a voluntary basis and is not a mandatory notifiable condition.

⇒ Similarly, rapid influenza test results are also reported on a voluntary basis.

⇒ Therefore, data presented in this report indicate trends and should not be interpreted as a complete and total picture of influenza activity in Harris County.


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Public Health is “what we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy”

- The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century, Institutes of Medicine, 2003

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Additional Information

Harris County Public Health
http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/
Services-Programs/Programs/
Epidemiology

Texas Department of State Health Services
Influenza Surveillance:
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FluView Weekly Report:
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

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

World Health Organization
Influenza Surveillance:
http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/
Statewide

There were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported in Texas during week 18. A total of five influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas so far during the 2016-2017 season. Cases of pediatric flu mortality (children < 18 years of age) are reportable year-round and by law in Texas.

Locally

There was one influenza associated pediatric deaths reported in Harris County (excluding the City of Houston) during this flu season for week 15 (9 April, 2017 to 15 April, 2017)

Nationally

Activity levels were minimal (ILI below, or only slightly above the average) throughout the Country. In Texas, activity remained the same with respect to previous weeks, with minimal levels and sporadic spread reported for CDC Week 18 (30 April to 06 May, 2017).

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/
School Reporting

Influenza/ILI reporting is voluntary as it is not a mandatory notifiable condition. Therefore, this report indicates trends and should not be interpreted as a complete and total picture of influenza activity in Harris County.

Daily absenteeism and student/staff ILI numbers are reported from schools in the 18 Harris County Independent School Districts (ISDs). Schools were asked to begin reporting ILI from the beginning of the school year; however, reporting participation generally increases as occurrence of ILI increases.

School holidays:
* Week 47/48 (Thanksgiving)
* Week 52-Week 1 (Winter Break)
* Week 10/11 (Spring Break)