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.

⇒ The 2017-2018 influenza season is from October 1, 2017—May 19, 2018.

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
Statewide

No variant influenza viruses have been identified in Texas during this flu season.

HCPH Jurisdiction

There has been one influenza-associated pediatric death reported in Harris County (excluding the City of Houston) during this flu season.

Nationally

During week 13 (25 March to 31 March, 2018), activity levels from outpatient clinics were minimal (ILI below, or only slightly above the average) to high (activity level much higher than average) nationwide. In Texas, influenza activity was local for the same time period.

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

https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/
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)
Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2013–2018 Seasons*

Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type and Subtype Reported by Texas Hospital Laboratories, 2017-2018 Season

https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/