

# WEEKLY FLU REPORT

Epidemiology Program—Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

2015 CDC Week 14

## This report includes...

- ⇒ information on flu activity and trends in Harris County and compares local influenza like illness (ILI) to activity on the state and national level; data are voluntarily reported from school nurses and hospitals.

## Important Notes:

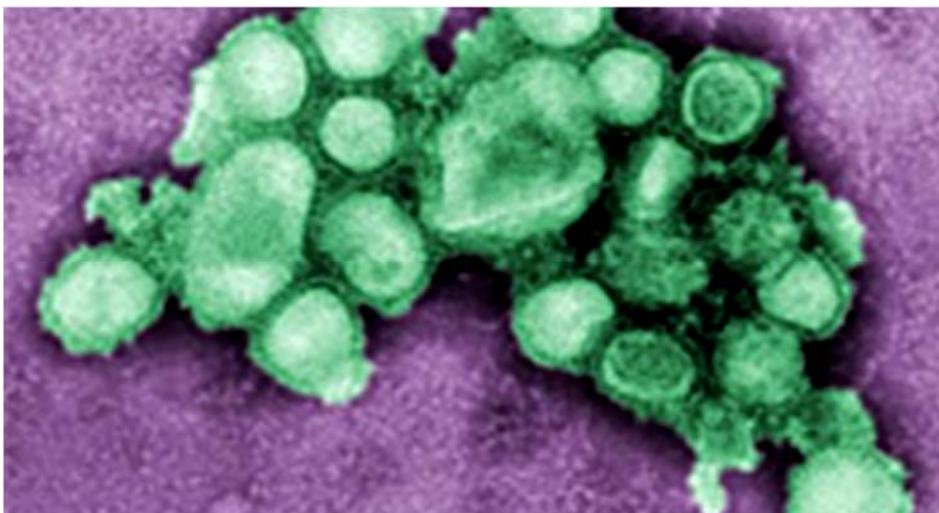
- ⇒ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as an illness including a fever (temperature of at least 100°F) with a cough OR a sore throat, without another known cause (such as strep throat).
- ⇒ Influenza/ILI is reported on a voluntary basis and is not a mandatory notifiable condition.
- ⇒ Similarly, 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 2014-2015 influenza season is from September 28, 2014—May 23, 2015.

---

*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*

---

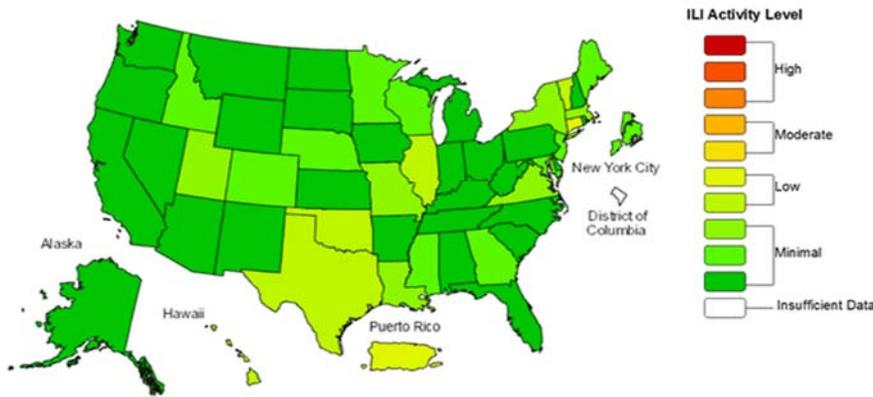


Negative stain EM image of the 2009 H1N1 influenza A/CA/4/09  
Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/library/diseases.htm>  
Photo Credit: C. S. Goldsmith and A. Balish, CDC

## In This Issue

- National and State Influenza Activity
- Harris County School Absenteeism
- Rapid Influenza Tests from Harris County Hospitals

**Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet  
2014-15 Influenza Season Week 14 ending Apr 11, 2015**



# Nationally

Influenza activity is considered to be at low levels with local spread in the state of Texas for CDC Week 14 (April 5, 2015—April 11, 2015). During this week, no states reported having greater than low levels of ILI activity.

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

## Statewide

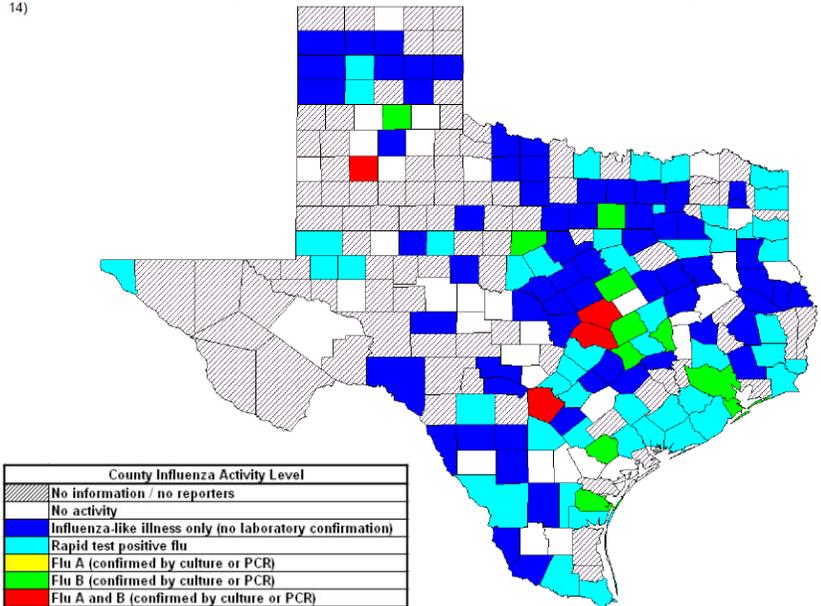
No variant influenza viruses have been identified in Texas during this flu season.

## Locally

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

### Statewide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 4: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending April 11, 2015 (MMWR Week 14)



County Influenza Activity Level	
[Hatched]	No information / no reporters
[White]	No activity
[Blue]	Influenza-like illness only (no laboratory confirmation)
[Cyan]	Rapid test positive flu
[Yellow]	Flu A (confirmed by culture or PCR)
[Green]	Flu B (confirmed by culture or PCR)
[Red]	Flu A and B (confirmed by culture or PCR)

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.

Source: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2015/>

## 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.

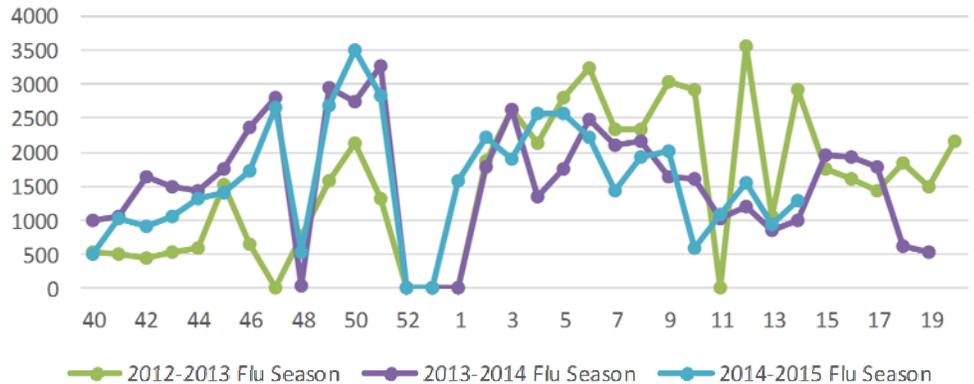
Daily absenteeism and student/staff ILI numbers are reported from schools in the 18 Harris County Independent School Districts (ISDs). Schools were asked to begin reporting ILI from the beginning of the school year; however, reporting participation generally increases as occurrence of ILI increases.

The 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 influenza seasons did not have a week 53; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

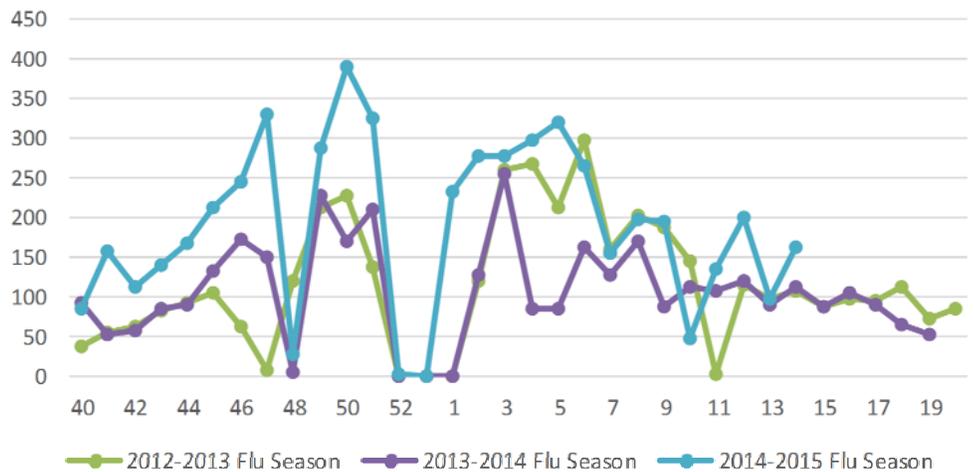
School holidays:

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

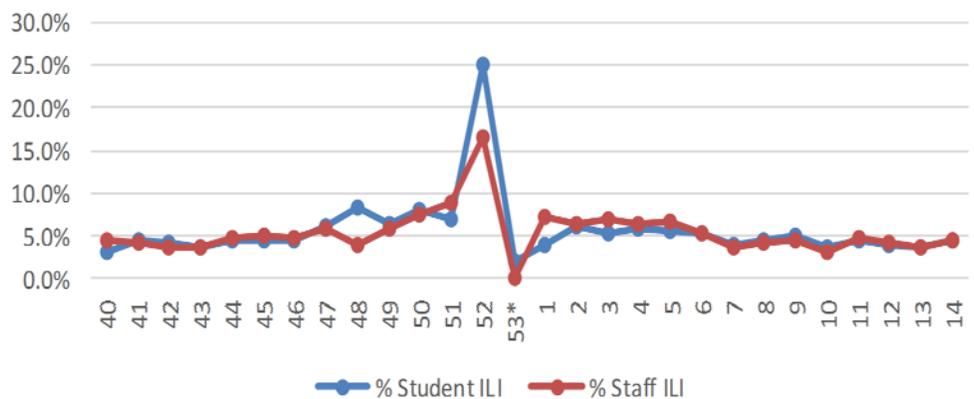
Student Absenteeism Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2014-2015 Influenza Season



Staff Absenteeism Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2014-2015 Influenza Season



School Absenteeism Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2014-2015 Influenza Season



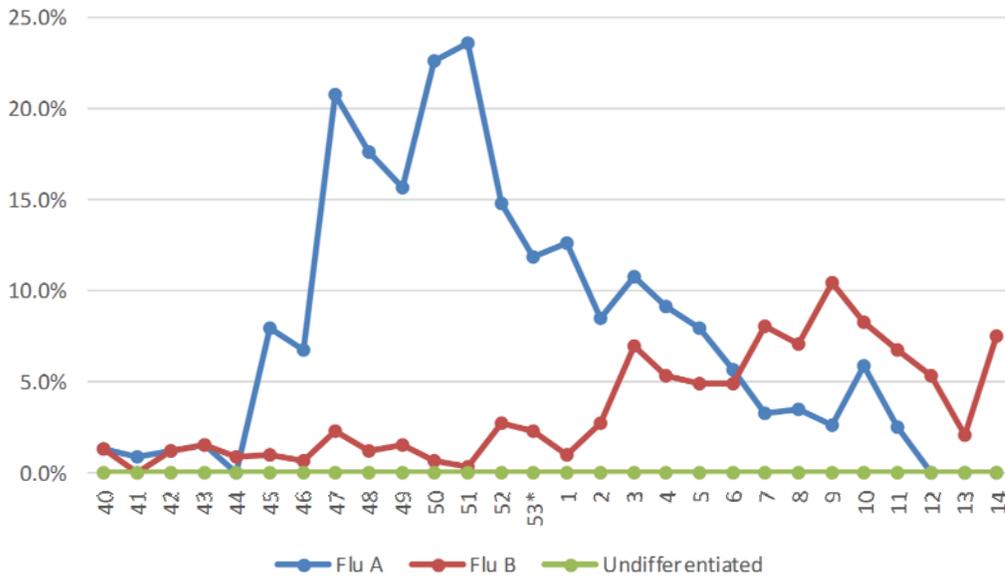
## Hospital Reporting

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.

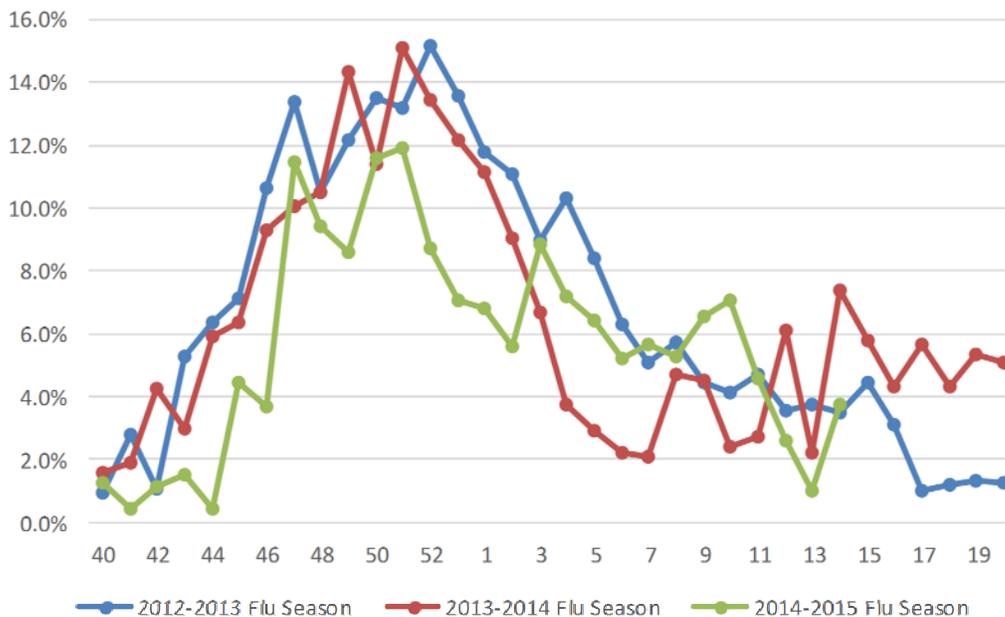
The total number of rapid influenza tests conducted, as well as the number of positive results, is reported from the 16 acute care hospitals within Harris County (excluding the City of Houston).

The 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 influenza seasons did not have a week 53; the week 53 data point for those weeks is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

Positive Rapid Flu Test Results by Virus Strain (Percent)  
2014-2015 Influenza Season



Rapid Influenza Test Results Reported by Harris County Hospitals  
(Percent Positive)  
2014-2015 Influenza Season



# Additional Information

Harris County Public Health  
[www.hcphtx.org/Services-Programs/Programs/Epidemiology](http://www.hcphtx.org/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/Childcare Providers: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm>

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

## Contact Us

### HCPH

Epidemiology Department  
2223 West Loop South  
Houston, TX 77027

(713) 439-6000

Visit us on the web at  
[www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org)

Follow us on Twitter:  
@HCPHTX

Like us on Facebook:  
Harris County Public  
Health

**Healthy People, Healthy Communities  
...a Healthy Harris County**

### HCPH

2223 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE