

# WEEKLY FLU REPORT

Epidemiology Program—Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

2015 CDC Week 45

## This report includes...

- ⇒ This report includes information on influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Harris County as well as on the state and national level.
- ⇒ Absenteeism data are voluntarily reported from school nurses located at area public schools.

## Important Notes:

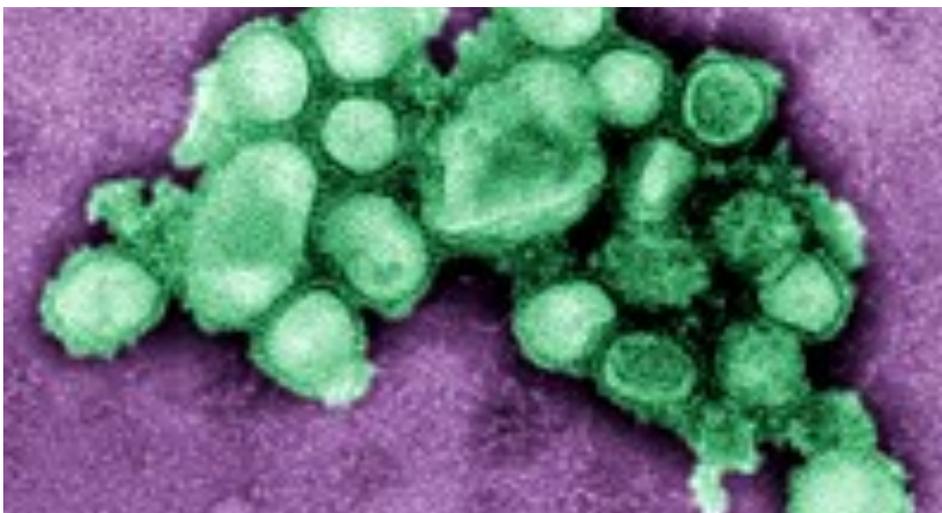
- ⇒ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as an illness including a fever (temperature of at least 100 °F) with a cough OR a sore throat, without another known cause (such as strep throat).
- ⇒ Influenza/ILI is reported on a voluntary basis and is not a mandatory notifiable condition.
- ⇒ Similarly, 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 2015-2016 influenza season is from October 4, 2015—May 21, 2016.

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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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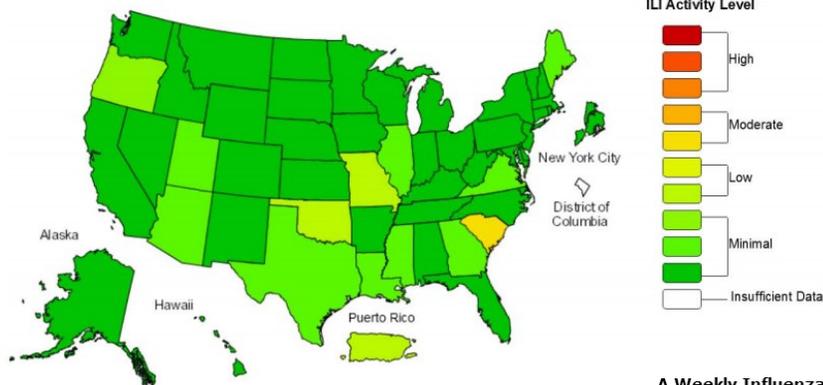


Negative stain EM image of the 2009 H1N1 influenza A/CA/4/09  
Source: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/library/diseases.htm>  
Photo Credit: C. S. Goldsmith and A. Balish, CDC

## In This Issue

- National and State Influenza Activity
- Harris County School Absenteeism
- Texas Influenza Lab Testing Summary

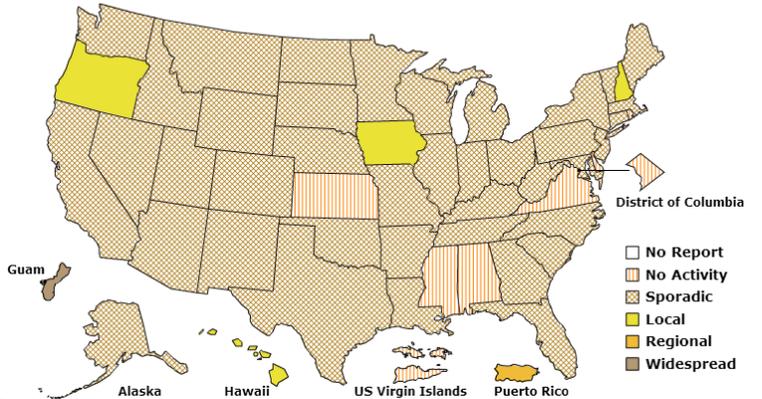
**Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet  
2015-16 Influenza Season Week 45 ending Nov 14, 2015**



# Nationally

Influenza activity is considered to be at minimal levels with sporadic spread in the state of Texas for CDC Week 45 (November 8, 2015—November 14, 2015).

**A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division  
Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists\*  
Week Ending November 14, 2015- Week 45**



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

## Statewide

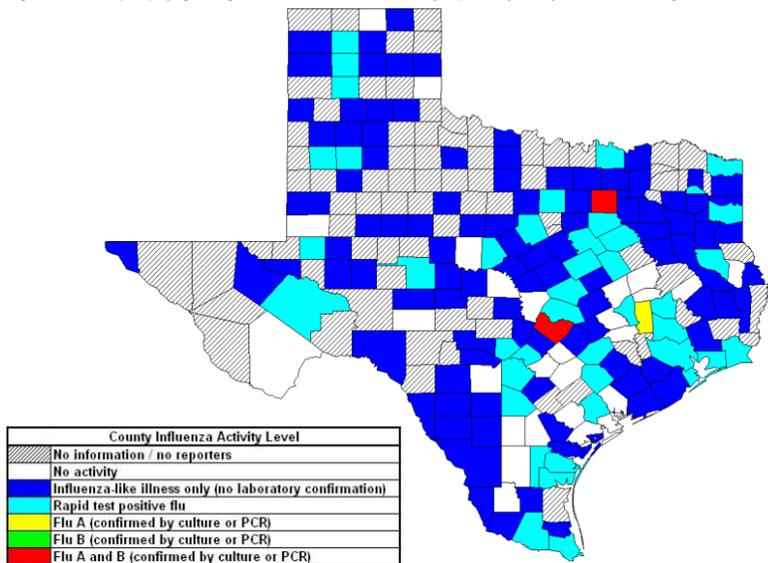
No variant influenza viruses have been identified in Texas during this flu season.

## Locally

There have been no influenza-associated pediatric deaths 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 Nov. 14, 2015 (MMWR Week 45)



Source: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2016/>

# 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.

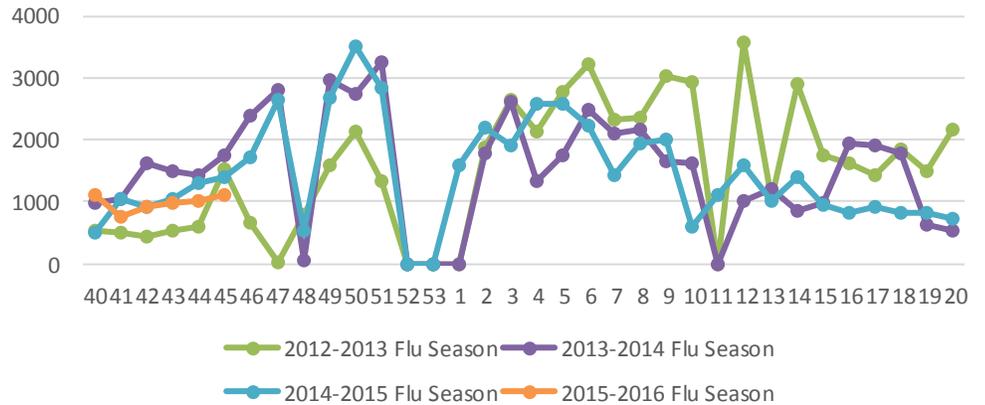
Daily absenteeism and student/staff ILI numbers are reported from schools in the 18 Harris County Independent School Districts (ISDs). Schools were asked to begin reporting ILI from the beginning of the school year; however, reporting participation generally increases as occurrence of ILI increases.

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.

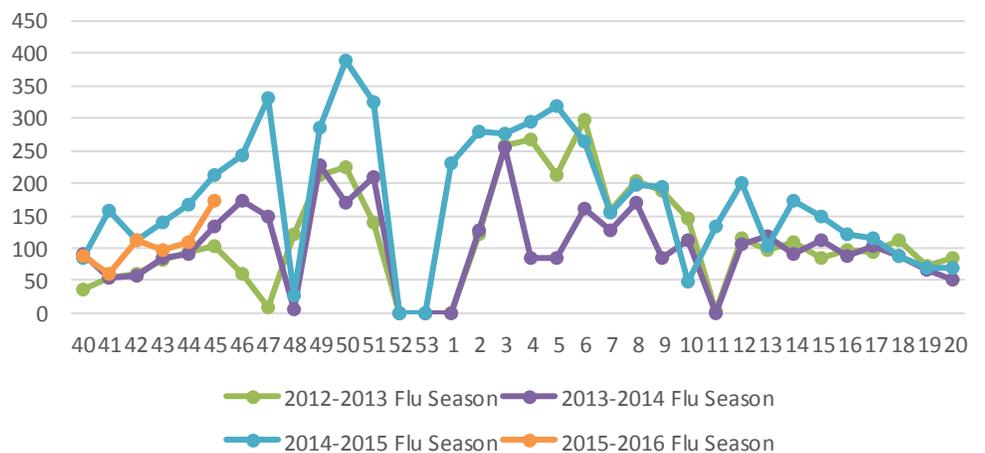
School holidays:

- \* 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  
2015-2016 Influenza Season



Staff Absenteeism Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2015-2016 Influenza Season



School Absenteeism Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2015-2016 Influenza Season

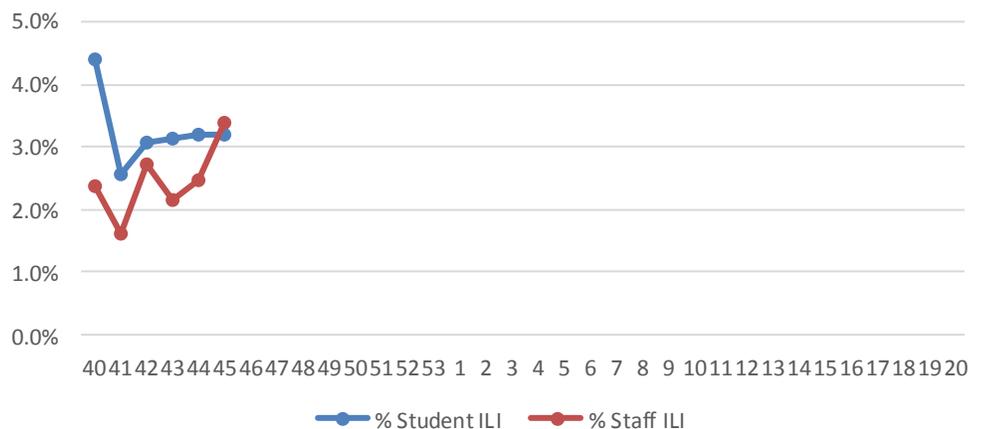
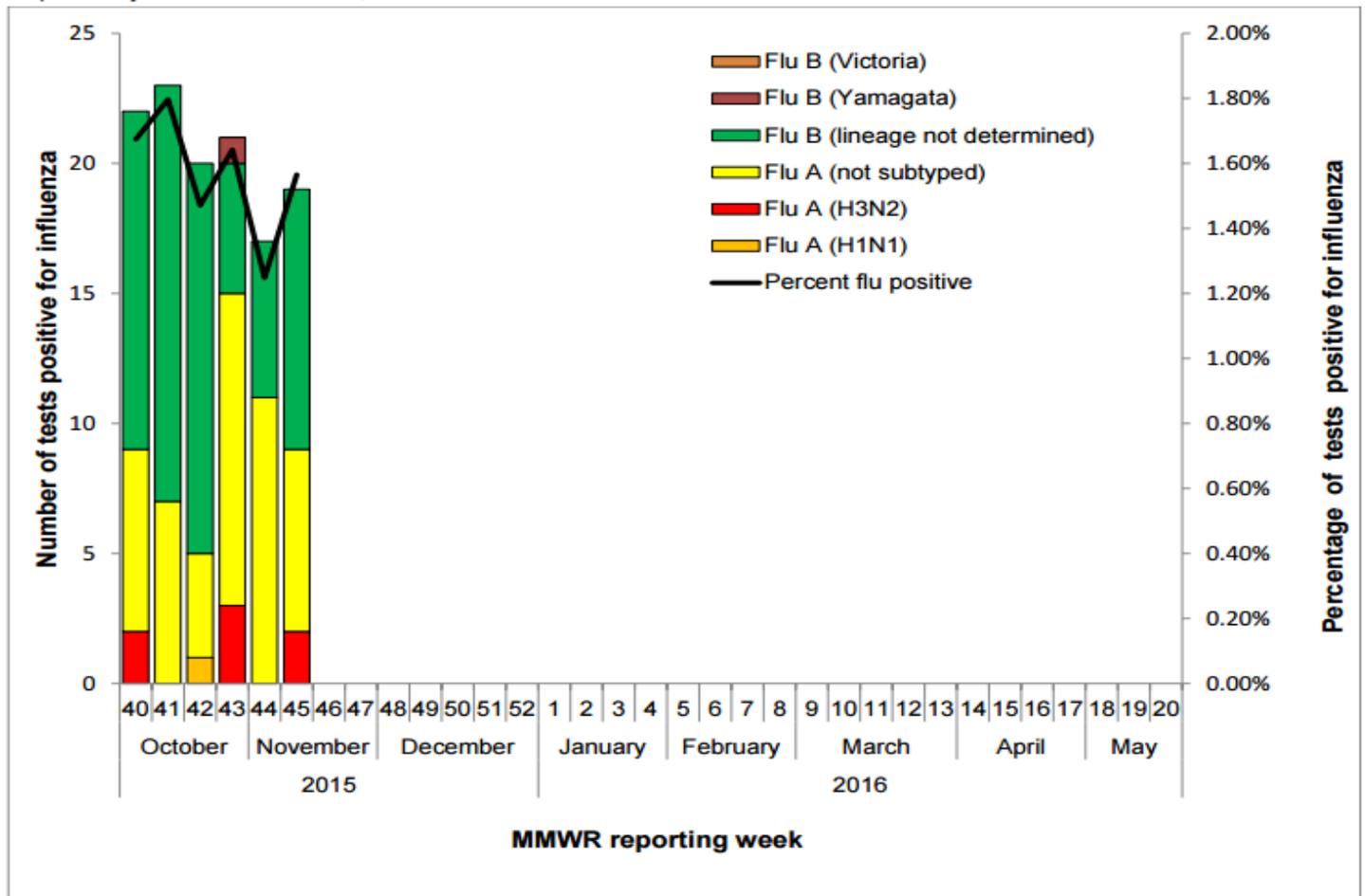


Figure 1: Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type, Subtype, and Lineage Reported by Texas Laboratories, 2015–2016 Season



Source: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2016/>

## 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

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