



# WEEKLY FLU REPORT

Epidemiology Program—Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

2019 CDC Week 44

## 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 2019-2020 influenza season is from September 29, 2019—May 16, 2020.

*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*

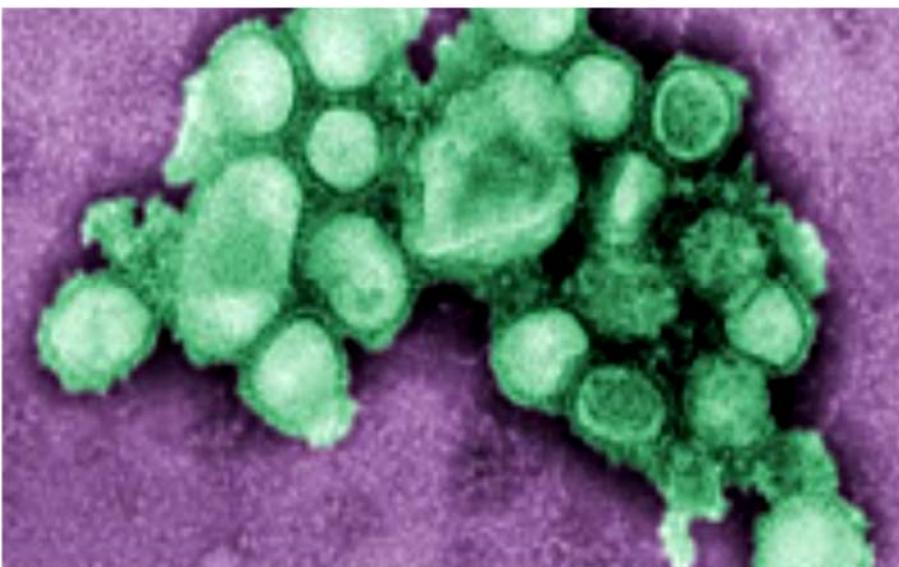
## Additional Information

**Harris County Public Health**  
<http://publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Services-Programs/Programs/Epidemiology>

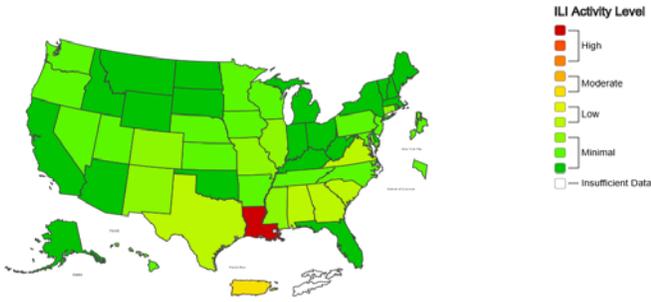
**Texas Department of State Health Services**  
Influenza Surveillance:  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>

**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/>



**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



\*This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.

\*Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state.

\*Data displayed in this map are based on data collected in ILINet, whereas the State and Territorial flu activity map are based on reports from state- and territorial epidemiologists. The data presented in this map is preliminary and may change as more data is received.

\*Differences in the data presented by CDC and state health departments likely represent differing levels of data completeness with data presented by the state likely being the more complete.

\*For the data download you can use Activity Level for the number and Activity Level Label for the text description.

## Nationally

During week 43 (October 20 to October 26, 2019), 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.



\*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

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

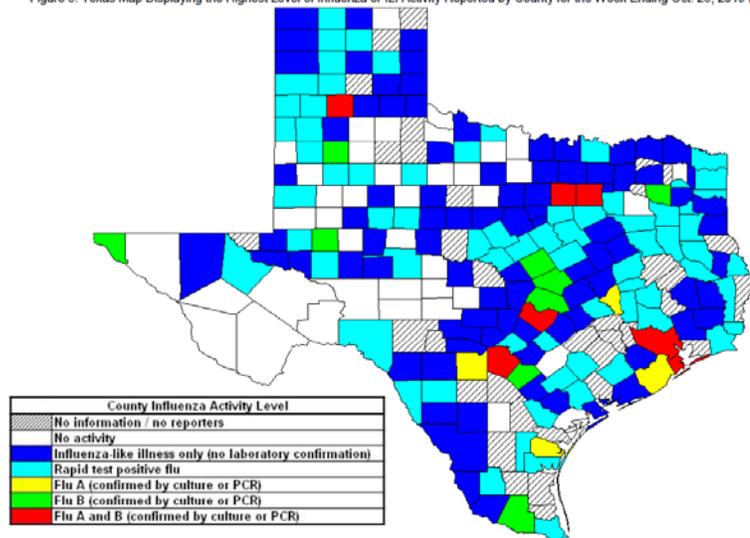
## Statewide

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

## HCPH Jurisdiction

There have been no influenza associated pediatric deaths reported in Harris County (excluding the City of Houston) during this flu season.

Figure 5. Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending Oct. 26, 2019 (MMWR Week 43)



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

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

# School Reporting

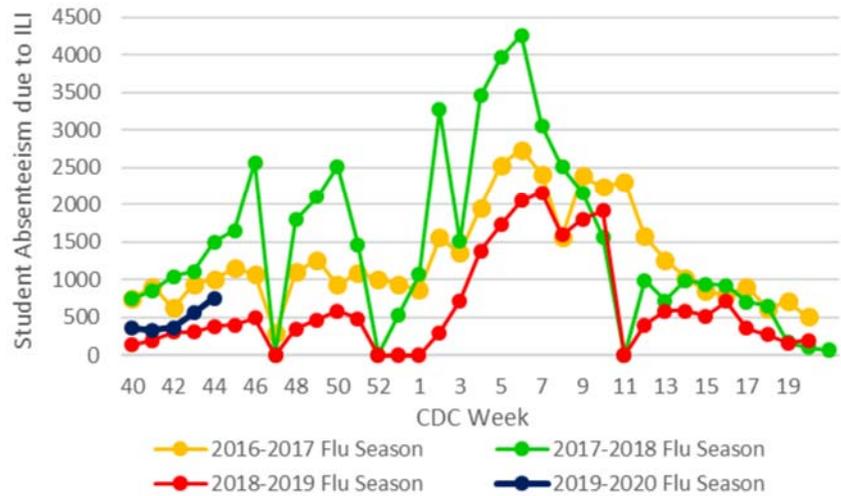
Influenza/ILI reporting is voluntary as it is not a mandatory notifiable condition. Therefore, this report indicates trends and should not be interpreted as a complete and total picture of influenza activity in Harris County.

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.

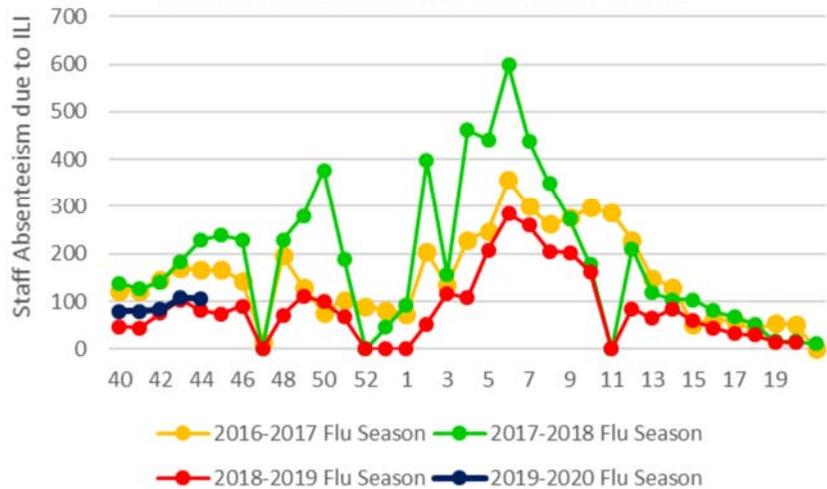
## School holidays:

- \* Week 48 (Thanksgiving)
- \* Week 52-Week 1 (Winter Break)
- \* Week 11/12 (Spring Break)

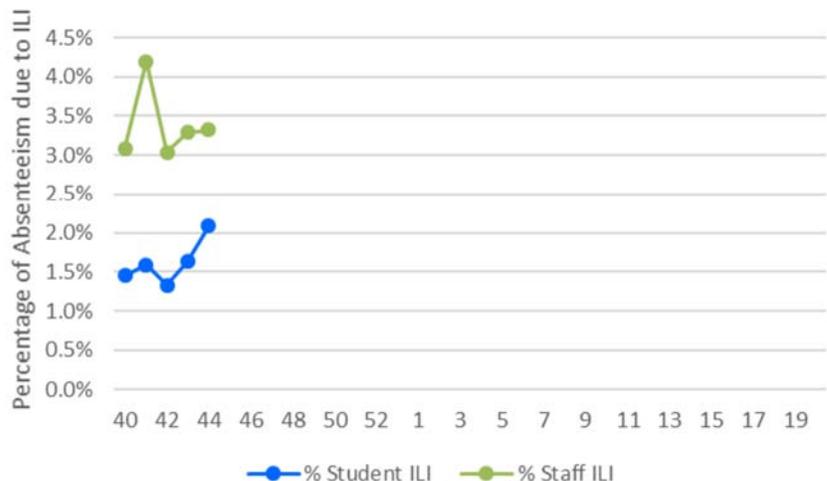
Student Absenteeism in HCPH's School Districts Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2019-2020 Influenza Season vs. Previous Seasons



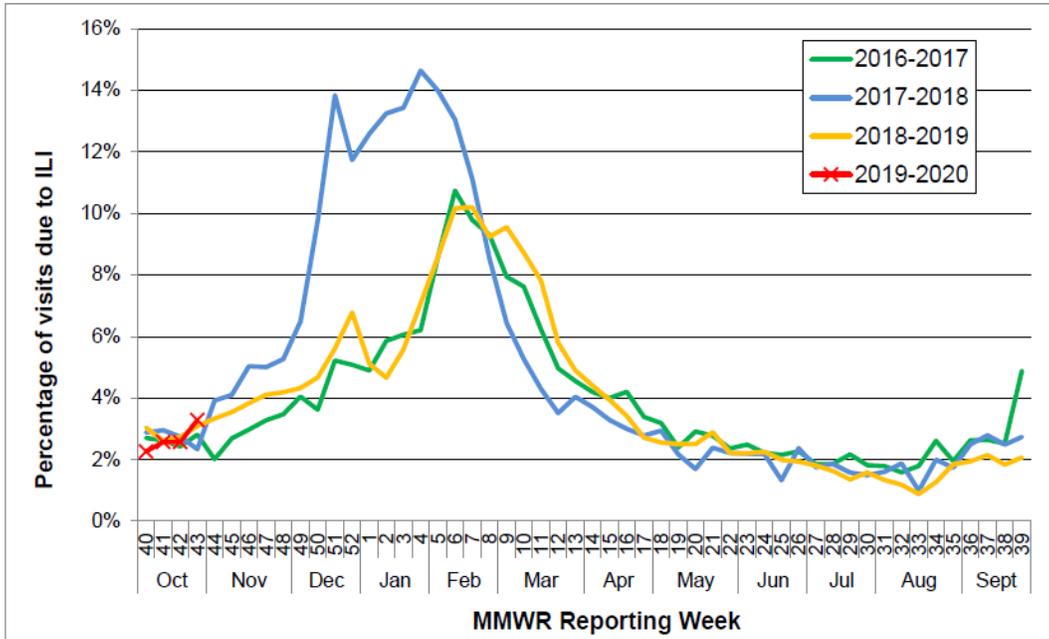
Staff Absenteeism in HCPH's School Districts Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2019-2020 Influenza Season vs. Previous Seasons



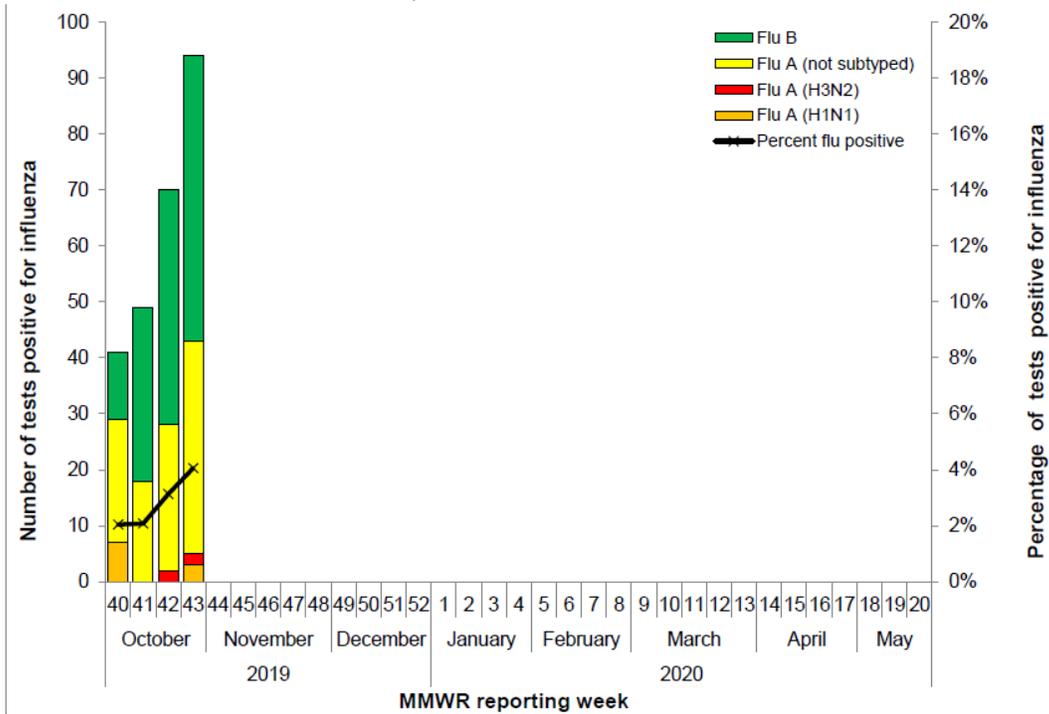
School Absenteeism in HCPH's School Districts Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) by CDC Week  
2019-2020 Influenza Season



Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2016–2020 Seasons\*



Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type and Subtype Reported by Texas Hospital Laboratories, 2019-2020 Season



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

## Contact Us

HCPH  
Surveillance & Epidemiology Unit  
2223 West Loop South  
Houston, TX 77027  
Phone: (713) 439-6000  
Fax: (713) 439-6303

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<http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/>

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