Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

WEEKLY FLU REPORT

Epidemiology Program—Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance **2017 CDC Week 07**

This Report Includes...

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

Important Notes:

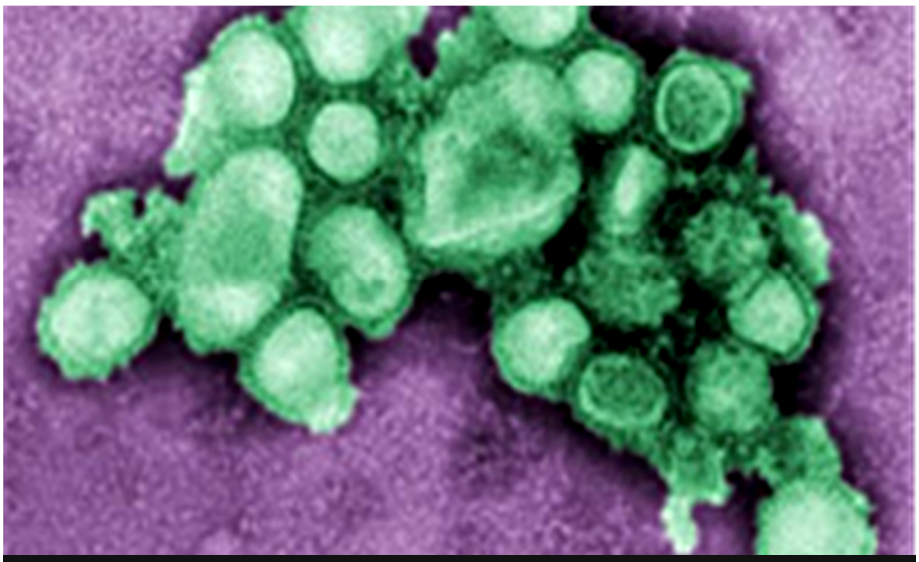
⇒ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as an illness including a fever (temperature of at least 100°F) with a cough OR a sore throat, without another known cause (such as strep throat).

⇒ 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 2016-2017 influenza season is from October 2, 2016—May 20, 2017.



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

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

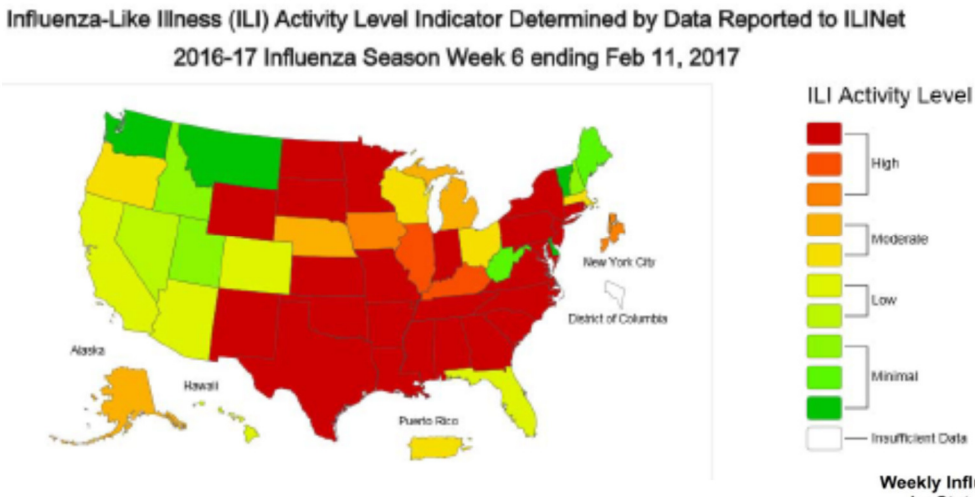
Additional Information

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

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

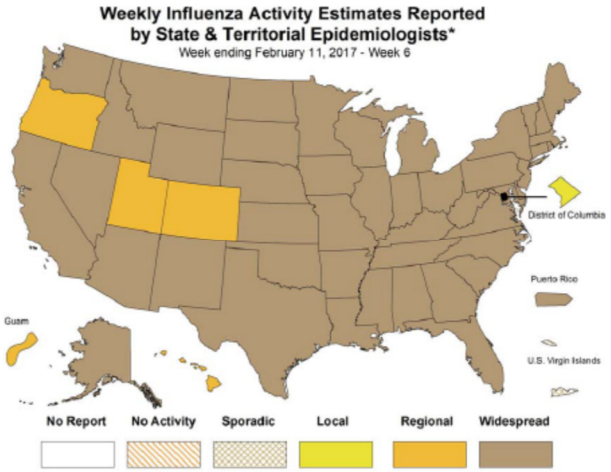
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FluView Weekly Report:
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly
Information for Schools and Childcare Providers:
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm

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



Nationally

Activity levels range from minimal (ILI below, or only slightly above the average) to high (ILI activity from outpatient clinics being much higher than average). In Texas, activity increased with respect to the previous week, with high levels and widespread activity reported for CDC Week 05 (29 Jan to 04 Feb, 2017).



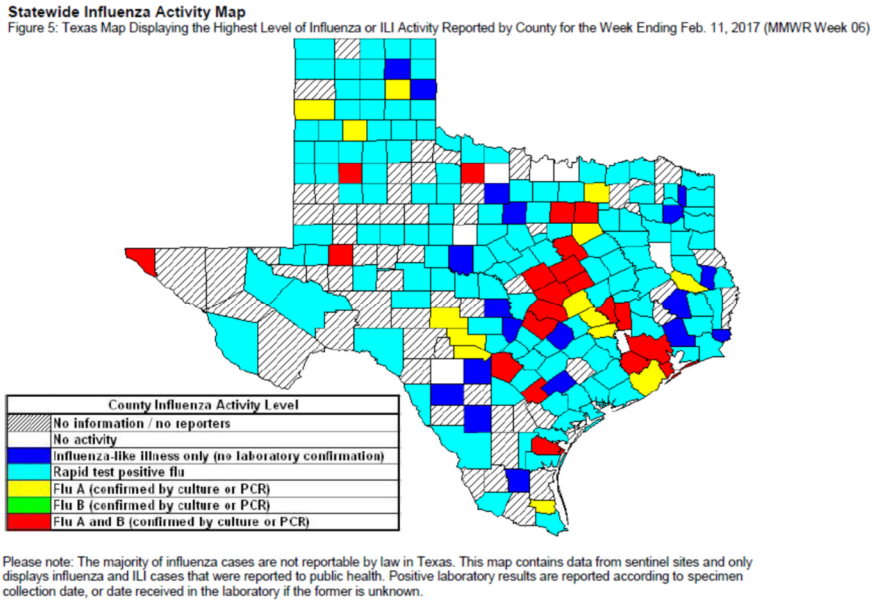
https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Statewide

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

Locally

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



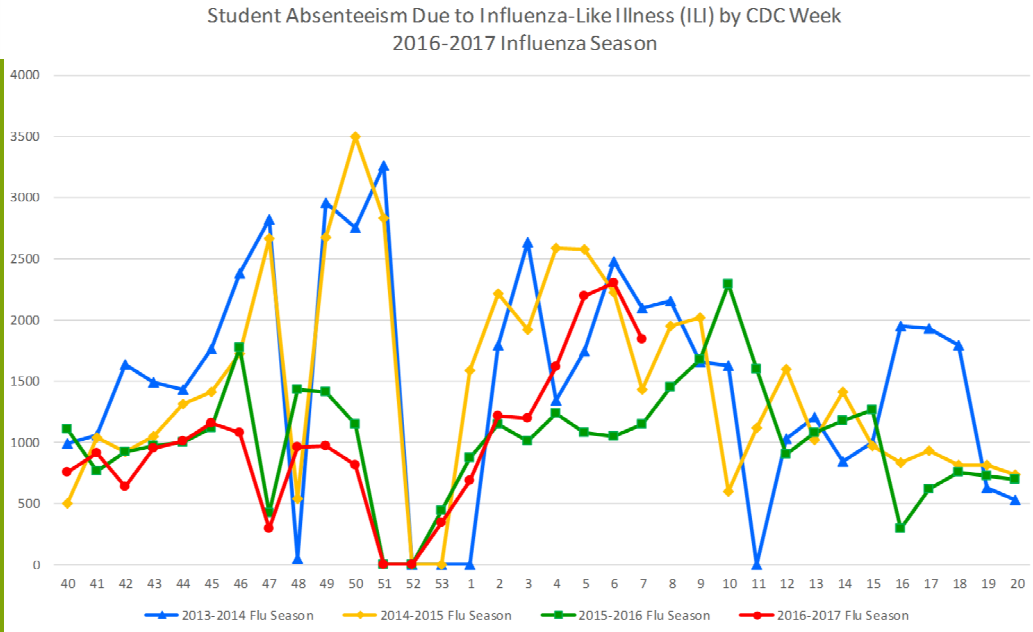
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/

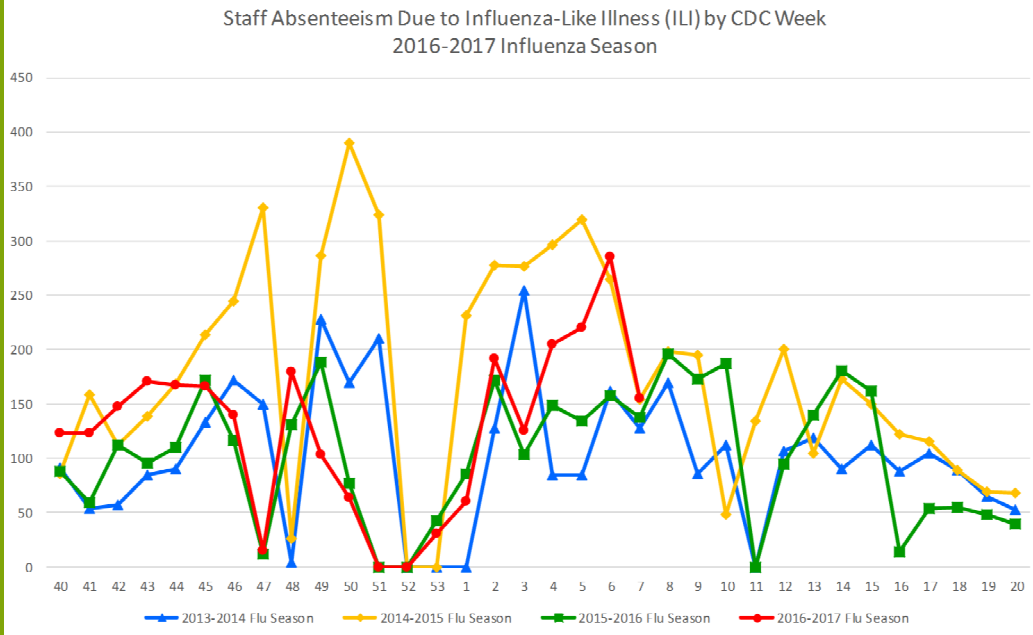
School Reporting

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)





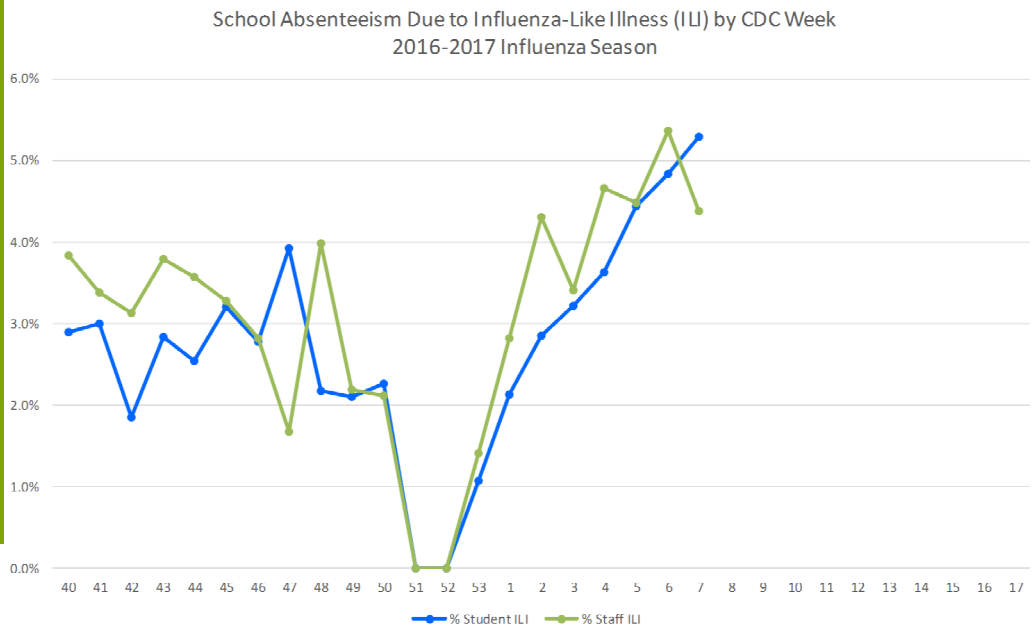
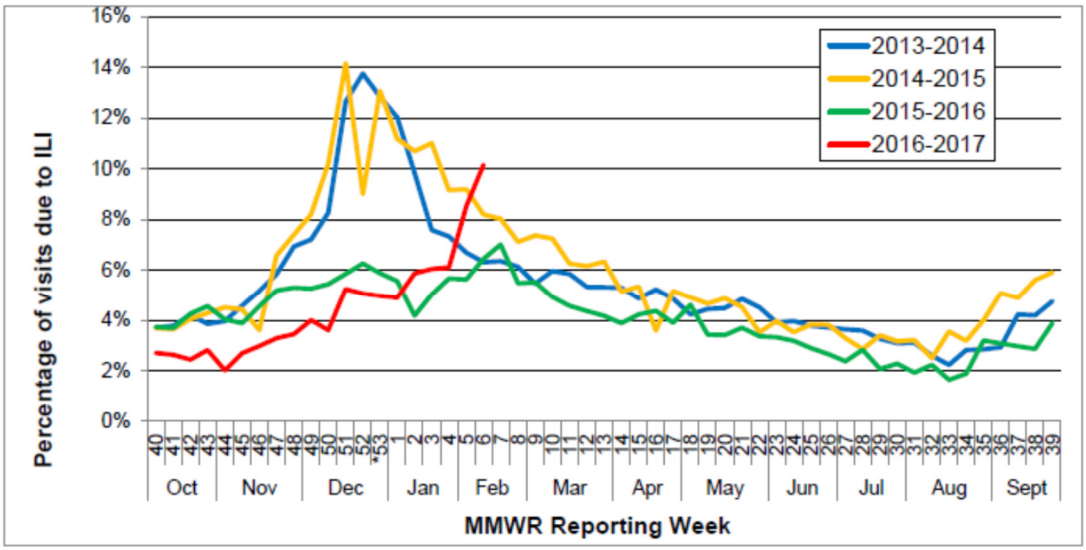
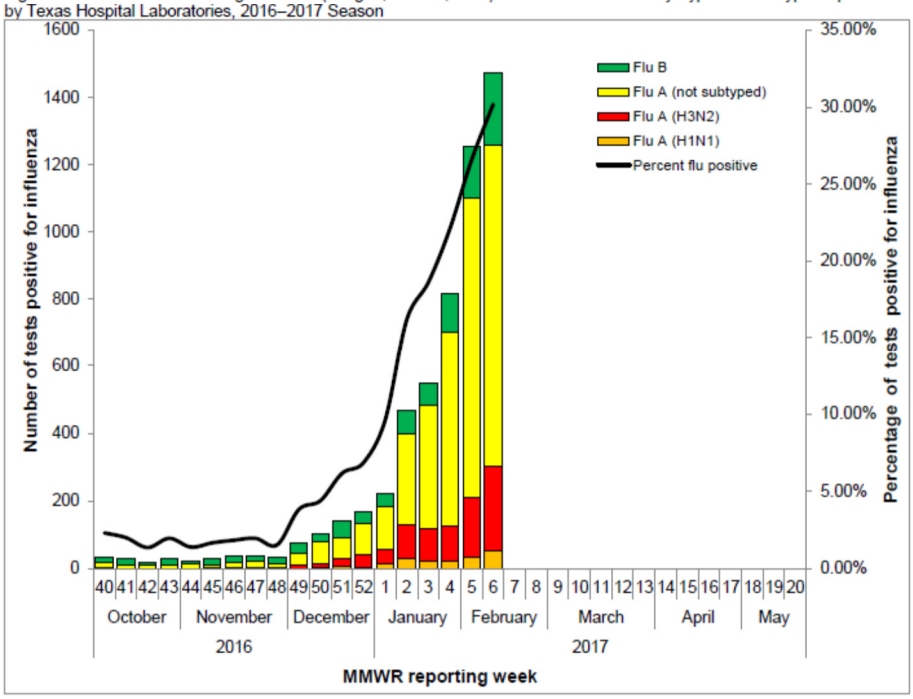


Figure 4: Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2013–2017 Seasons*



*There was a week 53 in the 2014-2015 influenza season, but there is not a week 53 in the 2016-2017 influenza season or the other previous seasons; therefore the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of week 52 and 1.

Figure 1: Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type and Subtype Reported by Texas Hospital Laboratories, 2016–2017 Season



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

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