Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

WEEKLY FLU REPORT

Epidemiology Program—Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance **2018 CDC Week 49**

This Report Includes...

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

Important Notes:

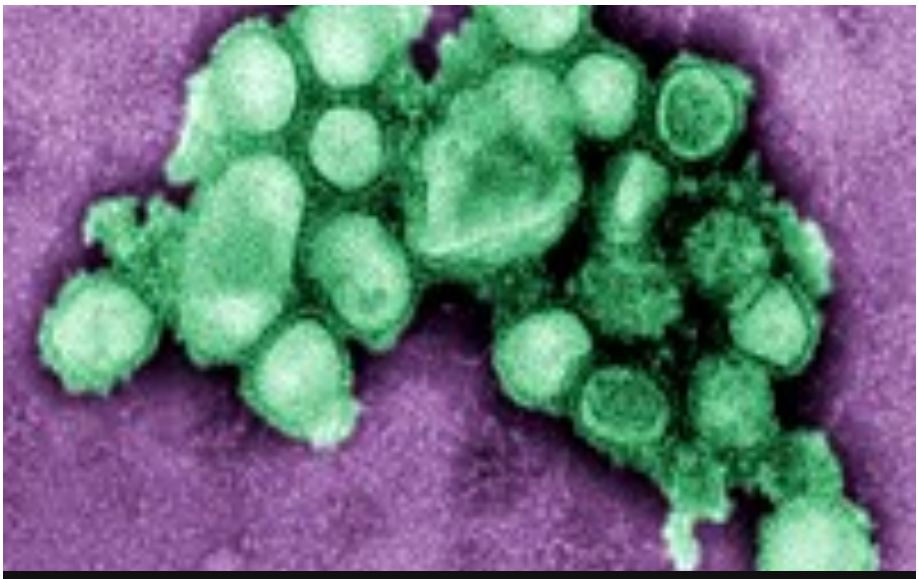
⇒ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as an illness including a fever (temperature of at least 100°F) with a cough OR a sore throat, without another known cause (such as strep throat).

⇒ 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 2018-2019 influenza season is from September 30, 2018—May 18, 2019.



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

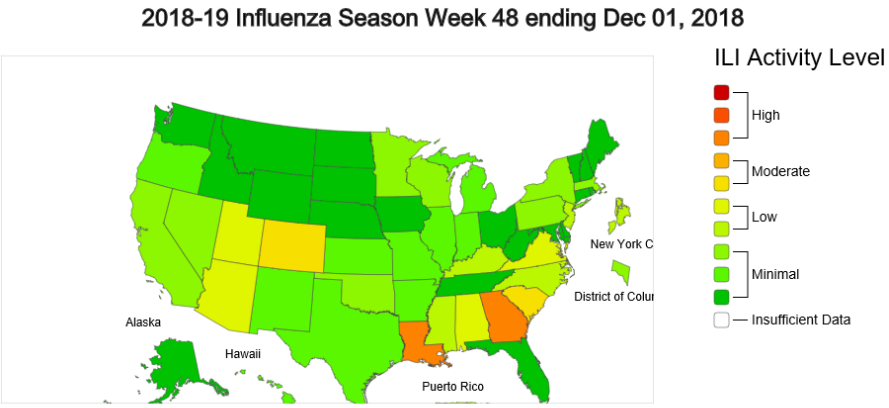
Additional Information

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

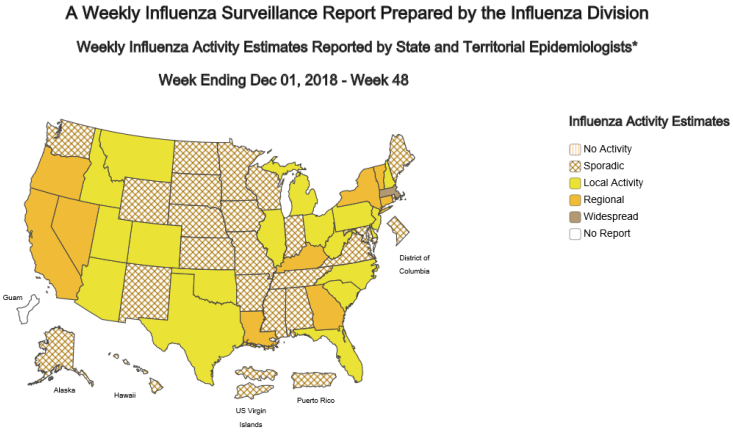
World Health Organization
Influenza Surveillance:
http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/



*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 48 (November 25 to December 1, 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.

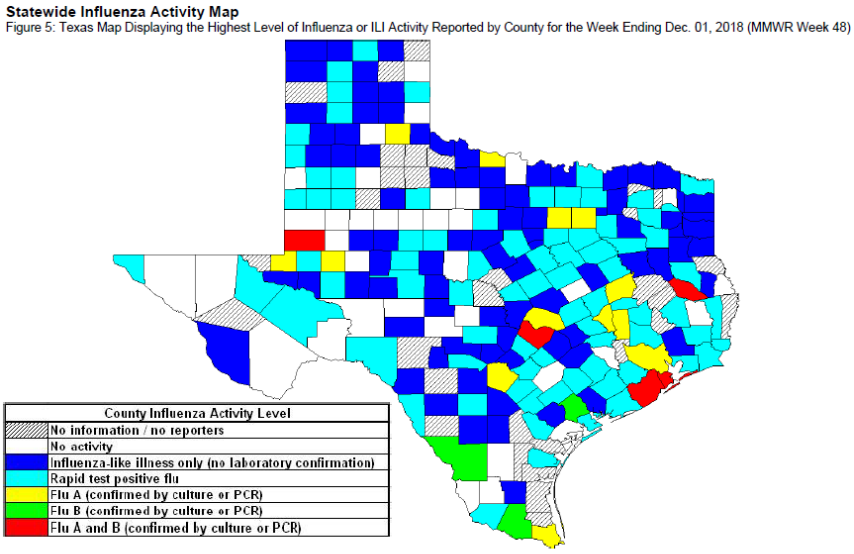


*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

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

Statewide

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



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.

HCPH Jurisdiction

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

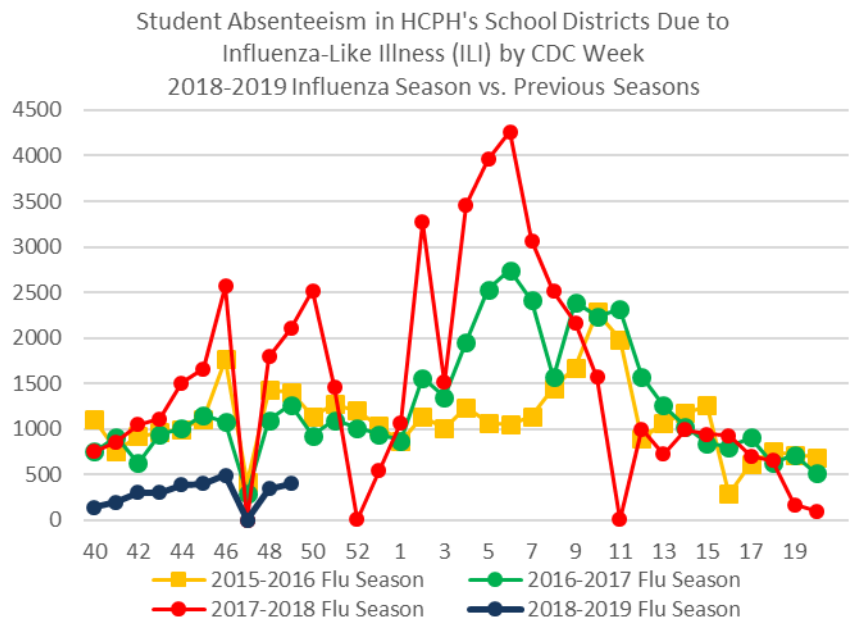
https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/

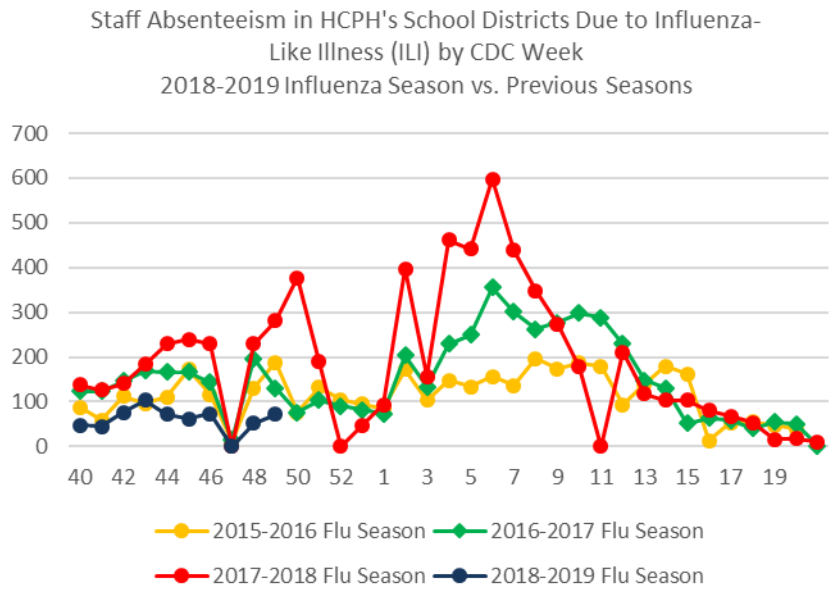
School Reporting

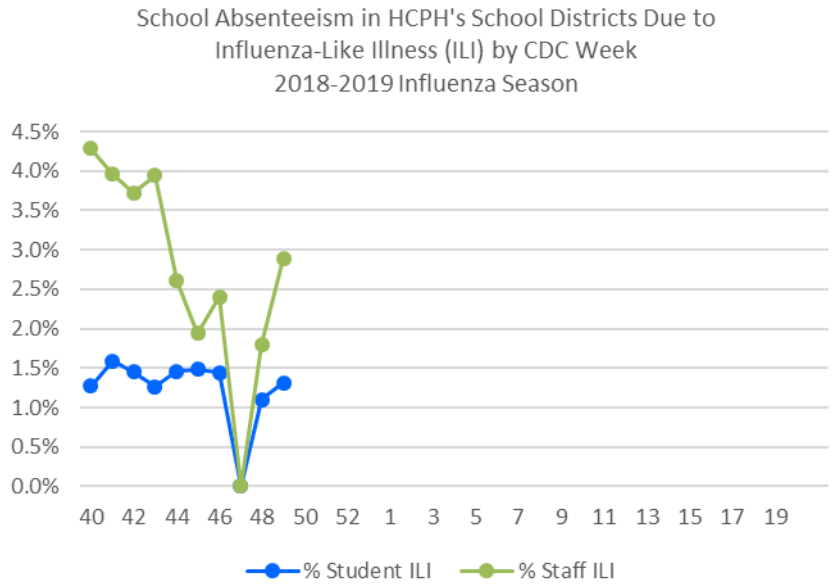
Influenza/ILI reporting is voluntary as it is not a mandatory notifiable condition. Therefore, this report indicates trends and should not be interpreted as a complete and total picture of influenza activity in Harris County.

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.

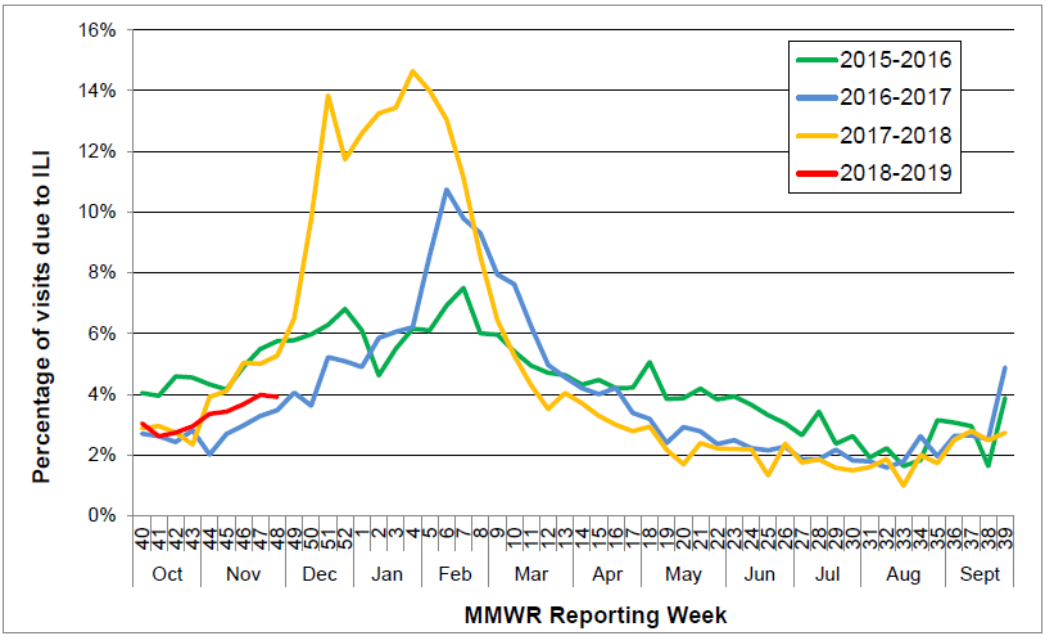
School holidays:
* Week 47/48 (Thanksgiving)
* Week 52-Week 1 (Winter Break)
* Week 10/11 (Spring Break)



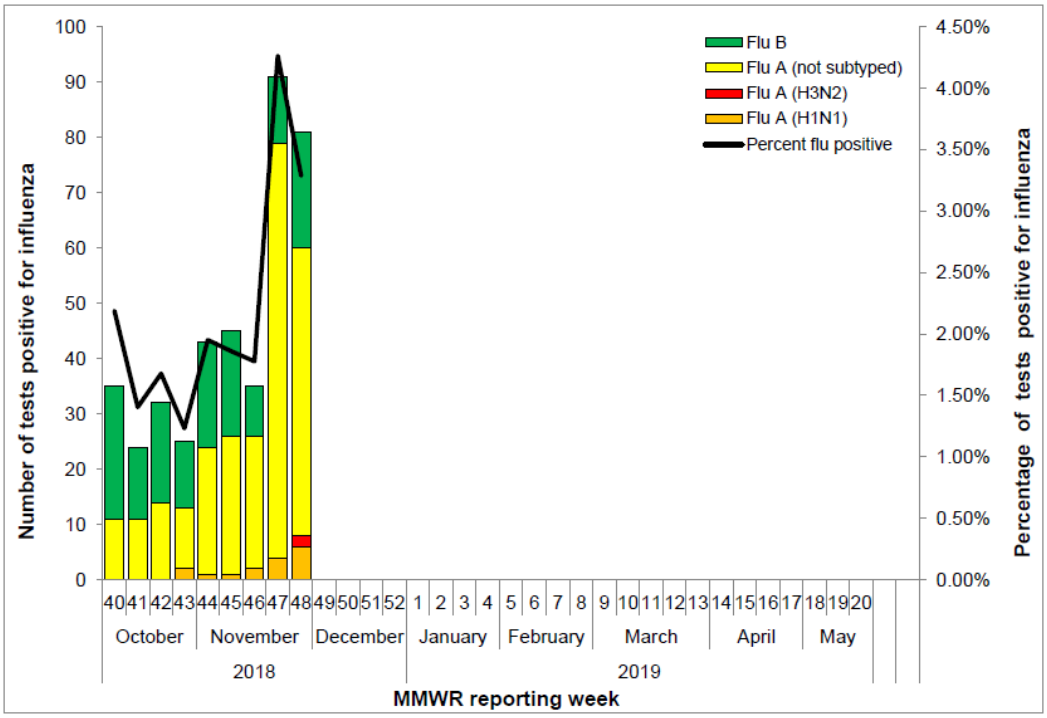




Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2015–2019 Seasons*



Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type and Subtype Reported by Texas Hospital Laboratories, 2018-2019 Season



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

Contact Us

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

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