Harris County Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

# WEEKLY FLU REPORT

**Epidemiology Program—Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance** 2015 CDC Week 07

## 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.

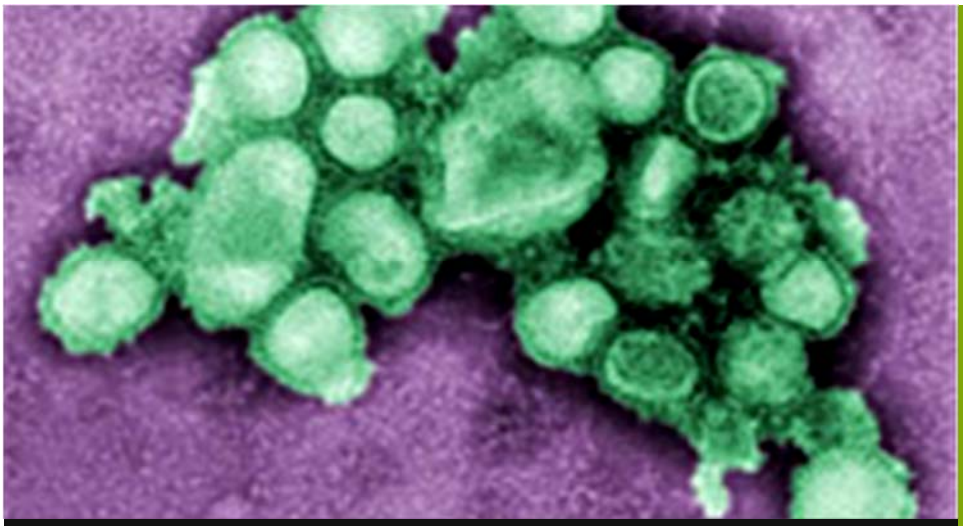
⇒ Similarly, rapid influenza test results are also reported on a voluntary basis.

⇒ 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"*

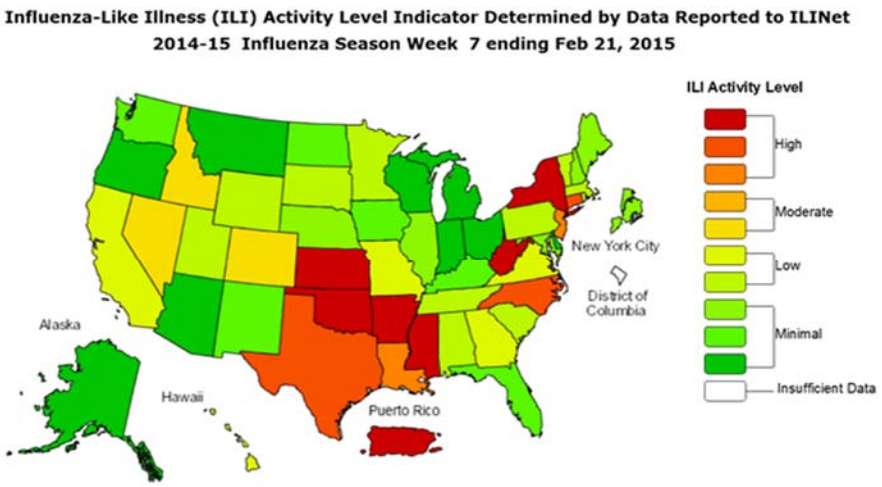
*- The Future of the Public's Health in the 21st Century, Institutes of Medicine, 2003*



**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




# Nationally

Influenza activity is considered to be at high levels with regional spread in the state of Texas for CDC Week 07 (February 15, 2015—February 21, 2015). During this week, Puerto Rico and 11 states experienced high levels of ILI activity.

**Source: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly**

# Statewide

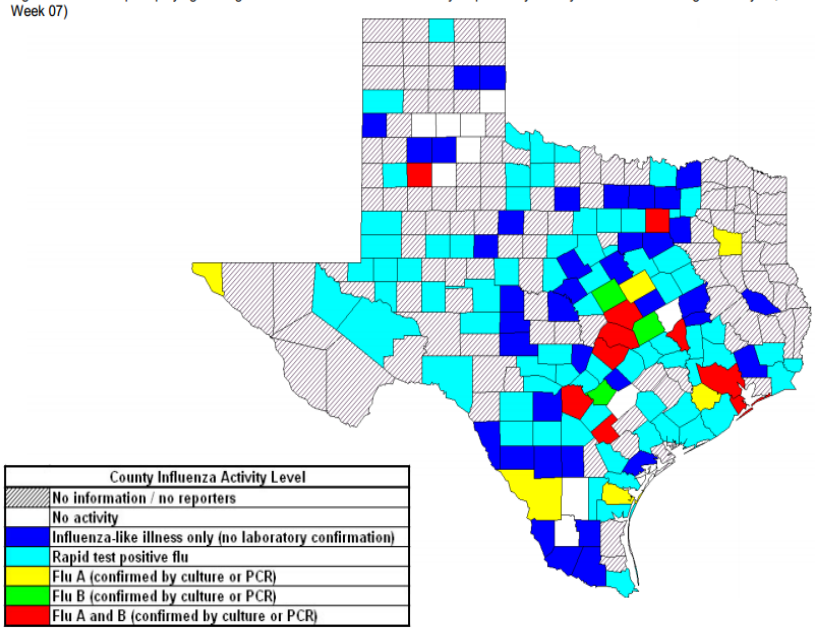
No variant influenza viruses have been identified in Texas during this flu season.

## 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 February 21, 2015 (MMWR Week 07)




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/**

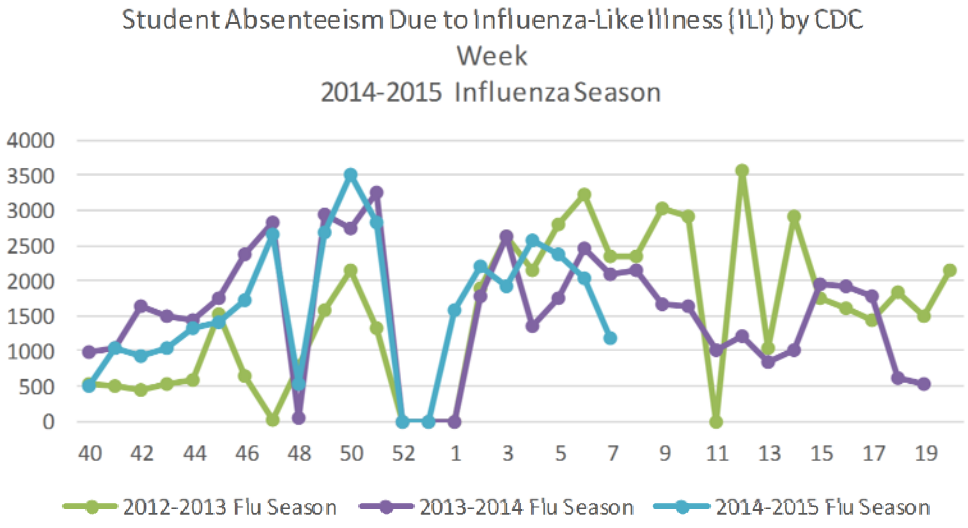
## School Reporting

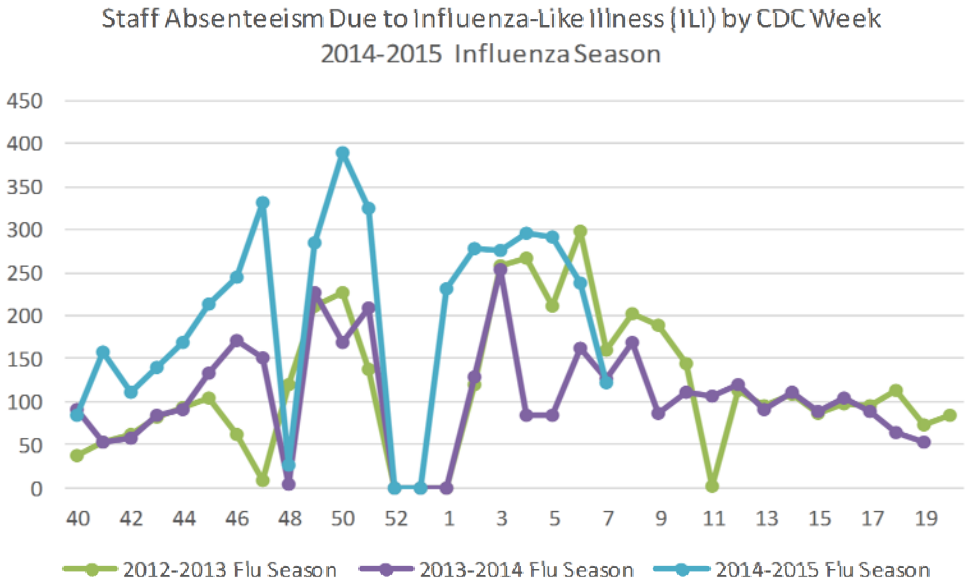
Influenza/ILI reporting is voluntary as it is not a mandatory notifiable condition. Therefore, this report indicates trends and should not be interpreted as a complete and total picture of influenza activity in Harris County.

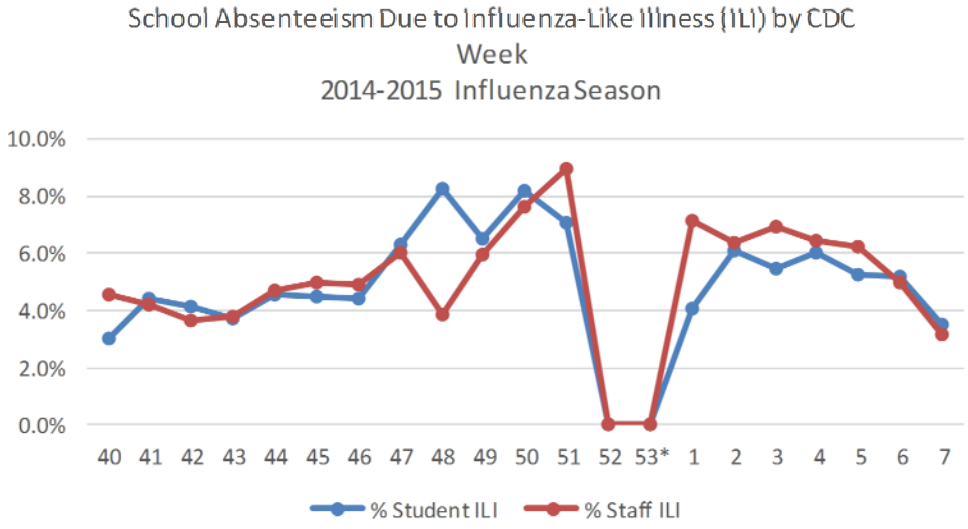
Daily absenteeism and student/staff ILI numbers are reported from schools in the 18 Harris County Independent School Districts (ISDs). Schools were asked to begin reporting ILI from the beginning of the school year; however, reporting participation generally increases as occurrence of ILI increases.

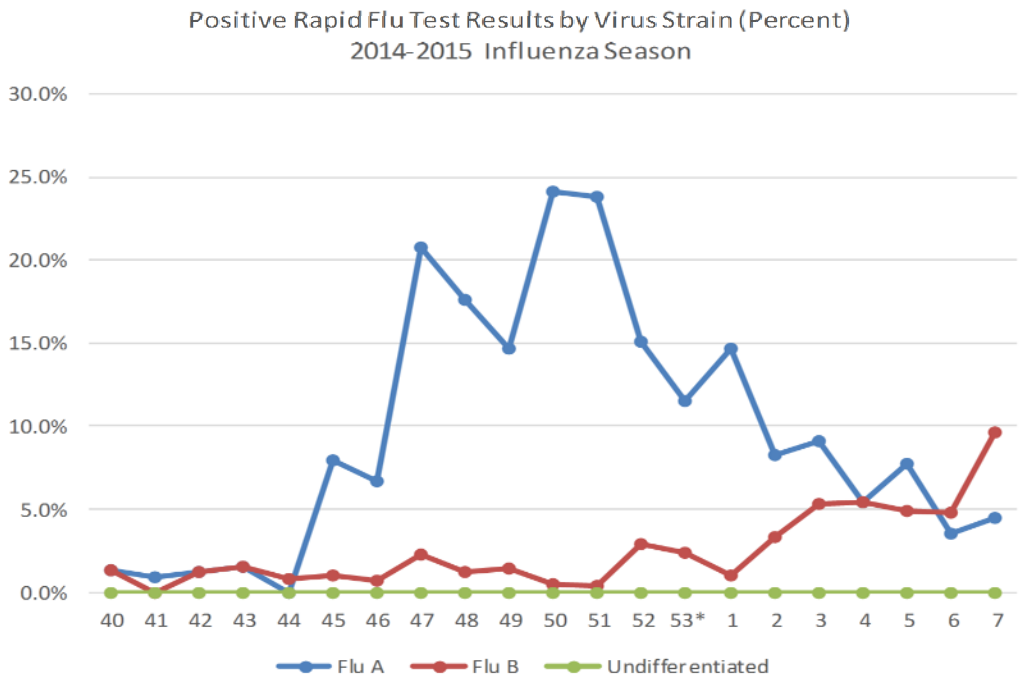
The 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 influenza seasons did not have a week 53; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

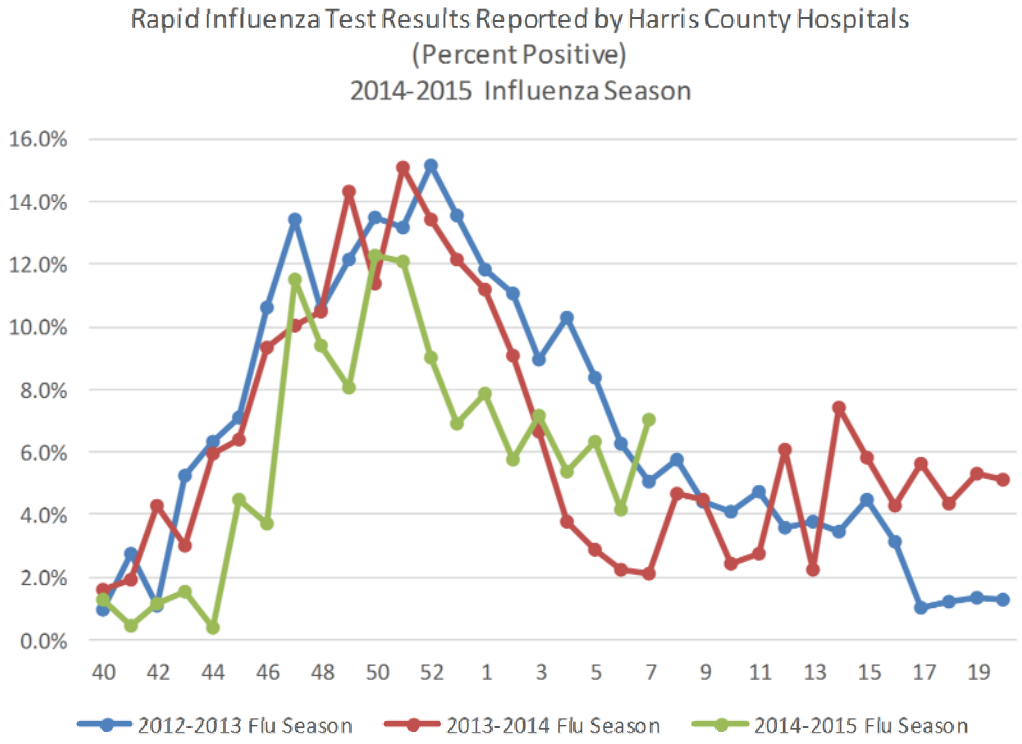
School holidays:
* Week 47/48 (Thanksgiving)
* Week 52-Week 1 (Winter Break)
* Week 11 (Spring Break)






## 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.

# Additional Information

Harris County Public Health
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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