

Texas Influenza Surveillance Report 2014–2015 Season/2014 MMWR Week 41

(October 5, 2014 – October 11, 2014)
Report produced on 10/17/2014

Summary

According to Texas influenza laboratory data there has been an increase in influenza activity in recent weeks. However, influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity are still occurring at a low level in the state. ILI activity decreased compared to last week and is below the 2014-2015 state ILINet baseline of 5.42%.

Table 1: Summary of Texas Influenza (Flu) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity for the Current Week

Texas Surveillance Component	Change from Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week [†]	Page of Report
Statewide influenza activity level reported to CDC (geographic spread of influenza)	No change	Sporadic	Sporadic	--
Statewide ILINet Activity Indicator assigned by CDC (intensity of influenza-like illness)	No change	Minimal	Minimal	--
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza	▲ 4.14%	6.22%	2.08%	1
Percentage of visits due to ILI (ILINet)	▼ 0.16%	3.96%	4.12%	3
Number of regions reporting increased flu/ILI activity	▲ 2	5	3	4
Number of regions reporting decreased flu/ILI activity	No change	0	0	4
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	No change	0	0	4
Number of ILI/influenza outbreaks	No change	0	0	4
Number of pediatric influenza deaths	No New Cases Reported	0	0	4

[†]Data displayed have been updated since last week's flu report with any new reports received.

Laboratory Results

Influenza

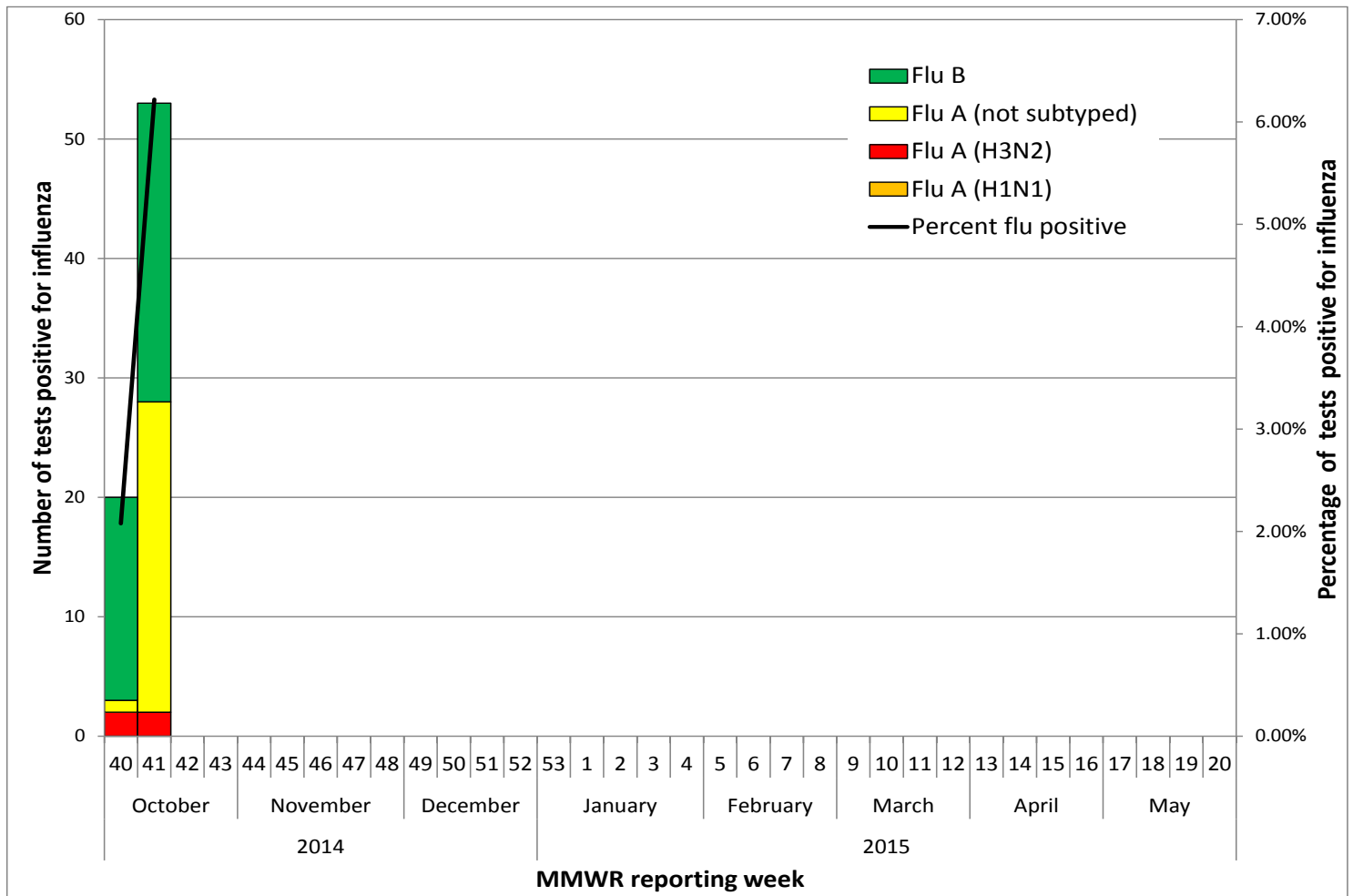
Hospital laboratories across Texas voluntarily report influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). Providers throughout Texas also submit specimens for influenza testing (PCR) to Texas public health laboratories, including the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) state laboratory in Austin and the nine Texas Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories. The results reported by Texas NREVSS participants and public health laboratories for the current week is summarized in the table below. Additional influenza test results (rapid tests, culture, PCR) and ILI activity were reported from providers and public health departments throughout the state (see county map at the end of this report).

Table 2: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 41
Number of labs reporting flu tests	15
Number of specimens tested	852
Number of positive specimens (%) [†]	53 (6.22%)
Percentage of total tests that were antigen detection tests	50.80%
Positive specimens by type/subtype [n (%)]	
Influenza A	28 (52.83%)
Subtyping performed	2 (7.14%)
A (H1N1)	0 (0.00%)
A (H3N2)	2 (100.00%)
Subtyping not performed	26 (92.86%)
Influenza B	25 (47.17%)

[†]Laboratory data in 2014-2015 season reports may not be comparable to reports from previous seasons because of the inclusion of DSHS and LRN laboratory data for the current season.

Figure 1: Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type and Subtype Reported by Texas Laboratories, 2014–2015 Season



Other Respiratory Viruses

The NREVSS system collects information on a variety of respiratory viruses in addition to influenza including parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus, human metapneumovirus (HMPV), and respiratory adenovirus. The results for the current week are summarized below.

Table 3: Non-Influenza Respiratory Virus Testing Performed by Texas NREVSS Laboratories for the Current Week

Virus	Number of Laboratories Testing	Tests Performed	Positive Tests	Percentage of Tests Positive
Adenovirus (respiratory)	5	307	18	5.86%
HMPV	4	286	1	0.35%
Parainfluenza virus	5	294	17	5.78%
Rhinovirus	2	142	55	38.73%
RSV [†]	14	230	7	3.04%

[†]RSV tests displayed in the table are antigen detection tests only. Some non-NREVSS reporters also contribute to the RSV data.

Antigenic Characterization

No antigenic characterization data for Texas specimens are available at this time. The DSHS Laboratory sends a representative sample of influenza viruses to the CDC throughout the flu season.

Antiviral Resistance

No antiviral resistance testing data for Texas specimens are available at this time.

U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

Table 5: Texas ILINet Reporting and Patient Visit Summary for the Current Week

Week 41	
Number of providers reporting [†]	93
Number of providers reporting patient visits	92
Number (%) of providers with at least one ILI case	73 (79.35%)
Percentage of all visits due to ILI	3.96%
Texas ILINet baseline [‡] , 2013–2014	5.42%

[†]Reporting providers include both ILINet and Enhanced ILINet/IISP providers.

[‡]The baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. A “non-influenza week” is defined as a week that accounted for less than 2% of the season’s total number of specimens that tested positive for influenza.

Table 6: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Providers (as of 10/16/2014 10:00 AM)

Week	Providers Reporting	Number of ILI Cases by Age Group (Years)					Total ILI (all ages)	Total Patients	% ILI
		0-4	5-24	25-49	50-64	65+			
201440	95	122	332	297	113	92	956	23180	4.12%
201441	93	127	330	281	133	91	962	24317	3.96%

Figure 2: Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2014–2015 Season

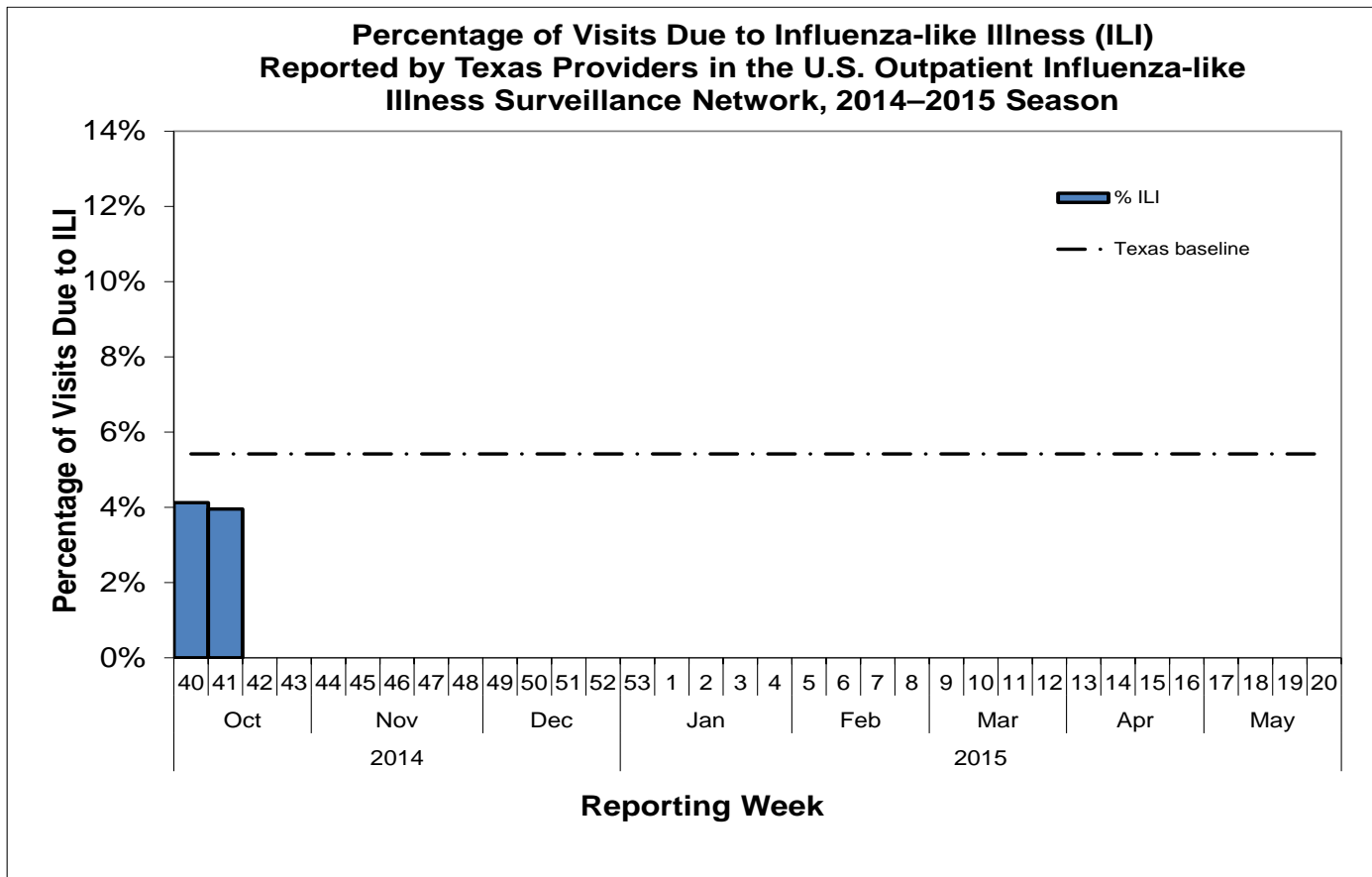
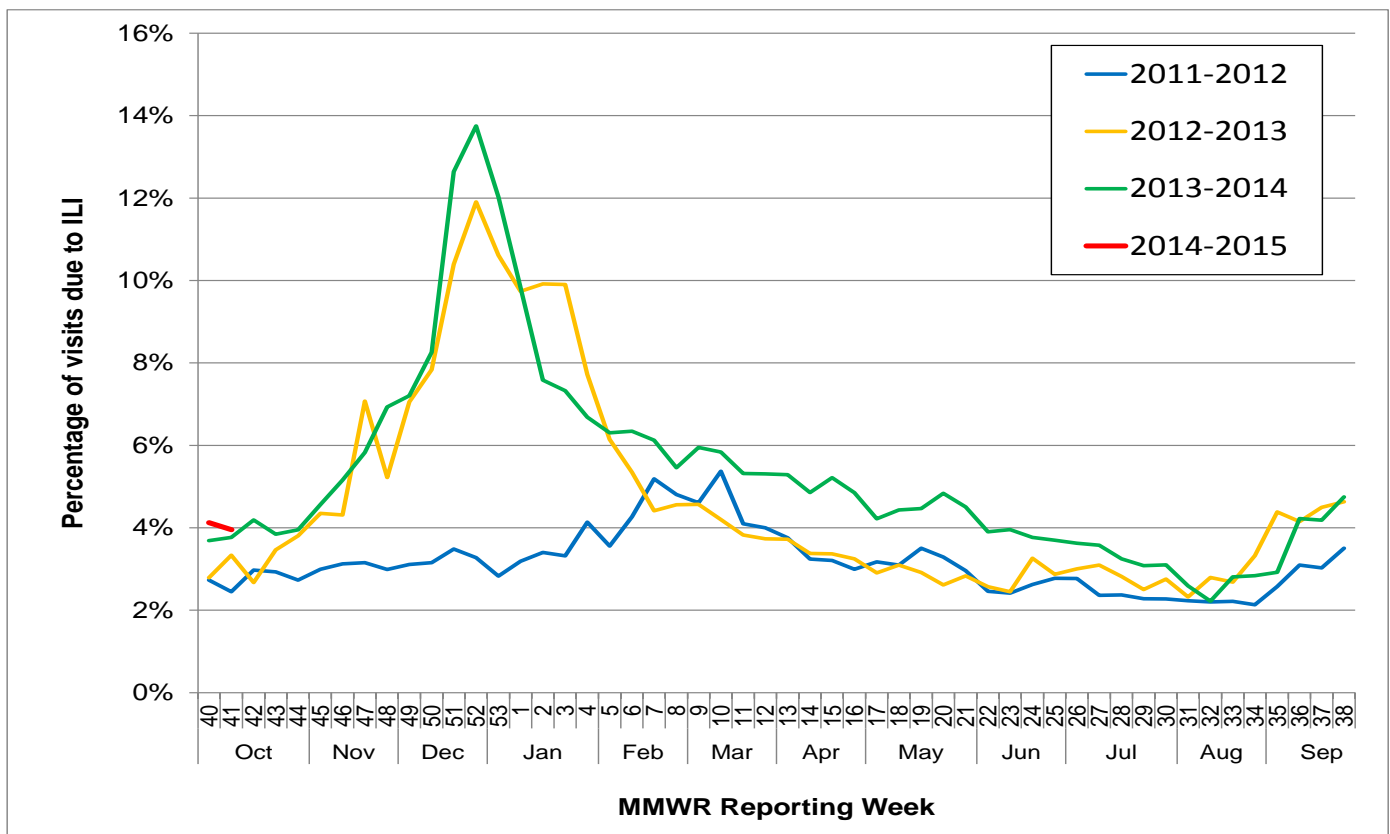


Figure 3: Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2011–2015 Seasons



Reports from Health Service Regions

Reports were received from six Health Service Regions (HSRs) during week 41. HSRs 1, 6/5S, 8, 9/10, and 11 reported an increased level of flu activity compared to week 40. HSR 7 reported the same level of flu activity compared to week 40.

Variant Influenza Viruses

No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas in 2014.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

No influenza or ILI outbreaks were reported during week 41. No school closures were reported during week 41.

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported during week 41.

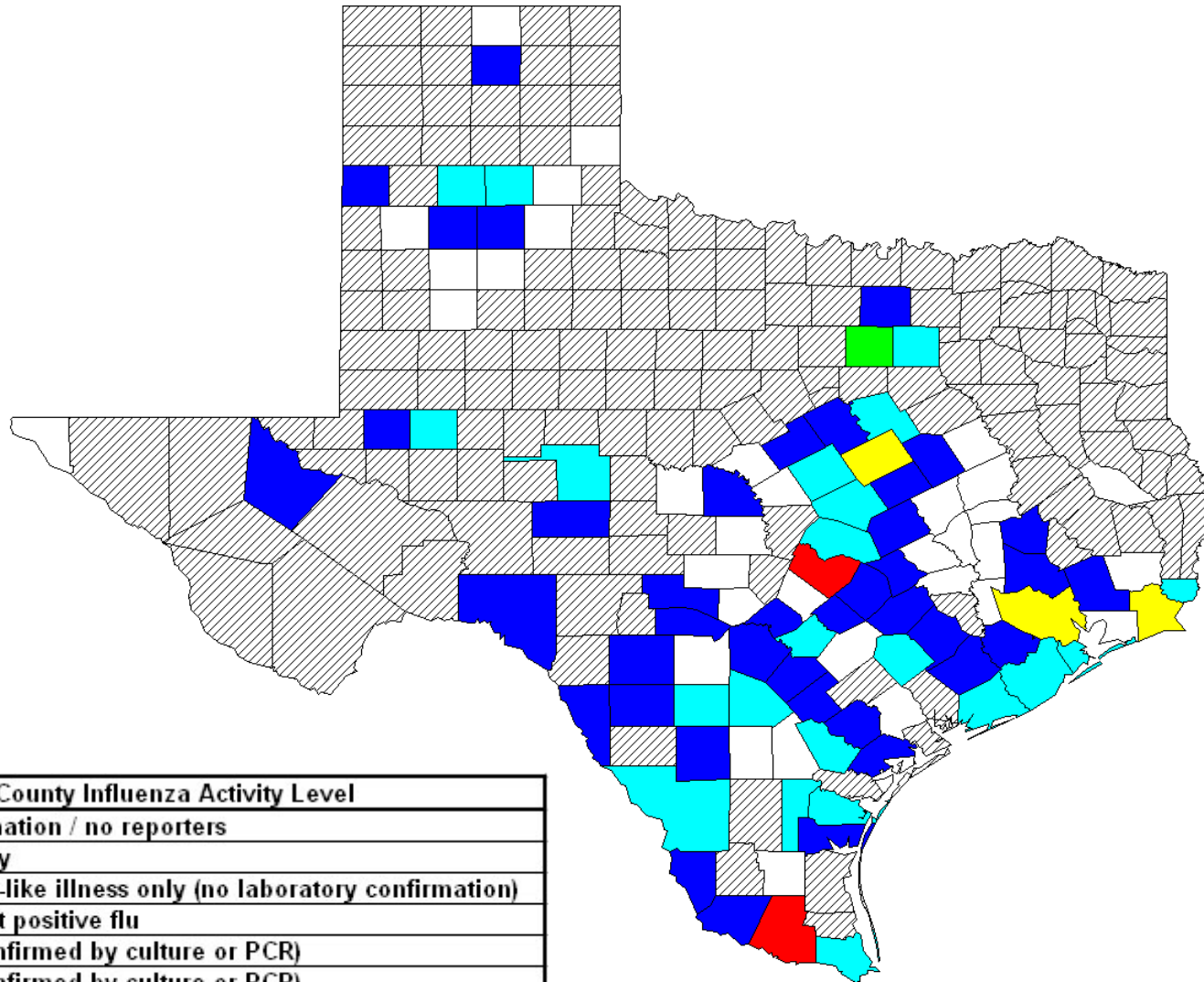
No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2014-2015 influenza season. Cases of influenza-associated pediatric mortality (children <18 years of age) are reportable year-round and by law in Texas.








Table 7: Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths Reported in Texas During the 2014–2015 Season

Month of Pediatric Death	Influenza A (H1N1)	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza A (Not Subtyped)	Influenza B	Influenza, Not Typed / Not Differentiated	Influenza virus co-infection: A (not subtyped) and B	Total, All Influenza Types / Subtypes
2014							
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Statewide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 4: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending October 11, 2014 (MMWR Week 41)



County Influenza Activity Level	
	No information / no reporters
	No activity
	Influenza-like illness only (no laboratory confirmation)
	Rapid test positive flu
	Flu A (confirmed by culture or PCR)
	Flu B (confirmed by culture or PCR)
	Flu A and B (confirmed by culture or PCR)

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.

Texas Influenza Surveillance Components and Measures

Activity codes (see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>)

Statewide influenza activity level

A code reported weekly by states and territories to CDC indicating the geographic spread of influenza in the state. Levels are no activity, sporadic, local, regional, and widespread.

ILINet Activity Indicator

A statewide level of influenza-like illness intensity (on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the lowest level) assigned to each state weekly by CDC based on data reported through ILINet.

Morbidity

Novel/variant influenza

Thorough investigations are performed on all cases of novel/variant influenza. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Texas ILINet

Providers voluntarily report weekly to CDC's ILINet system on the number of outpatient visits for ILI and total outpatient visits. Providers may submit up to 5 specimens per month for influenza testing. **See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/ILINet/> for information on how to become an ILINet provider.**

Enhanced ILINet/IISP

Providers report weekly to ILINet and submit specimens on the first 10 patients seen with ILI each week. Specimens are tested for a variety of respiratory viruses.

ILI activity

Non-ILINet providers report ILI or influenza data weekly to local or regional health departments.

Outbreaks

Healthcare and childcare facilities report ILI and influenza outbreaks to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Mortality

Influenza-associated pediatric deaths

Deaths that are associated with influenza in children < 18 years of age are reported to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.* <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/IAPM/>

Laboratory

DSHS Austin laboratory

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to the DSHS Austin laboratory for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to one of the 9 Texas LRNs for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

NREVSS

Laboratories voluntarily report influenza and other respiratory virus data weekly through the CDC's online NREVSS reporting system. **Laboratories sign up for this program by contacting DSHS.** <http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/>

Recommended Resources

Texas Department of State Health Services

DSHS influenza page: <http://www.texasflu.org/>

Influenza surveillance data and reports: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>

Map of Texas Health Service Regions: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/state.shtm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National FluView weekly flu report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Variant and novel influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>; <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm>

Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/>

Seasonal Flu Information for Schools and Childcare Providers: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm>

World Health Organization

Influenza page: <http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/>

Disease Outbreak News: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>