

SUMMARY

Geographic Spread

Influenza activity continued to **increase** this week. South Carolina reported **regional activity**.

Virologic Surveillance

A total of 871 influenza cases (857 positive rapid antigen detection tests; 14 lab confirmed tests) were reported from 34 counties representing all four regions. The predominant circulating flu subtype and type were Influenza A (not subtyped) and Influenza A, respectively.

Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

This week, 2.88% of patient visits to sentinel providers were seen for an influenza-like illness (ILI). This is below South Carolina's baseline (3.13%). The ILI activity level was **low**.

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations

A total of 38 hospitalizations were reported by 38 hospitals. Since October 2, 2016, 138 influenza-associated hospitalizations have been reported.

Influenza-Associated Deaths

No deaths were reported this week. Since October 2, 2016, 3 influenza-associated deaths have been reported.

Contents

2 Virologic Surveillance

5 Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

8 Hospitalizations and Deaths

10 National Influenza Surveillance

11 Influenza Surveillance Definitions

Virologic Surveillance

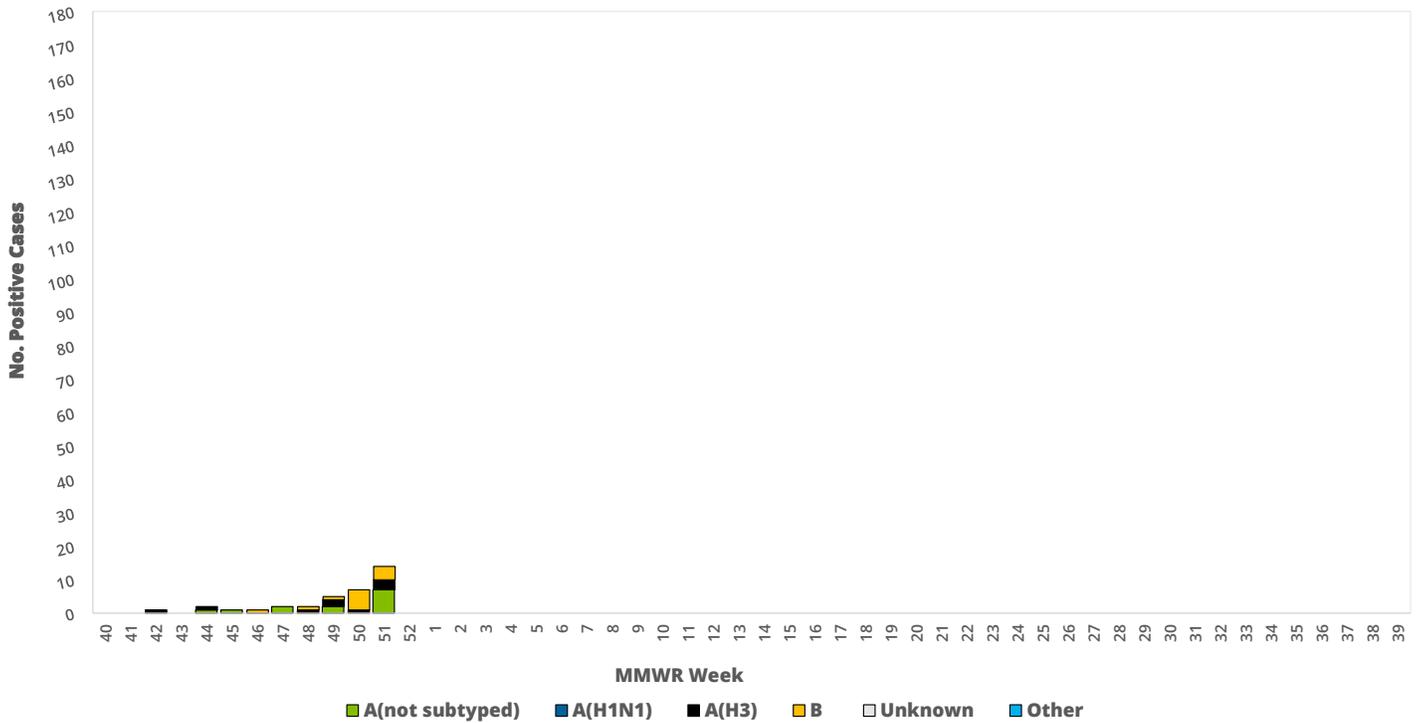
Lab Confirmed Influenza

Cases include positive testing via respiratory culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA. Reporting is required to DHEC within 3 days via the South Carolina Infectious Disease and Outbreak Network (SCION) or DHEC 1129 card. This week, **14** lab confirmed cases were reported. This compares to **2** lab confirmed cases this same week last season. The predominant circulating influenza subtype was **Influenza A (not subtyped)**.

Table: Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases

Virus Type/ Subtype	No. Positive		No. Positive	
	This week	Previous week	Cumulative YTD 2016-17	Cumulative YTD 2015-16
A not subtyped	7 (50.0%)	0	13 (37.1%)	4 (40.0%)
A(H1N1)	0	0	0	0
A(H3)	3 (21.4%)	1 (14.3%)	9 (25.8%)	3 (30.0%)
B	4 (28.6%)	6 (85.7%)	13 (37.1%)	3 (30.0%)
Other	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	14	7	35	10

Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Subtype by MMWR Week



Virologic Surveillance

Positive Rapid Antigen Detection Tests

Providers are required to report weekly aggregate no. of positive results and influenza type to their respective regional health department. This week, **857** positive rapid tests were reported. This compares to **130** positive rapid tests reported this same week last season. The predominant influenza type was **Influenza A**.

Table: Positive Rapid Antigen Detection Tests

Virus Type	No. Positive		No. Positive	
	This week	Previous week	Cumulative YTD 2016-17	Cumulative YTD 2015-16
Influenza A	494 (57.6%)	387 (57.5%)	1645 (57.2%)	963 (58.2%)
Influenza AB	12 (1.4%)	20 (3.0%)	76 (2.6%)	73 (4.4%)
Influenza B	351 (41.0%)	266 (39.5%)	1152 (40.0%)	609 (36.8%)
Unknown	0	0	5 (0.2%)	10 (0.6%)
Total	857	673	2878	1655

Positive Rapid Influenza Tests Weekly Total By County



Highlighted areas indicate counts greater than or equal to 1

Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

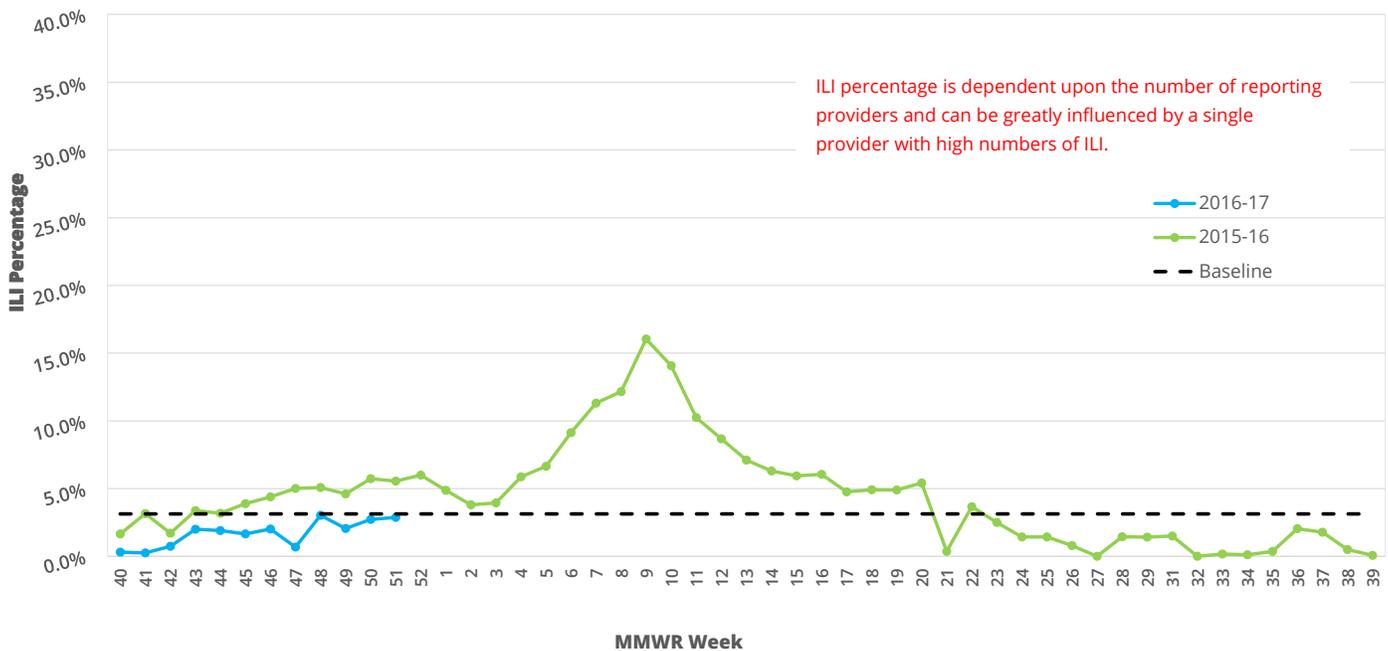
Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Providers enrolled in the Center for Disease Control Influenza-Like Illness Network (ILINet) surveillance system report weekly aggregate no. of patient visits, and of those visits the number of patients seen for an influenza-like illness by age group (i.e. 0-4, 5-24, 25-49, 50-64, ≥ 65). This week, the ILI activity level was **low** and **2.88%** of patient visits to SC ILINet providers was attributed to an influenza-like illness. This is **below** the state baseline, **3.13%**. The ILI percentage for the current week last season was **5.56%**. Reports were received from providers in 7 counties, representing all 4 regions.

ILI Activity Level 2016-17 Calendar

OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
40	44	48	1	5	9	13	18	22	26	31	35
41	45	49	2	6	10	14	19	23	27	32	36
42	46	50	3	7	11	15	20	24	28	33	37
43	47	51	4	8	12	16	21	25	29	34	38
		52				17			30		39

ILI ACTIVITY LEVELS: **MINIMAL** **LOW** **MODERATE** **HIGH**

Percentage of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Visits Reported by Sentinel Providers for Past and Current Seasons



Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

Influenza-Like Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers

County	ILI %	County	ILI %
Abbeville	---	Greenwood	NR
Aiken	0.62%	Hampton	---
Allendale	---	Horry	---
Anderson	NR	Jasper	---
Bamberg	---	Kershaw	---
Barnwell	---	Lancaster	---
Beaufort	3.11%	Laurens	NR
Berkeley	NR	Lee	---
Calhoun	---	Lexington	---
Charleston	NR	Marion	---
Cherokee	---	Marlboro	NR
Chester	---	McCormick	---
Chesterfield	---	Newberry	---
Clarendon	---	Oconee	NR
Colleton	---	Orangeburg	---
Darlington	1.35%	Pickens	NR
Dillon	---	Richland	NR
Dorchester	NR	Saluda	0.74%
Edgefield	---	Spartanburg	NR
Fairfield	---	Sumter	0.15%
Florence	0.57%	Union	---
Georgetown	NR	Williamsburg	---
Greenville	6.06%	York	NR

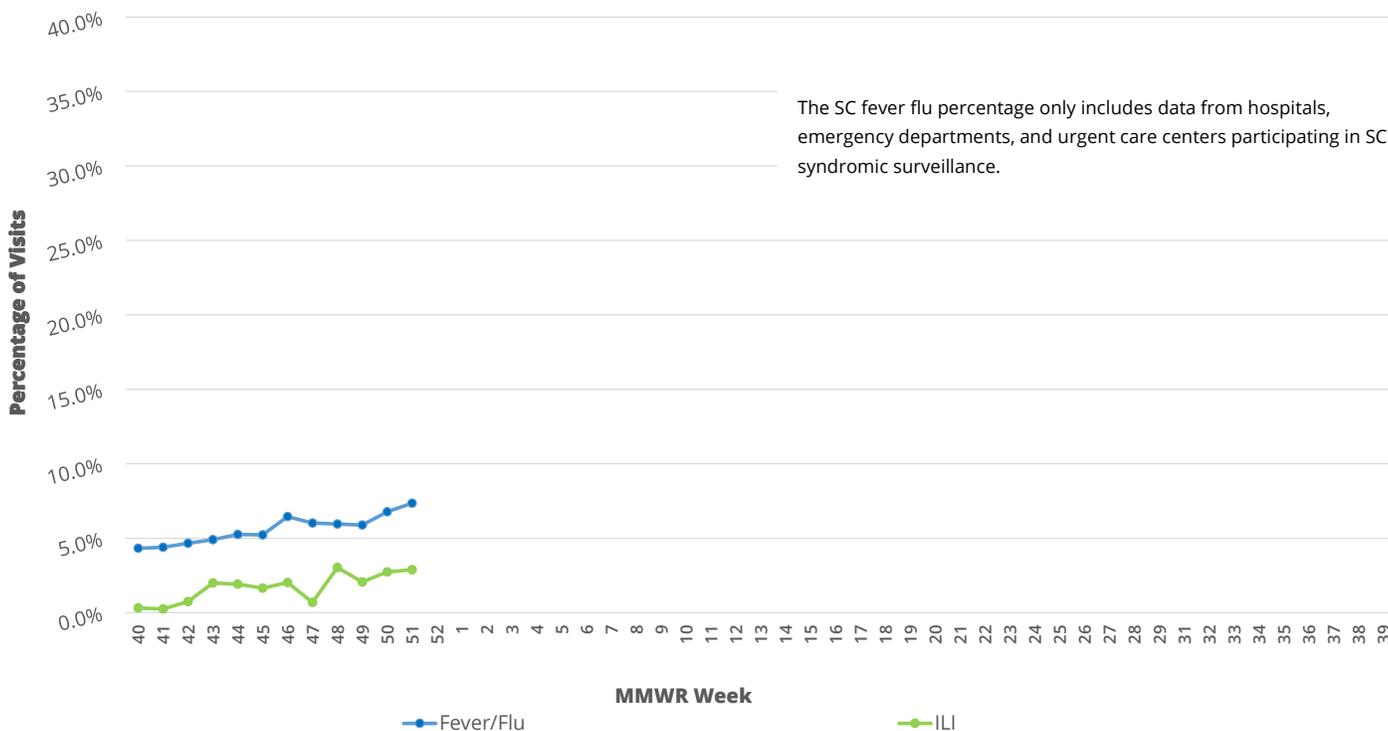
NR: No reports received
 ---: No enrolled providers

Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

South Carolina Disease Alerting, Reporting & Tracking System

(SC-DARTS) is a collaborative network of syndromic surveillance systems within South Carolina. Currently this network contains the following data sources: SC Hospital Emergency Department (ED) chief-complaint data and Poison Control Center call data. The hospital ED syndromic surveillance system classifies ED chief complaint data into appropriate syndrome categories (i.e. Respiratory, GI, Fever, etc.). This week, the statewide percentage of ER visits with fever-flu syndrome was **7.35%**.

Percentage of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Fever/Flu Syndromic Visits



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations

are reported weekly in aggregate no. to their respective regional health departments.

This week **38** laboratory confirmed hospitalizations were reported by **38** hospitals. This compares to **14** lab confirmed hospitalizations this same week last season.

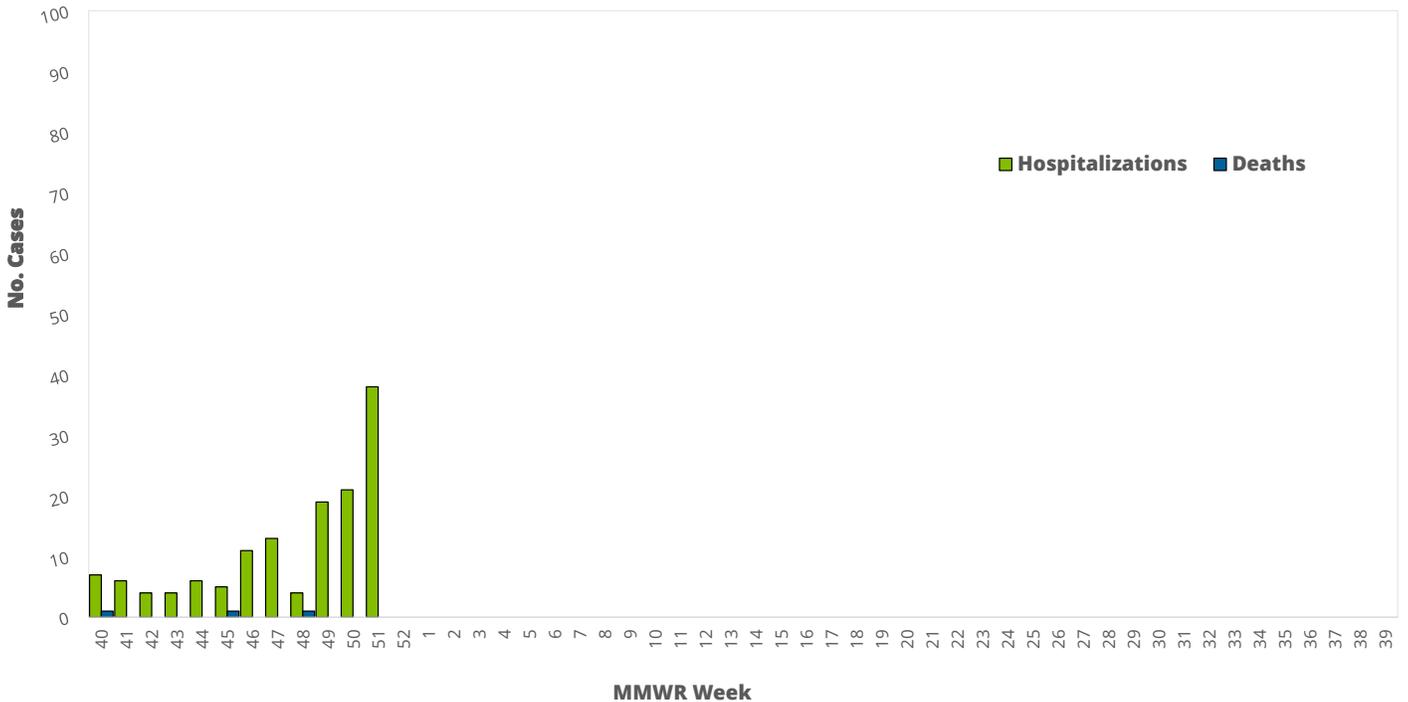
Table: Influenza Associated Hospitalizations

Age Group	No. Hospitalizations				
	This week	Previous week	Rate per 100,000*	Cumulative YTD 2016-17	Cumulative YTD 2015-16
0-4	7	2	4.30	13	23
5-17	3	3	1.03	8	8
18-49	8	3	1.25	25	25
50-64	6	4	3.62	33	44
65+	14	9	9.34	59	72
Unknown	0	0	--	0	0
Total	38	21	2.98	138	172

*Based on 2010 Census Data

Laboratory confirmation for hospitalizations and deaths includes culture, PCR, DFA, IFA, rapid antigen detection testing, or autopsy (deaths only).

Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths by MMWR Week



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

Table: Influenza Associated Deaths

Age Group	No. Deaths				
	This week	Previous week	Rate per 100,000*	Cumulative YTD 2016-17	Cumulative YTD 2015-16
0-4	0	0	0.00	0	0
5-17	0	0	0.00	0	0
18-49	0	0	0.05	1	0
50-64	0	0	0.00	0	3
65+	0	0	0.32	2	5
Unknown	0	0	--	--	--
Total	0	0	0.06	3	8

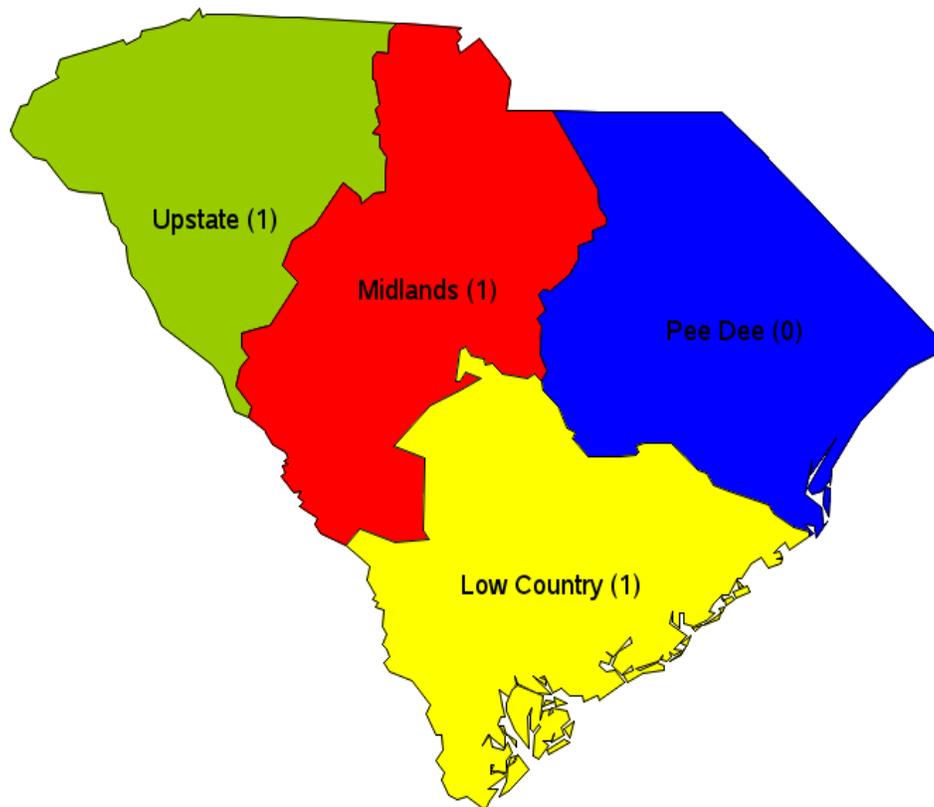
*Based on 2010 Census Data

Influenza-Associated Deaths

are urgently reportable to DHEC within 24 hours of initial notification.

0 laboratory confirmed deaths were reported this week. This compares to 0 laboratory confirmed deaths this same week last season.

Influenza-Associated Deaths by Region



National Influenza Surveillance

Synopsis:

During week 50 (December 11-17, 2016), influenza activity increased slightly in the United States.

Viral Surveillance: The most frequently identified influenza virus subtype reported by public health laboratories during week 50 was influenza A (H3). The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories increased.

Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.

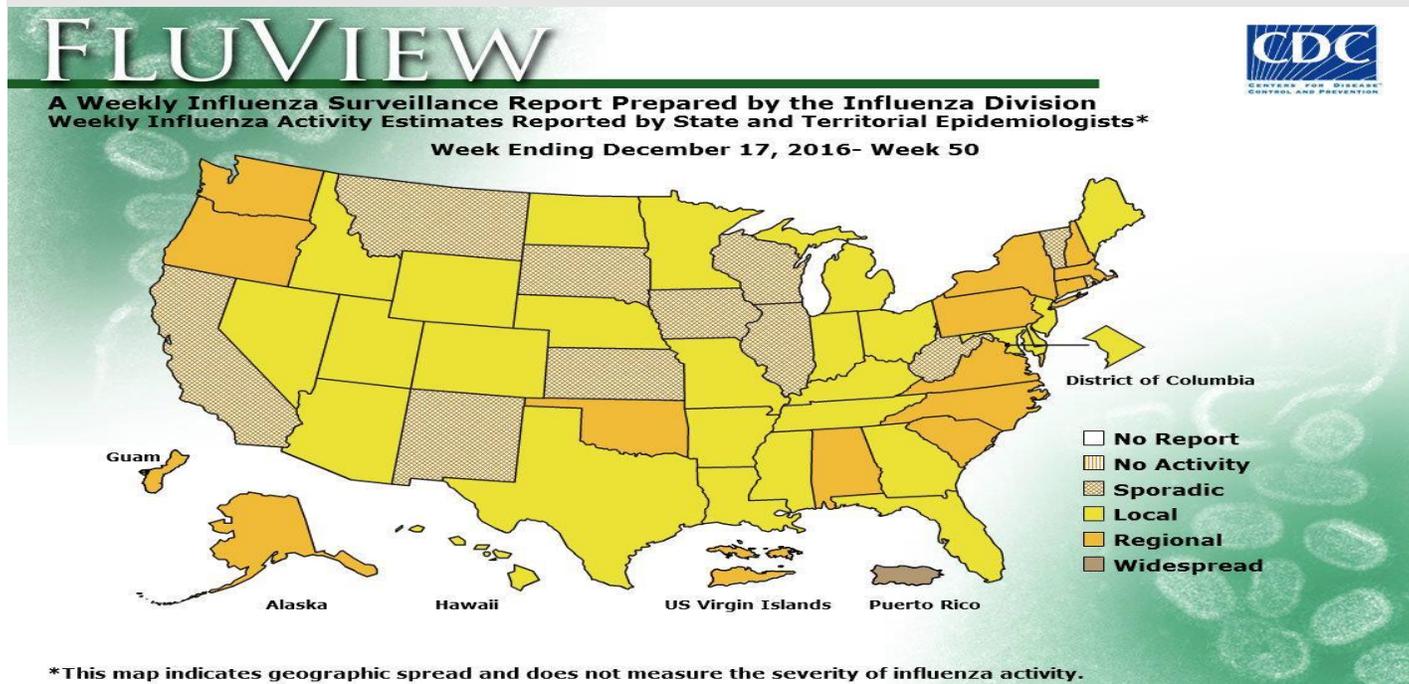
Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths: Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported that occurred during the 2015-2016 season.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations: A cumulative rate for the season of 2.4 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.

Outpatient Illness Surveillance: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.3%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. Five regions reported ILI at or above their region-specific baseline levels. One state and Puerto Rico experienced high ILI activity, two states and New York City experienced moderate ILI activity, ten states experienced low ILI activity, 37 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.

Geographic Spread of Influenza: The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico was reported as widespread; Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 13 states reported as regional; the District of Columbia and 26 states reported local activity; and 11 states reported sporadic activity.

For additional information, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>



Influenza Surveillance Definitions

Activity Level (Geographic Spread): Indicator of the geographic spread of influenza activity which is reported to CDC each week.

No activity: No increase in ILI activity and no laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.

Sporadic: No increase in ILI activity and isolated laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.

Local: Increased ILI or 2 or more institutional outbreaks in one region and laboratory-confirmed influenza cases within the past 3 weeks in the region with increased ILI or outbreaks.

Regional: Increased ILI or institutional outbreaks in 2-3 regions and laboratory-confirmed influenza cases within the past 3 weeks in the regions with increased ILI or outbreaks.

Widespread: Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks in at least 4 regions and laboratory confirmed influenza in the state within the past 3 weeks.

Activity Level (Influenza-like Illness):

Comparison of the current week mean reported percent of visits due to ILI to the non-influenza weeks mean reported percent of visits due to ILI. The activity level corresponds to the number of standard deviations below, at, or above the mean for the current week compared to the mean of the non-influenza weeks.

Minimal: less than 2 standard deviations above the mean.

Low: 2 to less than 4 standard deviations above the mean.

Moderate: 4 to less than 6 standard deviations above the mean.

High: greater than or equal to 6 standard deviations above the mean.

Average Epidemic Curve: Typical influenza activity (no. of lab confirmed influenza cases) for a season. Centered on the median week of the past 5 seasons, the 4 week moving average is calculated for each MMWR week.

Fever-Flu Syndrome: Includes chief complaints with any of the following ICD codes or terms: flu, fev, high temp, tem10, feel hot, night sweat, FEB, shiver, FUO, chill, 780.6, viral INF, pain all over, ILI, and body ache. Weekly fever flu count is the sum of all the records, statewide, that were categorized into the fever flu syndrome. The state denominator is a broader modification of the respiratory syndrome that includes records that have fever flu chief complaints and general respiratory illness complaints, which include: cough, coughing URI, pneumonia, croup, bronchitis, and cold. The fever flu percentage equals (weekly fever flu count/weekly state denominator)*100.

Alert Threshold: indicates influenza activity (no. of laboratory confirmed influenza cases) that is higher than the past 5 seasons. Threshold is defined as 1.645 standard deviations above the average epidemic curve for each MMWR week.

Influenza-like Illness (ILI): Fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) AND cough AND/OR sore throat (without a known cause other than influenza). The SC baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks (weeks when the percent of positive lab tests were less than 2% of the total season's positive lab tests for two consecutive weeks) for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations.

Additional Resources

Center for Disease Control and Prevention
[Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report](#)

World Health Organization
[FluNet Report](#)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
[Weekly Influenza Situation](#)

Government of Canada
[Weekly Influenza Report](#)

MMWR week: Term for influenza surveillance week. Each week begins on Sunday and ends on Monday. Nationally, the influenza season begins with MMWR week 40 and ends with MMWR week 39. The 2016-17 influenza season began on October 2, 2016 and will end on September 30, 2017.

Seasonal Threshold: indicates the start of the influenza season when the threshold is exceeded for two consecutive weeks. Threshold is defined as the median value of the average epidemic curve.