



# Flu Watch

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

Week Ending December 6, 2014 (MMWR Week 49)  
*All data are provisional and may change as more reports are received.*

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## MMWR Week 49 at a Glance:

### Influenza Activity Synopsis:

During the last MMWR week influenza activity in SC continued to increase, with significantly more positive rapid antigen tests and hospitalizations having been reported. ILI activity in several counties increased. South Carolina reported REGIONAL activity for week 49.

### Laboratory surveillance:

- 2,321 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported from 34 counties. This includes positive rapid tests, cultures, RT-PCRs, DFAs, and IFAs.
- 5,827 laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported this season, with cases identified in 40 counties. 5,010 (86%) of all laboratory-confirmed cases this season are influenza A, 605 (10.4%) are influenza B, 194 (3.3%) are influenza A/B, and 18 (.31%) are of unknown type.

### ILI Activity (South Carolina baseline is 2.05%):

- Influenza-like illness activity at sentinel providers was above South Carolina's baseline (6.54%). ILI percentages represent ILI activity reported by sentinel providers; however, due to the number of reporting providers and the definition of ILI, ILI percentages may not be representative of actual flu activity.

### Hospitalizations:

- 113 lab confirmed hospitalizations were reported. Since 9/28/14, 329 lab confirmed hospitalizations have been reported.

### Deaths:

- One lab confirmed death was reported. Since 9/28/14, 7 lab confirmed deaths have been reported.

## Summary of ILI Activity, Positive Confirmatory Tests, and Influenza Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths Compared to Previous Week and Season

	<i>Current week</i>	<i>Previous week</i>	<i>Change from previous week</i>	<i>Cumulative (2014-15)</i>	<i>Cumulative (2013-14)</i>	<i>Cumulative change 2014-15 compared to 2013-14</i>
Number of positive cultures, RT-PCRs, DFAs, and IFAs	29	12	▲ 141.7%	72	87	▼ 17.2%
Percent of ILI visits reported by ILINet providers	6.54%	5.96%	▲ 0.58%	--	--	--
Number of lab confirmed flu hospitalizations	113	76	▲ 48.7%	329	260	▲ 26.5%
Number of lab confirmed flu deaths	1	0	▲	7	6	▲ 16.7%

\*Four cases reported in the previous week were actually for the current week.

## I. Confirmatory testing

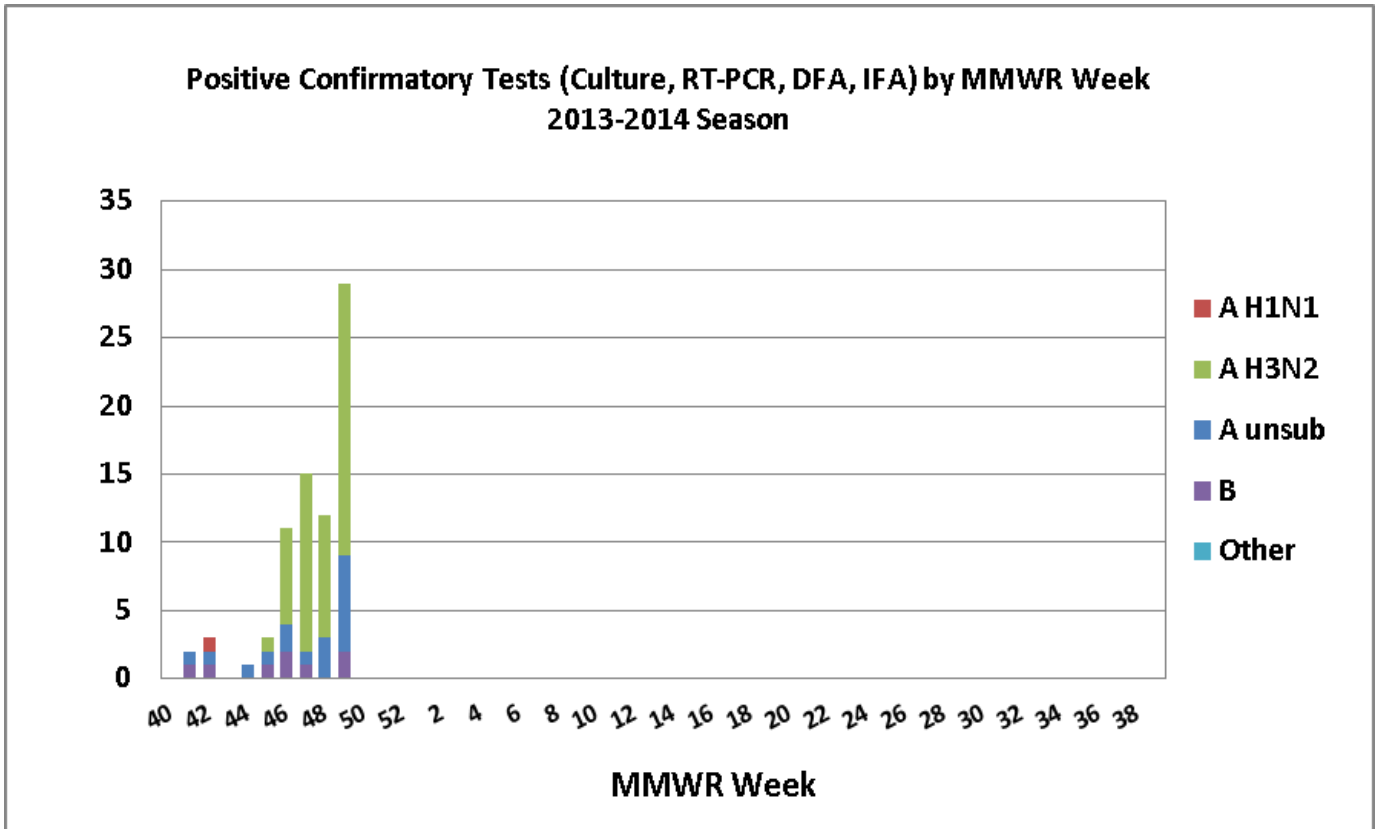
<i>Positive confirmatory influenza test results Current MMWR Week (11/30/14 – 12/6/14)</i>	
	<b>BOL and reference labs</b>
<b>Number of positive confirmatory tests</b>	29
<b>Influenza A unsubtype</b>	7
<b>Influenza A H1N1</b>	
<b>Influenza A H3N2</b>	20
<b>Influenza B</b>	2
<b>Other</b>	
Includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA	

**For the current MMWR reporting week**, 29 positive confirmatory tests were reported. So far this season 72 positive confirmatory tests have been reported.

<i>Positive confirmatory influenza test results* Cumulative (09/28/14 – 12/6/14)</i>	
	<b>BOL and reference labs</b>
<b>Number of positive confirmatory tests</b>	72
<b>Influenza A unsubtype</b>	15 (20.8%)
<b>Influenza A H1N1</b>	1 (1.4%)
<b>Influenza A H3N2</b>	48 (66.7%)
<b>Influenza B</b>	8 (11.1%)
<b>Unk/Other</b>	
Includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA	

**Positive Confirmatory Tests (Culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA)  
by County  
Current Week 11/30/14 – 12/6/14**

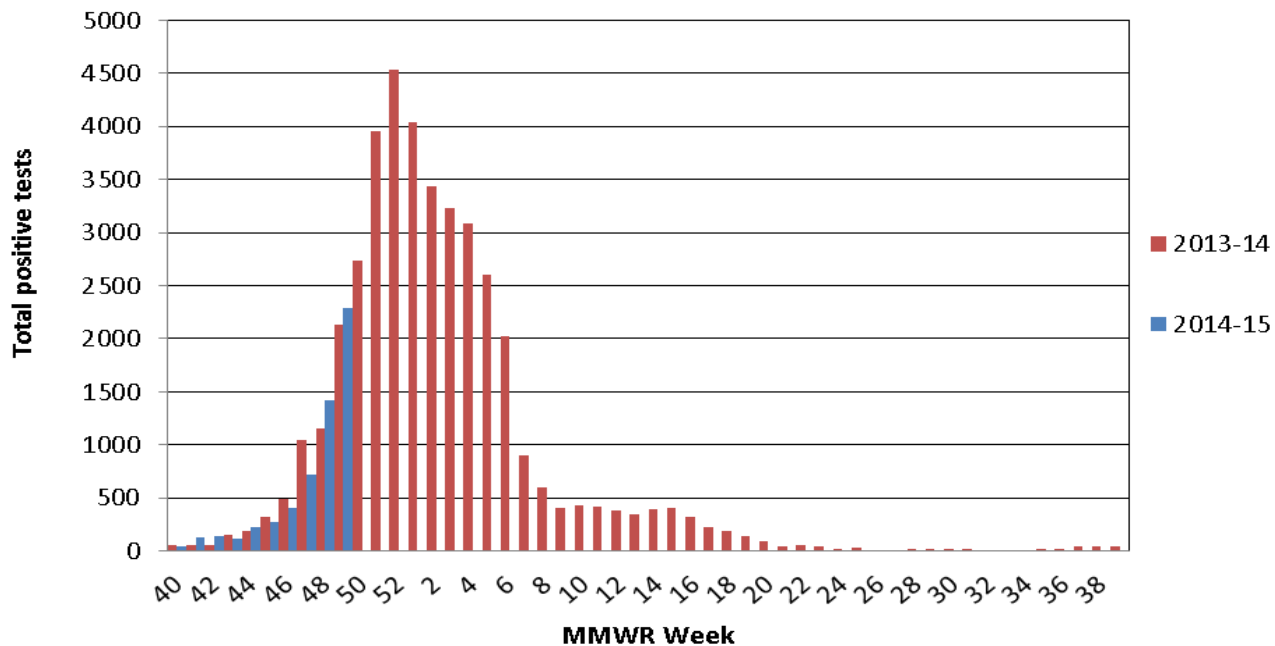
County	Positive Tests	County	Positive Tests	County	Positive Tests
Abbeville	0	Dillon	0	Marion	0
Aiken	<4	Dorchester	<4	Marlboro	0
Allendale	0	Edgefield	0	McCormick	0
Anderson	0	Fairfield	0	Newberry	0
Bamberg	0	Florence	0	Oconee	0
Barnwell	0	Georgetown	0	Orangeburg	<4
Beaufort	<4	Greenville	0	Pickens	<4
Berkeley	0	Greenwood	0	Richland	<4
Calhoun	0	Hampton	0	Saluda	0
Charleston	10	Horry	4	Spartanburg	0
Cherokee	0	Jasper	0	Sumter	<4
Chester	0	Kershaw	0	Union	0
Chesterfield	0	Lancaster	0	Williamsburg	0
Clarendon	0	Laurens	0	York	0
Colleton	0	Lee	0	Unknown	0
Darlington	0	Lexington	<4		0



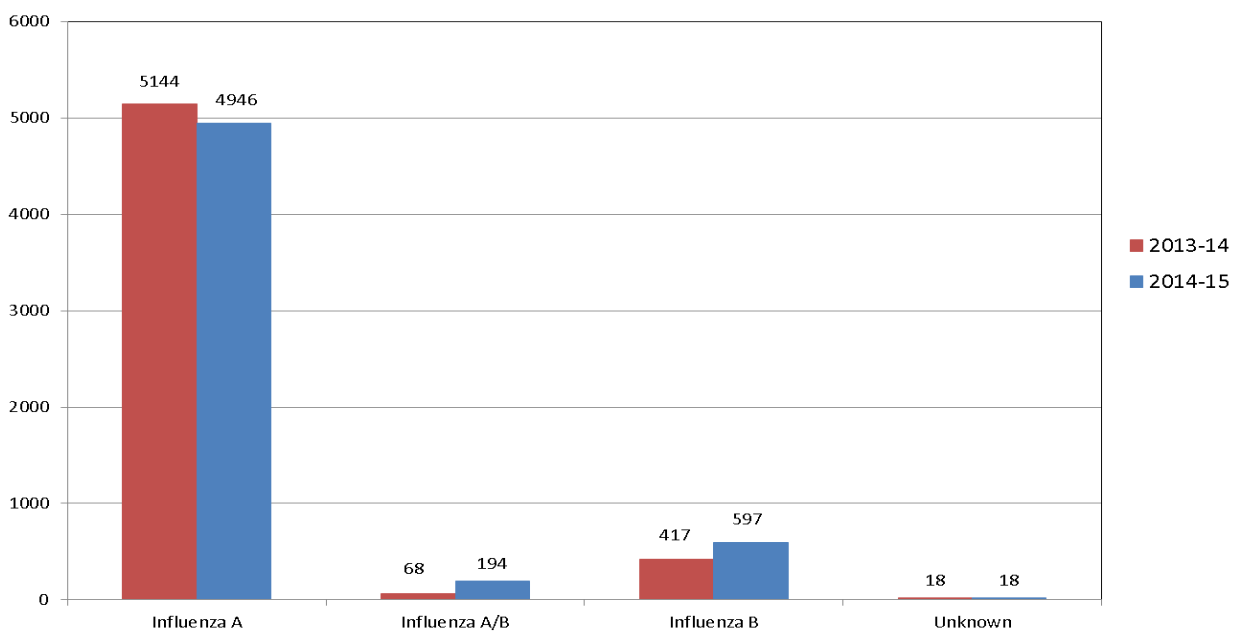




## Positive Rapid Tests by MMWR Week 2013-14 vs 2014-15



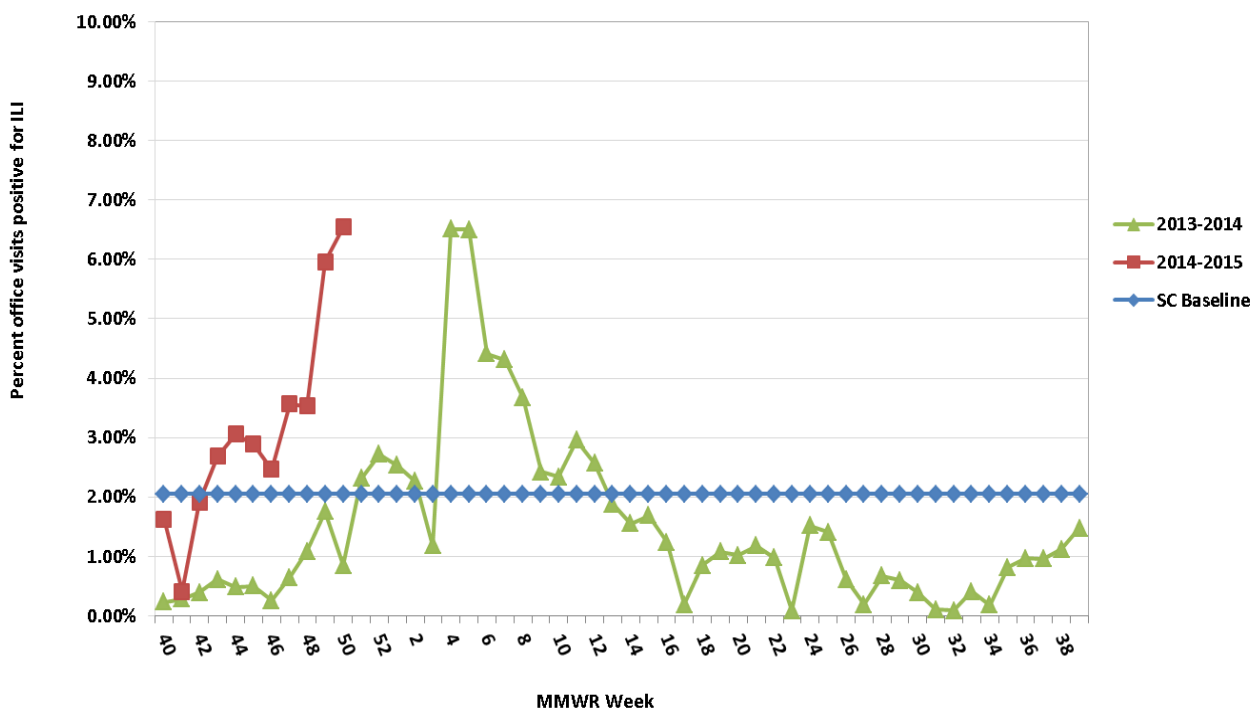
## Positive Rapid Tests by Type 2012-13 vs 2013-14 September 28, 2014 - December 6, 2014



### III. ILINet Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

During the most recent MMWR week, 6.54%\* of patient visits to SC ILINet providers were due to ILI. This is above the state baseline (2.05%). This ILI percentage compares to 0.85% this time last year. Reports were received from providers in 10 counties, representing all of the 4 regions.

**Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by Sentinel Providers in South Carolina  
2013-2014 and 2014-2015 Influenza Seasons**



\*The SC baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks (weeks when percent of positive lab tests was below 20%) for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. \* ILI percentage is dependent upon the number of reporting providers and can be greatly influenced by a single provider with high numbers of ILI.



**Influenza-Like Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers  
November 30, 2014 – December 6, 2014**

<b>County</b>	<b>ILI %</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>ILI %</b>
Abbeville	---	Greenwood	NR
Aiken	1.10%	Hampton	NR
Allendale	---	Horry	NR
Anderson	1.15%	Jasper	NR
Bamberg	---	Kershaw	NR
Barnwell	---	Lancaster	---
Beaufort	NR	Laurens	NR
Berkeley	NR	Lee	---
Calhoun	---	Lexington	NR
Charleston	15.39%	Marion	---
Cherokee	---	Marlboro	---
Chester	---	McCormick	NR
Chesterfield	---	Newberry	---
Clarendon	---	Oconee	---
Colleton	---	Orangeburg	---
Darlington	---	Pickens	NR
Dillon	NR	Richland	1.04%
Dorchester	NR	Saluda	0%
Edgefield	---	Spartanburg	0.35%
Fairfield	---	Sumter	NR
Florence	1.35%	Union	---
Georgetown	2.25%	Williamsburg	---
Greenville	2.74%	York	0.68%

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

#### IV. Influenza hospitalizations and deaths

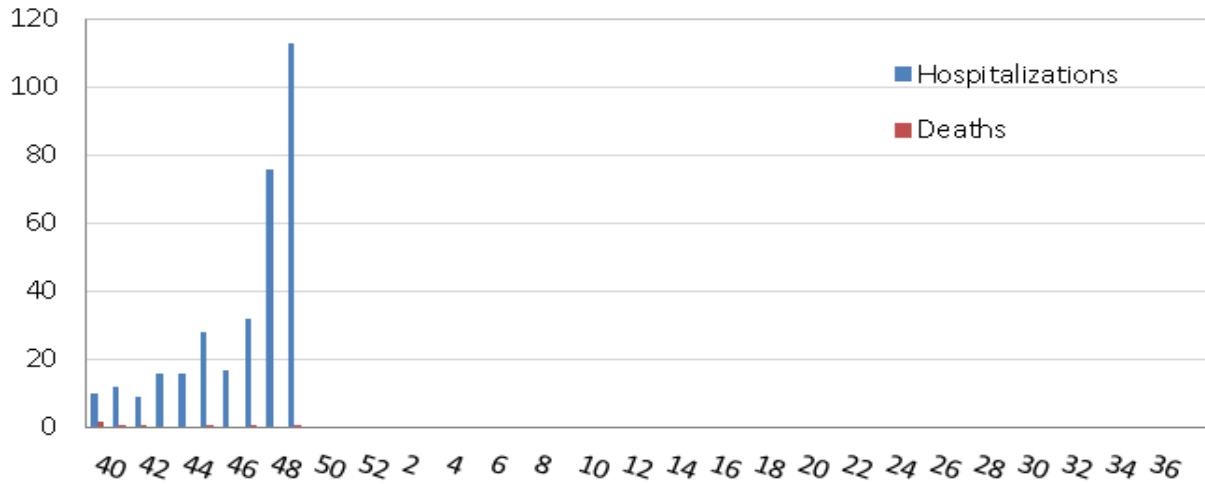
For the current MMWR reporting week, 113 lab confirmed influenza hospitalizations were reported by 54 hospitals. One lab confirmed influenza death was reported.\* So far this season, 329 lab confirmed hospitalizations and 7 lab confirmed deaths have been reported.

<i>Current MMWR Week (11/30/14 -12/6/14)</i>							
	0-4	5-17	18-49	50-64	65+	Unk	Total
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	9	6	9	20	69		113
<b>Deaths</b>					1		1

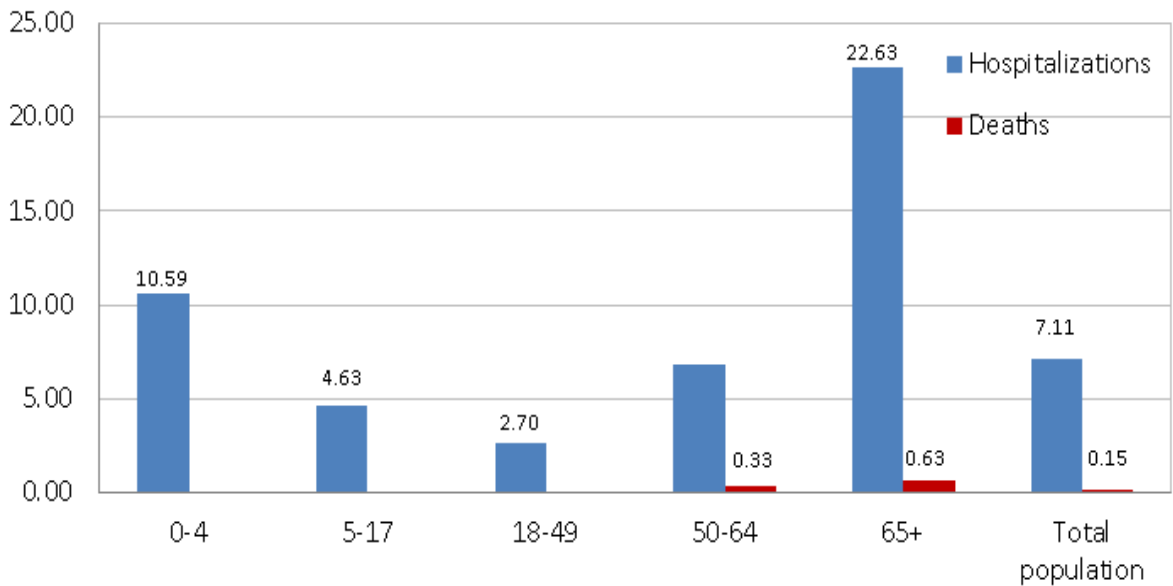
<i>Cumulative (9/28/14 -12/6/14)</i>							
	0-4	5-17	18-49	50-64	65+	Unk	Total
<b>Hospitalizations</b>	32	36	54	62	143	2	329
<b>Deaths</b>	0	0	0	3	4	0	7

\* Lab confirmation for hospitalizations and deaths includes culture, PCR, DFA, IFA, and rapid test.

**Reported Cases of Laboratory Confirmed Influenza  
Hospitalizations and Deaths by MMWR week  
September 28, 2014 - December 6, 2014**



**Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Case rate/100,000  
Hospitalizations (n=329) and Deaths (n=7) by age group  
September 28, 2014 - December 6, 2014**



## V. South Carolina Influenza Surveillance Components

South Carolina influenza surveillance consists of mandatory and voluntary reporting systems for year-round influenza surveillance. These networks provide information on influenza virus strain and subtype and influenza disease burden.

### Mandatory Reporting

#### Positive confirmatory test reporting

Positive influenza culture, PCR, DFA, and IFA results from commercial laboratories should be reported to DHEC within 3 days electronically via CHESS or using a DHEC 1129 card.

#### Positive rapid antigen test reporting

*Summary numbers* of positive rapid influenza tests and influenza type identified should be sent to the regional health department by fax or email before noon on Monday for the preceding week.

#### Influenza deaths

All lab confirmed influenza deaths in adults should be reported to DHEC within 24 hours. These include results from viral culture, PCR, rapid flu tests, DFA, IFA or autopsy results consistent with influenza.

#### Influenza hospitalizations

DHEC requires weekly submission of laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations. Hospitals should report these to their regional health department by noon on Monday for the preceding week.

For additional information about ILINet or to become an ILINet provider, contact the Acute Disease Epidemiology influenza surveillance coordinator at [springcb@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:springcb@dhec.sc.gov).

### Voluntary Networks

#### Influenza-Like Illness (ILINet) Sentinel Providers Network

ILINet focuses on the number of patients presenting with influenza-like symptoms in the absence of another known cause. ILI is defined as fever (temperature  $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) plus a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of another known cause. Providers submit weekly reports to the CDC of the total number of patients seen in a week and the subset number of those patients with ILI symptoms by age group.

#### South Carolina Disease Alerting, Reporting & Tracking System (SC-DARTS)

SC-DARTS is a collaborative network of syndromic surveillance systems within South Carolina. Currently our network contains the following data sources: SC Hospital Emergency Department (ED) chief-complaint data, Poison Control Center call data, Over-the-Counter (OTC) pharmaceutical sales surveillance, and CDC's BioSense Biosurveillance system. The hospital ED syndromic surveillance system classifies ED chief complaint data into appropriate syndrome categories (ex: Respiratory, GI, Fever, etc.). These syndrome categories are then analyzed using the cumulative sum (CUSUM) methodology to detect any significant increases. Syndromic reports are distributed back to the hospital on a daily basis.

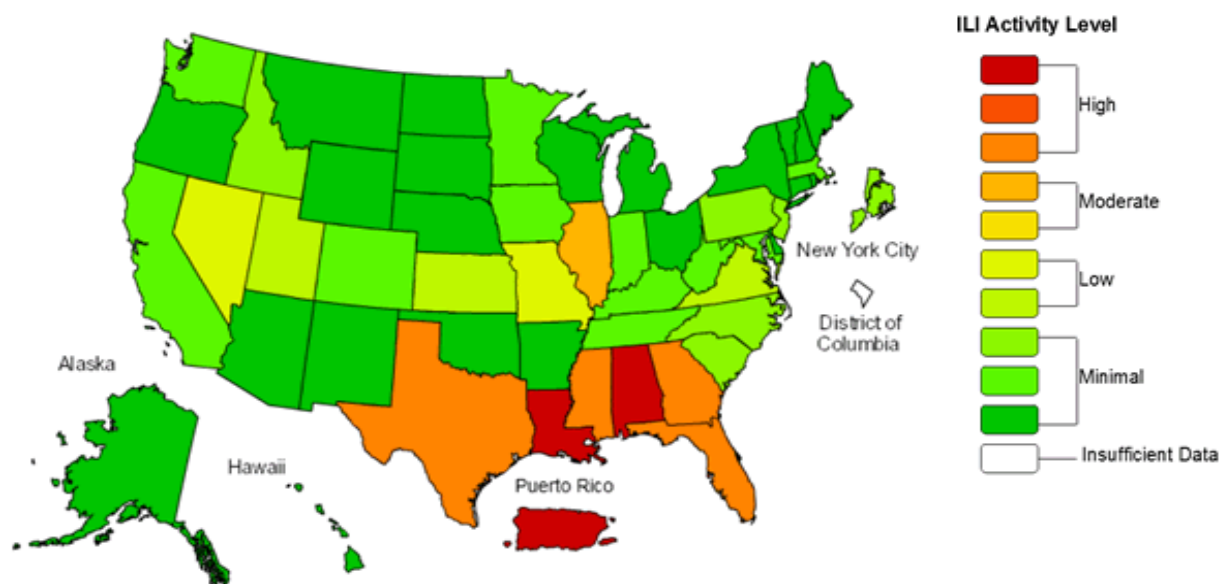
## VI. National Surveillance MMWR Week 48 (11/23– 11/29)

During week 48 (November 23-29, 2014), influenza activity increased in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 13,398 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 48, 2,274 (17.0%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 1.8 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 2.6%, above the national baseline of 2.0%. Eight of 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico and six states experienced high ILI activity; one state experienced moderate ILI activity; five states experienced low ILI activity; New York City and 38 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 and six states was reported as widespread; 14 states reported regional activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands and 19 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia and 11 states reported sporadic activity; and Guam did not report.

A description of surveillance methods is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>

**Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet**  
**2014-15 Influenza Season Week 48 ending Nov 29, 2014**



## VII. Definitions for Influenza Surveillance

**Activity level:** 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 institutional 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

**Confirmatory testing:** Influenza testing which is considered to be confirmatory, such as a viral culture, RT-PCR, DFA, IFA

**Influenza-like illness (ILI):** Fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and cough and/or sore throat

**MMWR week:** Term for influenza surveillance week. Each week begins on Sunday and ends on Monday. The influenza season begins with MMWR week 40 and ends with MMWR week 39. The 2014-15 influenza season began on September 28, 2014 and will end on October 3, 2015.

**Laboratory-confirmation:** Positive influenza test resulting from one of the following laboratory tests:

- DFA
- IFA
- Rapid influenza antigen test
- RT-PCR
- Viral culture