



**Austin Public Health
Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Unit**



Travis County Influenza Surveillance

Summary – Season 2016-2017 (Data through the week ending April 18, 2017).

Travis County influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity:

- As for today, influenza activity in Travis has decreased with 4.9% of tests returning positive during week 16, compared with 33.3% during week 5. Nationally, the levels of flu-like illness are now (1.8%) below the national baseline of 2.2%, according to CDC.
- Four influenza-associated deaths occurred from the beginning of the flu season until week 16. No influenza-associated pediatrics deaths have been reported in Travis County during this season.
- CDC recommends annual vaccination for everyone ≥ 6 months old. Is not too late to get the vaccine for the 2016-2017 influenza season. You can get the flu more than once during a season. If you have not gotten vaccinated yet, you should get vaccinated now.
- Two outbreaks of influenza were reported in different long-term care facilities, one during week 14 and other during week 15.
- Since the start of the 2016-2017 influenza season, the most common influenza subtype detected has been influenza A.
- While influenza A viruses have predominated during the early season, the past four weeks have shown an increase in influenza B (Yamagata lineage). The vaccine is a good match to the circulating influenza.
- PCR testing is performed for specimens referred by area sentinel Influenza surveillance reporters. Providers interested in becoming sentinel providers may call the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit at (512) 972-5555.



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Texas influenza activity (as for April 8, 2017 – MMWR week 14):

- Influenza activity has decreased in Texas over the past two months.
- Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by public health and hospital laboratories and patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) slightly decreased.
- Three influenza outbreaks were reported.
- Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially RSV and rhino/enteroviruses—were detected in Texas during week 14.

Preventive Actions:

- The CDC recommends that anyone six months of age and older should be vaccinated for the flu every flu season. Individuals who are at high risk are especially advised to be vaccinated. High risk individuals are as follows:
 - Persons 65 years of age and older
 - Pregnant women
 - Individuals with certain chronic medical conditions, including diabetes, asthma, heart and lung disease
 - Health care workers
 - Individuals who live with and/or care for high risk individuals
- In addition to the vaccine, there are certain preventive measures an individual can take to prevent the flu:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap is not available.
 - Practice proper sneezing and coughing measures.
 - Avoid touching your nose, mouth and eyes.
 - Avoid coming into contact with an individual who is sick.
- If you are sick, stay home until you are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. CDC also recommends prompt treatment with influenza antiviral drugs for people who are very sick with flu and people who are at high risk of flu complications who get flu.



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Although these preventive actions are highly recommended they do not take the place of the flu vaccine.

Figure 1. Influenza Surveillance for the last 8 weeks, Travis County Providers ^{1,2,3}

Week Ending	3/4/17	3/11/17	3/18/17	3/25/17	4/1/17	4/8/17	4/15/17	4/22/17
MMWR ⁴ Week	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
# Influenza Rapid Tests Performed	1933	1967	1316	1344	939	794	224	224
# Total Positive Influenza Tests	564	577	345	279	180	135	23	11
% Positive Influenza Tests	29.2%	29.3%	26.2%	20.8%	19.2%	17.05	10.3%	4.9%
# Positive A Influenza	432	415	235	159	73	57	11	4
# Positive B Influenza	130	162	109	120	106	76	12	7
# Non-Differentiated Influenza ⁵	2	0	1	0	1	2	0	0

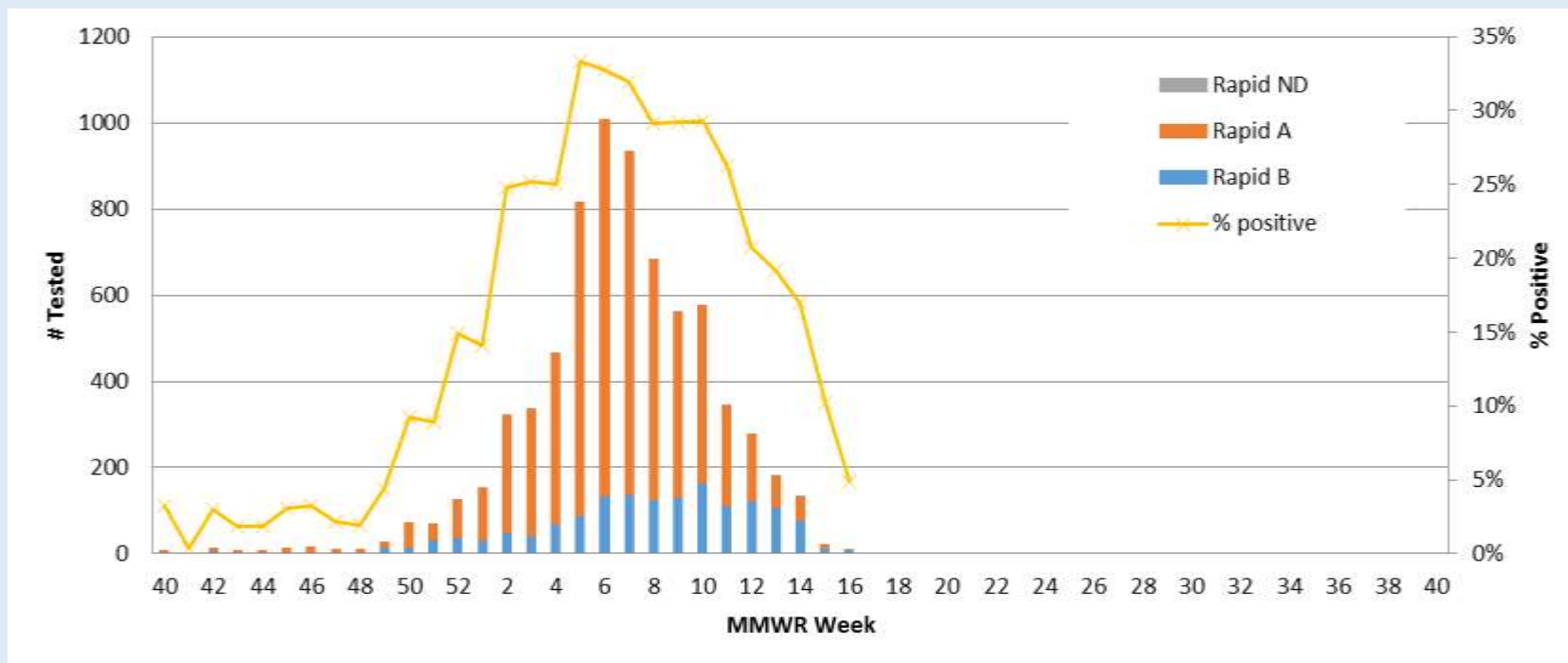
Data source: Austin/Travis County Influenza surveillance reporters

Austin/Travis County influenza surveillance does not attempt to capture all cases of influenza or influenza-like illness. These data should be used for trending purposes over time and for identifying types/strains of influenza that are occurring in the Austin area rather than for estimating the total number of cases.



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Figure 2. Number Tested and Percent Positive Rapid Influenza tests by Week, Travis County: 2016-2017 Influenza Season^{1,2,3,6}



Data source: Austin/Travis County Influenza surveillance reporters

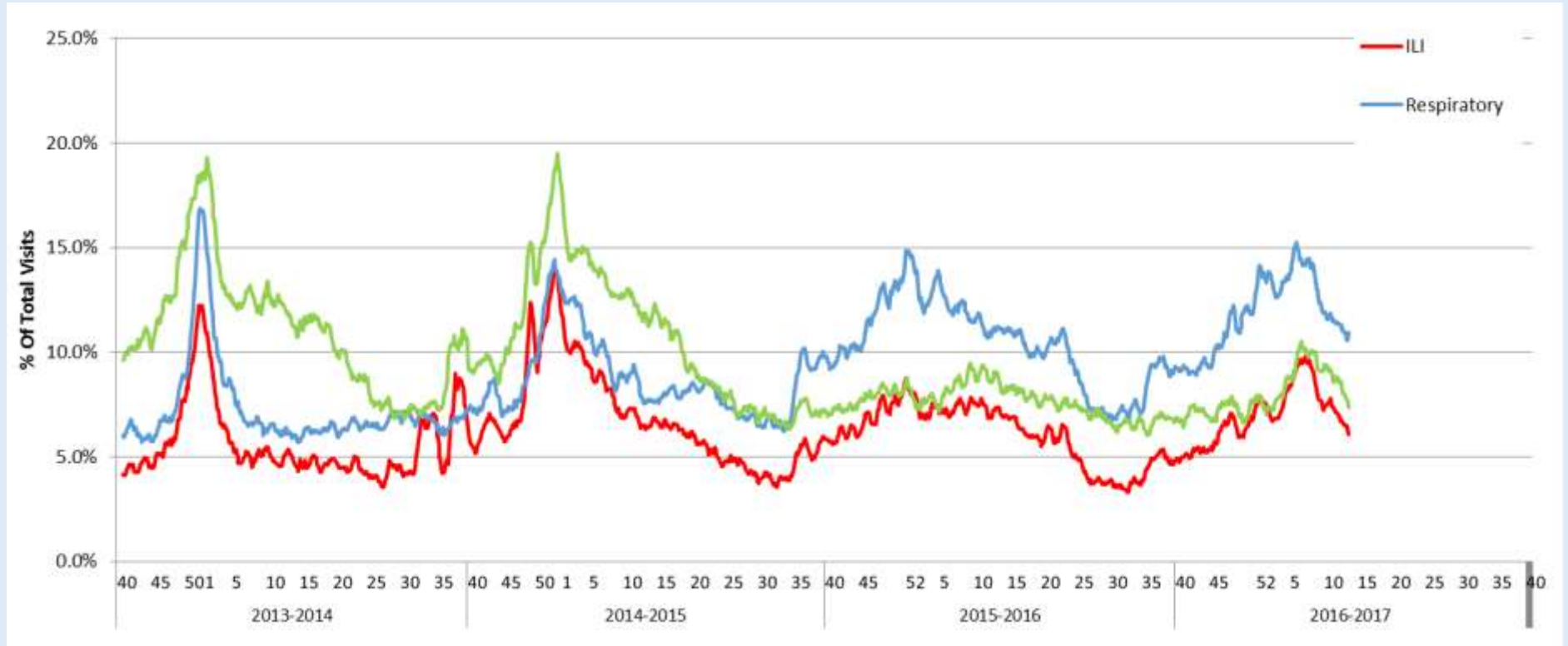
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Figure 3. Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance Data, Travis County: 2010-2017



Data source: University of Pittsburgh Real-time Outbreak and Disease Surveillance System (RODS). Data is an aggregation of Austin area chief complaint hospital data

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For additional information about Influenza surveillance, contact:

The Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit at (512) 972-5555

Other Helpful Resources:	<i>Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS)</i>	<i>http://www.texasflu.org/</i>
	<i>World Health Organization (WHO)</i>	<i>http://www.who.int/influenza/en/</i>
	<i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</i>	<i>https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm</i>

¹ Influenza is not a reportable condition in Texas; therefore, data is provided by sentinel surveillance reporters and is only a sample of the Influenza activity occurring in the Austin/Travis County area
² Data represent rapid Influenza testing; these tests provide quick results reporting only Influenza A or B (no subtyping). Early in the flu season, results should be used with caution due to false positive results which can occur, especially during times when Influenza activity is low
³ Influenza data is collected from a variety of reporters; the number of reporters can vary from week to week
⁴ MMWR is the Morbidity and Mortality weekly report week published by the CDC
⁵ Influenza A is commonly split into 2 subtypes: H1N1 and H3N2. Both strains can circulate each Influenza season
⁶ Data for Austin/Travis County ILI reporters only; the number of reporters can vary from week to week