

Influenza Situational Summary – week ending January 10, 2015

Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during 1/5/2015 through 1/9/2015 – No increase in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory” related complaints was noted.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during the week of 1/5/2015 through 1/9/2015 – Sales of over the counter (OTC) medications such as cold relief, antifever, and/or cough syrup, were above the reporting threshold at either the county and/or zip code levels.*

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Network - percentage of all outpatient visits due to an influenza-like illness

- *Travis County – for the week ending 1/3/2015: 11.6% (base line is 2.0%)*
- *Texas – For the week ending 1/3/2015: 12.8% (base line is 5.4%); statewide this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/3/2015: 5.6% (base line is 2.0%); this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014*

Laboratory surveillance (RT-PCR – real time- polymerase chain reaction)

- *State of Texas – for the week ending 1/3/2015; 24% of specimens collected through laboratory surveillance were positive for an influenza virus; a majority (90%) were influenza A viruses.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/3/2015; 25% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, the vast majority (96%) are positive for influenza A viruses*

Institutional Outbreaks

- *None*

School closures/outbreaks

- *None.*

Influenza-associated mortality

- *There have been nine (9) deaths (listing influenza as the cause of death on death certificate) in Austin during the current flu season; eight of the nine person were adults 18 years of age or older. The number of influenza-associated deaths reported during the prior five influenza seasons in Austin ranged from 2 to 23.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/3/2015; 7.0% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 6.9% for this week.*