



**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services  
Department**  
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit  
15 Waller Street  
Austin, Texas 78702



## Influenza Situational Summary – March 7, 2015

### Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during 3/1/2015 through 3/7/2015 – No increases in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory”-related complaints were observed.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during 3/1/2015 through 3/7/2015 – Sales of over the counter (OTC) medications for respiratory symptoms were not above the reporting threshold at the county or zip code level.*

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

- *Travis County – for the week ending 2/28/2015: 2.5% (base line is 2.0%)*
- *Texas – for the week ending 2/28/2015: 7.4% (base line is 5.4%). Statewide this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014. The percentage peaked in late December 2014-early January 2015.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 2/28/2015: 2.5% (base line is 2.0%). This percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014. This percentage peaked at 6.1% the week ending December 27, 2014.*

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

- *State of Texas – for the week ending 2/28/2015: 9.5% of specimens collected through laboratory surveillance were positive for an influenza virus; a slight majority (54%) were influenza B viruses.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 2/21/2015: 11% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, a majority (61%) are positive for influenza A viruses. During the last two weeks of December 2014, the percentage of specimens positive for an influenza virus was 30% or higher.*

### Institutional Outbreaks

- *No outbreaks were reported.*

### School closures/outbreaks

- *None.*

### Influenza-associated mortality

- *There have been 15 deaths (listing influenza as the cause of death on death certificate) among Austin/Travis County residents during the current flu season; 12 of the 15 persons were adults 50 years of age or older. The number of influenza-associated deaths reported during the prior five influenza seasons among Austin/Travis County residents ranged from 2 to 22.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 2/28/2015: 7.2% of all deaths reported through the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System were due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This percentage is at the epidemic threshold of 7.2% for this week.*