



**Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services
Department**
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit
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Influenza Situational Summary – February 14, 2015

Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during 2/8/2015 through 2/14/2015 – No increases in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory”-related complaints were observed.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during 2/8/2015 through 2/14/2015 – Sales of some over the counter (OTC) medications were above the reporting threshold at the zip code levels. During the 2/7/2015-2/8/2015 weekend, sales of adult antifever medications or throat lozenges were above the reporting thresholds for two zip codes. On 2/12/2015, sales of adult cold relief medication were above the reporting threshold for one area zip code.*

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

- *Texas – for the week ending 2/7/2015: 9.3% (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 2/7/2015: 3.8% (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 2/7/2015; 14.7% of specimens collected through laboratory surveillance were positive for an influenza virus; a majority (71%) were influenza A viruses.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 2/7/2015; 15% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, the vast majority (87%) 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 2/7/2015; 8.1% 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 7.2% for this week.*