

Influenza Situational Summary – week ending January 24, 2015

Syndromic Surveillance: Emergency Department Encounters

- *Emergency Department Encounters – during 1/19/2015 through 1/23/2015 – No increases in the number of emergency department visits for “respiratory”-related complaints were observed.*
- *Over the Counter (OTC) Medication Sales – during 1/19/2015 through 1/23/2015 – On some days, sales of over the counter (OTC) medications for cold relief or cough/cold were above the reporting threshold at the county level and for specific zip codes.*

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

- *Travis County – for the week ending 1/17/2015: 8.8% (base line is 2.0%)*
- *Texas – For the week ending 1/17/2015: 12% (base line is 5.4%); statewide this percentage has been above baseline since late November 2014.*
- *Nationally – for the week ending 1/17/2015: 4.5% (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 1/17/2015; 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 1/17/2015; 20% of specimens tested have been positive for an influenza virus, the vast majority (94%) are positive for influenza A viruses*

Institutional Outbreaks

- *Clusters of ill residents with respiratory illnesses testing positive for influenza A virus in three long-term care facility were reported. Between 7%-16% of the residents in a specific facility were ill.*

School closures/outbreaks

- *None.*

Influenza-associated mortality

- *There have been twelve (12) deaths (listing influenza as the cause of death on death certificate) among Austin/Travis County residents during the current flu season; nine of the 12 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 1/17/2015; 9.3% 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 7.1% for this week.*