

Philadelphia Department of Public Health Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report

February 28, 2016 — March 5, 2016 (Week 9)

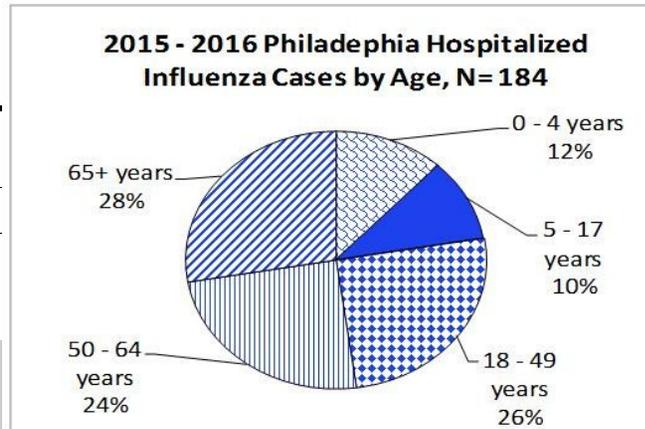
Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Seventy hospitalized cases of influenza were reported during week 9. Approximately 155 detections of influenza A occurred at local hospital laboratories, a sharp increase from the previous week. Influenza A has remained the dominant virus this season thus far, with influenza A/H1N1 predominating. Influenza-like illness (ILI) at emergency departments increased for week 9 while pediatric outpatient clinics ILI activity declined. To date, there have been four influenza outbreaks in long term care facilities. There have been three influenza-associated deaths reported this season, there were no deaths reported during week 9.

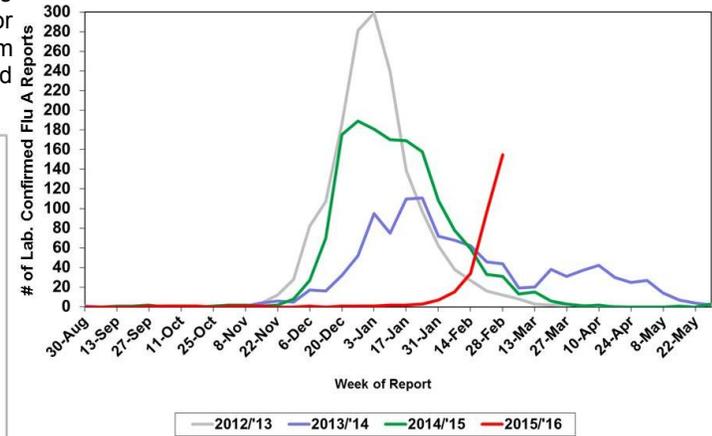
Surveillance type	Compared to week of 2/21–2/27	Compared to 3-yr seasonal* mean
Hospital ED Fever/flu visits	↑	↑
Pediatric Clinics ILI	↓	—
Laboratory Influenza Surveillance	↑	↑

↑ = above 10% of comparison group
— = equivalent to comparison group (-10% to +10%)
↓ = below 10% of comparison group
* mean of 2010-11, 2012-13, and 2013-14 flu seasons epidemic flu activity time period (late)



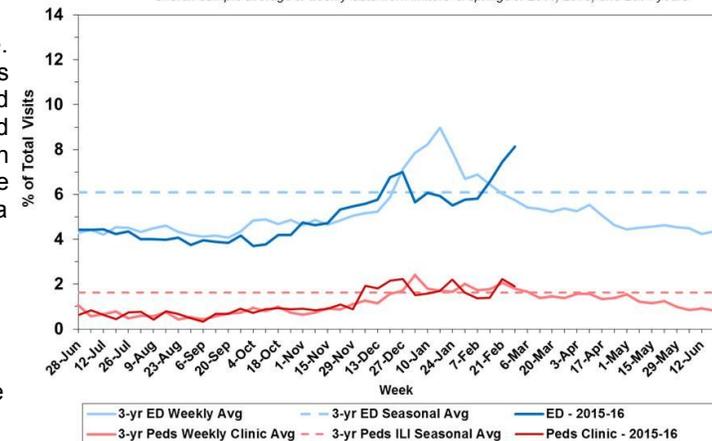
Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2012/2013 through 2015/2016 Seasons*

*Based on select hospital laboratories participating in surveillance across respiratory virus seasons



Influenza-like Illness at Philadelphia Emergency Departments and Pediatric Ambulatory Clinics, 2015-16 Data Compared to 3-Year Historical Weekly* and Seasonal** Averages

*Weekly average of values from 2011, 2013, and 2014 years
**Overall sample average of weekly data from winters & springs of 2011, 2013, and 2014 years



Pennsylvania Influenza Activity

Week 9 (February 28, 2016 — March 5, 2016) produced a sharp increase in new influenza cases reported by the state. There were 2,676 new cases of influenza reported (1,420 cases were reported the previous week 6). A total of 7,221 cases of influenza (positive by any test type) have been reported this season. Laboratory, hospital emergency department, and sentinel medical provider data all indicate a increase in influenza activity. The majority of cases (60.79%) have tested positive (via rapid test, PCR, or viral culture) for influenza A. To date, there have been 10 influenza-associated deaths in Pennsylvania (four inside the Philadelphia city limits), one between the ages of 19-49, three between the ages 50-64, the other six 65+. Influenza case activity throughout the state continues to be classified as widespread for week 9, influenza activity remained the highest in the southeastern part of the state.

United States Influenza Activity

Influenza activity remained elevated this week. The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories during week 9 was influenza A, with influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominating. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories increased. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below their system-specific epidemic threshold in both the NCHS Mortality Surveillance System and the 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System. Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. A cumulative rate for the season of 10.4 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported. The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 3.5%, which is above the national baseline of 2.1%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico and 10 states experienced high ILI activity (New Jersey); New York City and 13 states experienced moderate ILI activity (Pennsylvania); 12 states experienced low ILI activity; 15 states experienced minimal ILI activity (Delaware); and the District of Columbia had insufficient data. The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and 37 states was reported as widespread (Includes Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey); Guam and 13 states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia reported local activity; and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported sporadic activity.

All institutional outbreaks, hospitalized and fatal cases of influenza are to be reported to PDPH.

Phone: (215) 685-6742 Fax: (215) 238-6947 Email: ACD@phila.gov

Reporting requirements and forms are posted online at hip.phila.gov