



# PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
 Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report  
 Week 43: October 23-29 2016

## Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Influenza activity in Philadelphia is low for Week 43. There were three cases of influenza A and one case of influenza B reported, an increase from the previous week. Influenza-like illnesses at emergency departments and pediatric ambulatory clinics were also low, however, these levels are normal for this time of year. No influenza-related death has been reported for this season. Non-influenza respiratory viruses currently circulating include: Rhinovirus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Parainfluenza type 2. Rhinovirus is currently the predominant circulating virus in Philadelphia.

Surveillance type	Compared to week of 10/16– 10/22	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

## What's New With Flu?

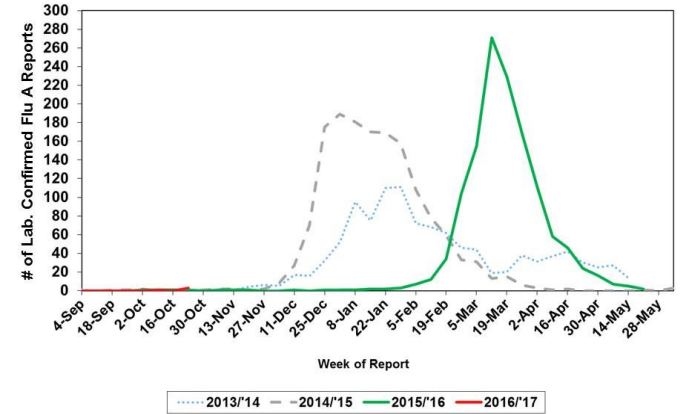
### 2016-2017 Flu Vaccine Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated their influenza vaccine recommendations for the 2016-2017 season. The CDC no longer recommends that individuals receive the live attenuated vaccine (LAIV), also known as the nasal spray vaccine. The nasal spray vaccine is shown to have low effectiveness against influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 during both the 2013-2014 and 2015-2016 seasons.

Instead, individuals should receive the injectable vaccine (inactivated influenza vaccine or IIV) or the recombinant influenza vaccine (RIV) since it is the most effective way to prevent the flu. For more information please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/index.htm>

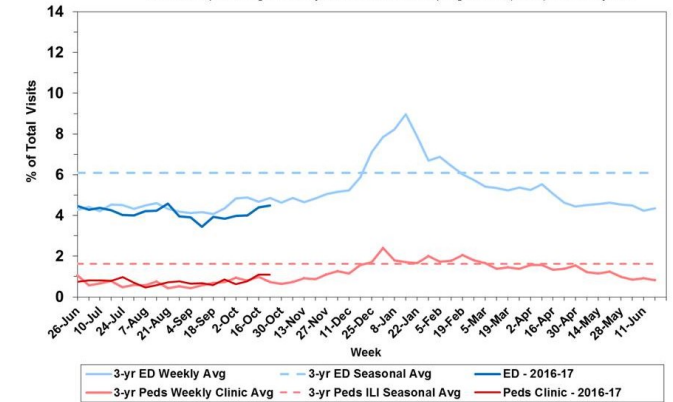
## Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2013/2014 through 2016/2017 Seasons\*

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



## Influenza-like Illness at Philadelphia Emergency Departments and Pediatric Ambulatory Clinics, 2016-17 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

Pennsylvania's flu activity is low. The flu activity code is sporadic. From 10/02/16 to 10/29/16, there have been a total of 107 flu cases (positive by rapid test, PCR, or culture). Influenza A comprised 68 of those cases, while Influenza B made up 39 of the total cases. Influenza A/H3 has constituted the majority (83.3%) of the season-to-date influenza subtyping results from state public health labs followed by influenza A (16.7%). There were no influenza associated deaths during Week 43. Similarly, no influenza associated deaths for the current flu season have been reported thus far.

## United States

Influenza activity was low in the United States during Week 43. However, flu activity continues to increase during October. Public health laboratories tested 493 specimens, and 33 were positive. Influenza A (H3) was the most prominent virus type analyzed at public health laboratories with 28 (84.8%). The percentage of respiratory specimens tested for influenza was low for clinical laboratories. A total of 10,890 specimens were tested of which 1.6% were positive. Most of the recently circulating influenza viruses are susceptible to neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications: oseltamivir, zanamivir and permavir, although sporadic instances of oseltamivir-resistant and permavir-resistant influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 viruses and oseltamivir-resistant influenza A (H3N2) viruses have been identified worldwide. Guam reported widespread geographic spread of influenza. Puerto Rico had regional influenza activity. Alabama, Maine, and New Hampshire reported local activity. 39 states, including Delaware and New Jersey reported sporadic activity. Eight states had no flu activity. The proportion of patients visiting their health care provider for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.3% compared to the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions had an ILI below region-specific baseline levels. New York City and all 50 states reported minimal activity. Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths that transpired during the 2015-2016 flu season were reported during week 43. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths for the 2016-2017 flu season have been reported.

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

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