



# PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
 Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report  
 Week 44: October 30-November 5 2016

## Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Influenza activity in Philadelphia is low for Week 44. Only one laboratory-confirmed influenza illness was reported, a decrease from the previous week. Influenza-like illnesses at emergency departments and pediatric ambulatory clinics were at low but normal levels for this time of year. No influenza deaths have been reported 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 10/23– 10/29	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?

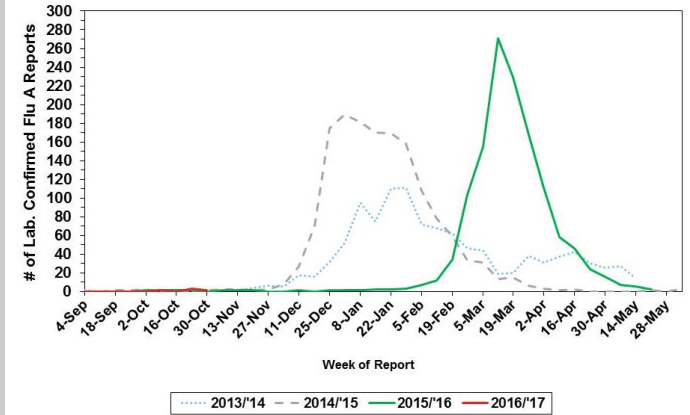
### Flu Vaccine and Egg Allergies

The recommendations for people with egg allergies have been updated. People with egg allergies who have experienced hives after egg exposure are eligible to receive a flu vaccine and are not required to be monitored for 30 minutes after being administered the vaccine. Those with a severe egg allergy who have experienced symptoms other than hives after being exposed to eggs, such as respiratory distress, lightheadedness, angioedema, recurrent emesis or have used epinephrine are also permitted to receive a flu vaccine. The vaccine must be administered by a health care professional in a medical setting so the individual can be observed and treated in the event that they experience an allergic reaction.

For more information please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/vaccine/egg-allergies.htm>

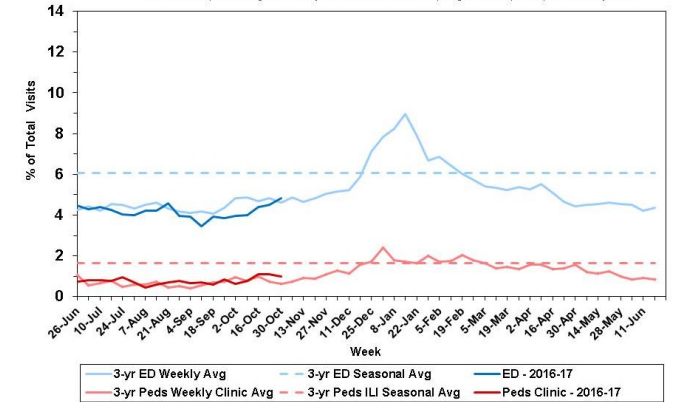
## Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2013/2014 through 2016/2017 Seasons\*

\*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

Flu activity for Pennsylvania is low. Pennsylvania's flu activity code is sporadic. From 10/02/2016 to 11/05/2016, there were a total of 152 cases of influenza (positive by rapid test, PCR, or culture). Influenza A/H3N2 has been reported as the majority (83.3%) of the season-to-date influenza subtyping results from state public health labs (wk. 43). There were 45 cases of flu during week 44, which was an increase in 16 cases from the week prior. The first influenza associated death was reported during week 44, although no pediatric influenza associated deaths have been reported this season.

## United States

Flu activity is low across the United States for week 44. However, flu activity is expected to increase in the coming weeks. During Week 44, the percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza increased slightly, but ultimately was low for clinical laboratories. A total of 12,410 specimens were tested at clinical laboratories, of which 268 were positive for influenza. The majority of the positive specimens (60.8%) tested positive for influenza A. Of the 572 specimens tested in public health laboratories, 34 specimens tested positive. The majority of these specimens tested positive for Influenza A (31, 91.2%), while the remaining 3 (8.8%) were positive for Influenza B. Of the 23 influenza A viruses that were subtyped, 18 (78.3%) were H3N2 virus and 5 (21.7%) were (H1N1) pdm09 viruses. Twenty six specimens were tested for resistance to the neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral drugs, and none of the tested viruses were resistant to oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir. The proportion of people visiting their health care provider for influenza like illness (ILI) was 1.4%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2 %. Guam, Puerto Rico, and New Hampshire reported regional influenza activity. Six states reported local influenza activities. Four states reported no activity. Region 3 consisting of Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania had an ILI below region-specific baselines levels, which was consistent with all 10 regions. Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania also reported sporadic flu activity along with the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 36 other states. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.

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

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