



# PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
 Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report  
 Week 49: December 4-10 2016

## Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

There were no cases of influenza (Philadelphia resident, positive by rapid test, PCR or culture, and hospitalized for ≥ 24 hrs.) in Philadelphia during week 49. Five laboratory-confirmed influenza illnesses were reported last week, the same as the previous week. Influenza-like illnesses at emergency departments and pediatric ambulatory clinics increased for week 49. No influenza deaths have been reported this season. The predominant circulating respiratory virus was Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Other non-influenza respiratory viruses detected by participating laboratories include adenovirus and rhinovirus.

Surveillance type	Compared to week of 11/27-12/3	Compared to 3-yr seasonal mean
Hospital ED Fever/flu visits	↑	—
Pediatric Clinics ILI	↑	—
Laboratory Influenza Surveillance	—	↓

## Flu Review

Influenza, also known as flu, is an illness spread by respiratory droplets when an individual coughs, sneezes or talks. The virus infects the nose, throat, and lungs. A person becomes infected with the virus when the droplets from a contagious individual land in the mouths or noses of people in close proximity. People can also get the flu by touching a contaminated surface with the flu virus, and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes. Infected people can spread flu 1 day before symptom onset and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. The most effective way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine. Other recommendations include: staying away from people who are sick, properly covering your cough and sneeze, and frequent hand washing. For more information please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm>

- ↑ = above 10 % of comparison group
- = equivalent to comparison group (-10% to +10%)
- ↓ = below 10 % of comparison group

## Pennsylvania

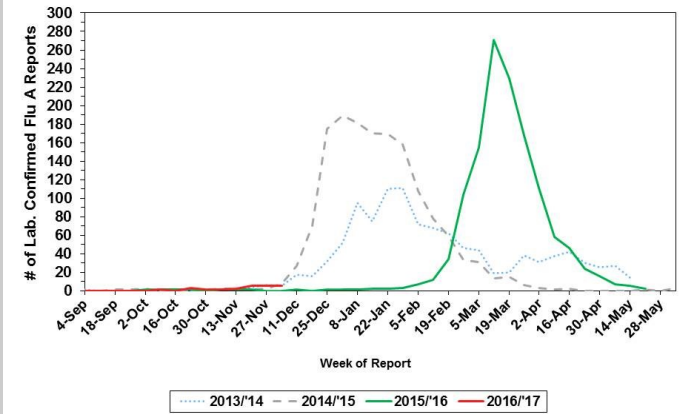
Pennsylvania's flu activity is local, and is increasing slightly. The highest flu activity was reported in the southcentral region. From 10/02/16 to 12/10/16, there were 715 flu cases (positive by rapid test, PCR, or culture), an increase from week 48. There were 530 (74.1%) Influenza A cases, 183 (25.6%) cases of Influenza B, and 2 (0.3%) unknown cases. There were 198 cases of flu during week 49. Influenza A/H3 made up 75.0% of the season-to-date influenza subtyping results from state public health labs followed by Influenza B/Victoria (16.7%), Influenza A/pH1N1 (6.3%), and Influenza B/Yamagata (2.1%). No influenza associated deaths or pediatric influenza-associated deaths occurred during week 49.

## United States

Flu activity increased slightly in the U.S. during week 49. The percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza increased slightly for clinical laboratories. A total of 15,117 specimens were tested at clinical laboratories, and 728 (4.8%) specimens tested positive for influenza. 575 (79.0%) specimens tested positive for Influenza A and 153 (21.0%) specimens tested positive for Influenza B. 928 specimens were tested at public health laboratories and 206 specimens tested positive. There were 198 (96.1%) positive Influenza A specimens and 8 (3.9%) positive Influenza B specimens. Influenza A/H3 was the most frequently identified influenza virus that was reported by public health labs with 158 (79.8%). No viruses were resistant to oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 49. The proportion of people visiting their health care provider for influenza like illness (ILI) was 1.9%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. Puerto Rico experienced high ILI activity. GA had moderate ILI activity. NYC and 4 states experienced low ILI activity. DE, NJ, and PA experienced minimal ILI activity along with 42 other states. Puerto Rico reported widespread influenza activity. Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 7 states reported regional influenza activity. D.C., DE and PA reported local influenza activity along with 20 other states. Sporadic influenza activity was reported by NJ and 19 other states. DE had 21 laboratory-confirmed cases of flu. NJ reported 6 cases of Influenza A/H3N2.

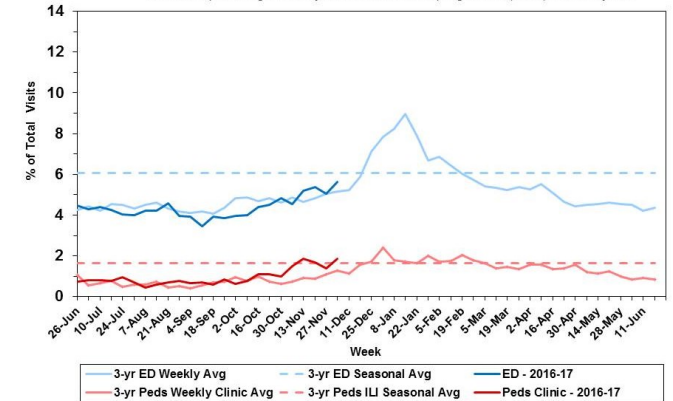
## Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2013/2014 through 2016/2017 Seasons\*

\*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



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

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