



Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Division of Disease Control

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Health Commissioner

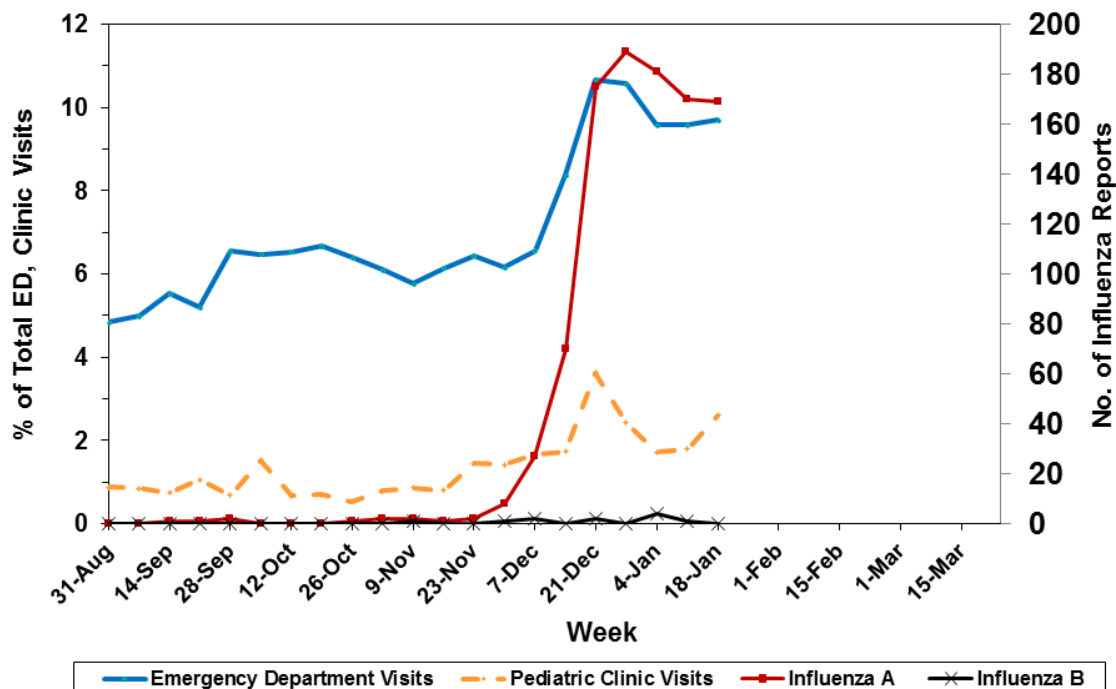
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Health Update
Influenza Activity Update
February 2, 2015

Based on surveillance data from select local clinical laboratories, influenza activity remains highly elevated and is currently widespread in Philadelphia. The vast majority of circulating influenza is influenza A/H3N2 and according to studies done by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the influenza A/H3N2 vaccine component is not providing optimal protection (preliminary results indicate a vaccine effectiveness of 23%; normal effectiveness is typically 60%). Influenza A/H3N2 causes significant morbidity in children and adults 65 years and older, and local surveillance data supports this. Roughly 50% of all hospitalized cases of influenza have occurred in persons 65 years and older. Furthermore, 32 influenza outbreaks have been reported in Philadelphia long term care facilities. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) would like to remind clinicians to provide antiviral treatment - oseltamivir (Tamiflu), zanamivir (Relenza), or recently FDA-approved intravenous peramivir (Rapivab) - to patients suspected of having or confirmed to have influenza, particularly persons at high risk for complications, those not at high-risk but with severe or progressively worsening illnesses, and those requiring hospitalization. Antiviral treatment should not be delayed while waiting for laboratory confirmation and ideally should be provided within 48 hours of symptom onset, although initiation of treatment after this can still provide benefit.

Reports of Influenza Among Clinical Hospital Laboratories and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) at Philadelphia Emergency Departments (ED) and Pediatric Ambulatory Clinics, 2014-15 Season



All reports of severe or fatal influenza, suspect novel influenza A infection, along with institutional outbreaks of respiratory illness, should be reported to the Division of Disease Control (DDC) at 215-685-6740. For more information including testing algorithms, a link to the most current information regarding antiviral medications from CDC, and a summary of current flu activity please visit the Health Information Portal at <https://hip.phila.gov/xv/>.

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Philadelphia Department of Public Health

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