



Texas Influenza Surveillance Summer Report 2018-2019 Season/2019 MMWR Week 35

(August 25, 2019 – August 31, 2019)

Report produced on 9/6/2019

Summary

Influenza activity is low across the state of Texas. The influenza season appears to have peaked in mid-February. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) has increased. The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by hospital laboratories has decreased. Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. No ILI/influenza-associated outbreaks were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially rhinovirus—were detected in Texas during week 35.

Table 1: Summary of Texas Influenza (Flu) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity for the Current Week

Texas Surveillance Component	Change from Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week [†]	Page of Report
Statewide influenza activity level reported to CDC (geographic spread of influenza)	Not determined during the summer	N/A	N/A	--
Statewide ILINet Activity Indicator assigned by CDC (intensity of influenza-like illness)	Not determined during the summer	N/A	N/A	--
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by hospital laboratories	▼ 0.25%	0.88%	1.13%	1
Percentage of visits due to ILI (ILINet)	▲ 0.55%	1.79%	1.24%	2
Number of regions reporting increased flu/ILI activity	▼ 1	2	3	4
Number of regions reporting decreased flu/ILI activity	▲ 2	2	1	4
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	No cases reported	0	0	4
Number of ILI/influenza outbreaks	No change	0	0	4
Number of pediatric influenza deaths	▲ 3	3	0	5

[†]Data displayed have been updated since last week's flu report with any new reports received.

Laboratory Results

Influenza

Hospital laboratories across Texas voluntarily report influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). Providers throughout Texas also submit specimens for influenza testing (PCR) to Texas public health laboratories, including the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) state laboratory in Austin and the nine Texas Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories. The results reported by Texas NREVSS participants and public health laboratories for the current week are summarized in the two tables below. Additional influenza test results (rapid tests, culture, PCR) and ILI activity were reported from providers and public health departments throughout the state (see county map at the end of this report).

Table 2: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Hospital Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 35	Season to Date Week Ending: August 31, 2019
Number of labs reporting flu tests	20	
Number of specimens tested	912	16297
Number of positive specimens (%) [†]	8 (0.88%)	27268 (16.74%)
Percentage of total tests that were antigen detection tests	13.05%	
Positive specimens by type/subtype [n (%)]		
Influenza A	3 (37.50%)	23609 (86.58%)
Subtyping performed	2 (66.67%)	2156 (9.13%)
A (H1N1)	1 (50.00%)	637 (29.55%)
A (H3N2)	1 (50.00%)	1519 (70.45%)
Subtyping not performed	1 (33.33%)	21453 (90.87%)
Influenza B	5 (62.50%)	3659 (13.42%)

[†]Laboratory data in 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 season reports may not be comparable to reports from seasons previous to 2016-2017 because the data only includes hospital laboratories data for the current season.

Table 3: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Public Health Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 35	Season to Date Week Ending: August 31, 2019
Number of labs reporting flu tests	1	
Number of specimens tested	8	2717
Number of positive specimens (%) [†]	0 (0.00%)	1457 (53.63%)
Positive specimens by type/subtype/lineage [n (%)]		
Influenza A	0 (0.00%)	1339 (91.90%)
Subtyping performed	0 (0.00%)	1326 (99.03%)
A (H1N1)	0 (0.00%)	428 (32.28%)
A (H3N2)	0 (0.00%)	898 (67.72%)
Subtyping not performed	0 (0.00%)	13 (0.97%)
Influenza B	0 (0.00%)	118 (8.10%)
Lineage testing performed	0 (0.00%)	102 (86.44%)
B/Victoria	0 (0.00%)	79 (77.45%)
B/Yamagata	0 (0.00%)	23 (22.55%)
Lineage testing not performed	0 (0.00%)	16 (13.56%)
Other*	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

[†]Laboratory data in 2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019 seasons reports may not be comparable to reports from seasons previous to 2016-2017 because the data only includes hospital laboratories data for the current season

*Other denotes specimens with coinfections (i.e. one specimen was positive for both influenza A (H1N1) and influenza A (H3N2))

Other Respiratory Viruses

The NREVSS system collects information on a variety of respiratory viruses in addition to influenza including parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus, human metapneumovirus (HMPV), seasonal coronavirus, and respiratory adenovirus. The results for the current week are summarized below.

Table 4: Non-Influenza Respiratory Virus Testing Performed by Texas NREVSS Laboratories for the Current Week

Virus	Number of Laboratories Testing	Tests Performed	Positive Tests	Percentage of Tests Positive
Adenovirus (respiratory)	9	662	21	3.17%
HMPV	9	638	10	1.57%
Parainfluenza virus	9	662	17	2.57%
Rhinovirus	9	515	198	38.45%
RSV ^{†^}	17	828	19	2.29%
Seasonal coronavirus (does not include MERS-CoV)	5	373	9	2.41%

[†]RSV tests displayed in the table are a combination of antigen detection, PCR, and culture tests. Some non-NREVSS reporters also contribute to the RSV data.

[^]Numbers and percentage may differ from the weekly RSV report. The weekly RSV report may be accessed at <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/RSV/disease/rsv-Data.aspx>.

U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

Table 5: Texas ILINet Reporting and Patient Visit Summary for the Current Week

	Week 35
Number of providers reporting [†]	90
Number of providers reporting patient visits	90
Number (%) of providers with at least one ILI case	68 (75.56%)
Percentage of all visits due to ILI	1.79%
Texas ILINet baseline [‡] , 2018-2019	5.60%

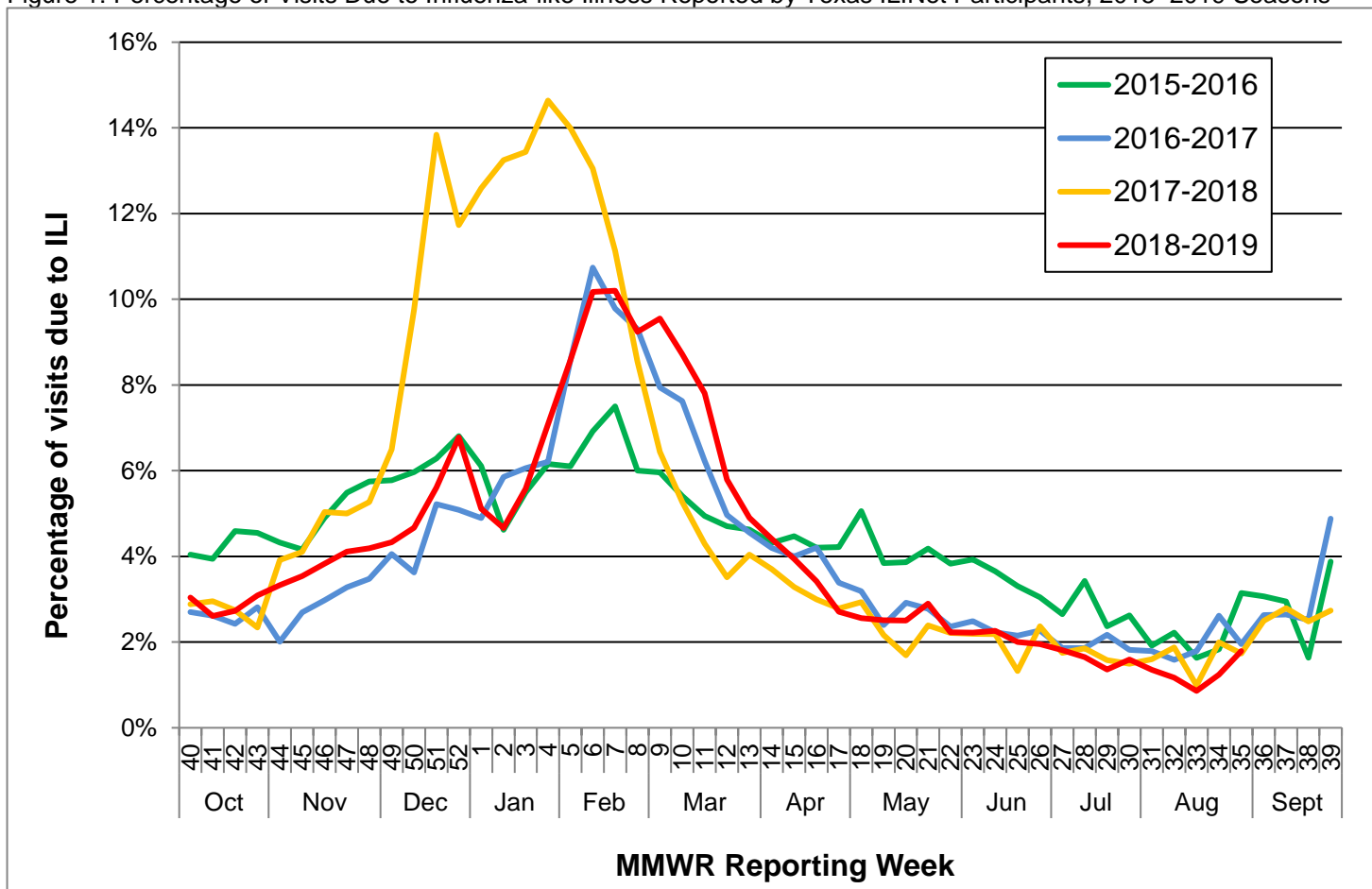
[†]Reporting providers include both ILINet and RVSP providers.

[‡]The baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations. A "non-influenza week" is defined as a week that accounted for less than 2% of the season's total number of specimens that tested positive for influenza

Table 6: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Providers (as of 9/5/2019 10:45 AM)

Week	Providers Reporting	Number of ILI Cases by Age Group (Years)					Total ILI (all ages)	Total Patients	ILI
		0-4	5-24	25-49	50-64	65+			
201840	114	139	341	169	132	135	916	30158	3.04%
201841	113	155	216	185	116	98	770	29476	2.61%
201842	113	126	275	180	92	120	793	29031	2.73%
201843	112	165	335	209	108	128	945	30576	3.09%
201844	114	168	357	230	121	139	1015	30443	3.33%
201845	116	225	388	253	118	136	1120	31595	3.54%
201846	116	227	374	278	168	130	1177	30725	3.83%
201847	116	199	249	236	134	125	943	22934	4.11%
201848	115	261	396	310	213	179	1359	32471	4.19%
201849	115	217	406	303	188	199	1313	30324	4.33%
201850	115	254	494	308	167	157	1380	29536	4.67%
201851	107	267	472	363	206	213	1521	27103	5.61%
201852	107	238	433	406	202	165	1444	21301	6.78%
201901	111	196	305	462	173	108	1244	24340	5.11%
201902	111	219	405	443	165	99	1331	28543	4.66%
201903	114	258	665	472	153	73	1621	29076	5.58%
201904	116	288	980	521	202	101	2092	29554	7.08%
201905	114	292	1501	605	203	83	2684	31267	8.58%
201906	116	383	1896	734	265	85	3363	33084	10.17%
201907	117	407	1710	804	235	121	3277	32118	10.20%
201908	117	344	1431	784	278	75	2912	31515	9.24%
201909	117	354	1483	827	274	117	3055	31990	9.55%
201910	119	325	1376	678	255	100	2734	31343	8.72%
201911	116	288	846	637	223	115	2109	26992	7.81%
201912	119	237	694	523	215	95	1764	30442	5.79%
201913	114	236	603	388	125	59	1411	28825	4.90%
201914	116	194	558	319	126	35	1232	27964	4.41%
201915	118	181	535	298	92	46	1152	29229	3.94%
201916	114	150	415	251	76	37	929	27143	3.42%
201917	98	67	260	231	67	32	657	24247	2.71%
201918	114	135	310	168	70	39	722	28211	2.56%
201919	103	119	270	148	57	26	620	24747	2.51%
201920	105	114	245	148	49	41	597	23869	2.50%
201921	65	123	217	102	42	23	507	17462	2.90%
201922	98	86	175	117	36	28	442	19861	2.23%
201923	93	96	178	125	45	30	474	21384	2.22%
201924	88	98	145	113	42	63	461	20357	2.26%
201925	94	106	132	110	33	26	407	20356	2.00%
201926	54	64	113	82	29	12	300	15393	1.95%
201927	92	65	125	92	30	16	328	18117	1.81%
201928	56	70	89	62	24	9	254	15404	1.65%
201929	94	62	92	79	33	15	281	20705	1.36%
201930	92	77	83	101	38	18	317	19992	1.59%
201931	92	63	101	72	29	16	281	20914	1.34%
201932	90	52	62	85	41	8	248	20964	1.18%
201933	86	53	55	65	12	5	190	22107	0.86%
201934	88	65	113	69	21	14	282	22769	1.24%
201935	90	123	173	78	38	12	424	23688	1.79%

Figure 1: Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2015–2019 Seasons



Reports from Health Service Regions

Reports were received from seven Health Service Regions (HSRs) during week 35.

Table 7: Influenza Activity Compared to Week 34 by Health Service Region (HSR)

Influenza Activity Comparison	Health Service Region (HSR)
Increased	6/5N, and 8
Same	2/3, 7, and 9/10
Decreased	1 and 11
Unsure	

Variant Influenza Viruses

No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas during the 2018-2019 season.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

There were no outbreaks or school closures reported in week 35 during the 2018-2019 season.

P&I Mortality Surveillance Data

Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) death data are obtained from death certificates of Texas residents whose underlying or contributing cause(s) of death is reported as pneumonia or influenza. P&I deaths are identified based on ICD-10 multiple cause of death codes. In particular, P&I deaths are based on ICD-10 pneumonia and influenza mortality codes.

Nine thousand four hundred and forty-seven P&I deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2018-2019 influenza season.

Table 8: Texas P&I Deaths Occurring Sept. 30, 2018- September 04, 2019* by Age

Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths ⁺	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
0 - 4	39	1.82
5 - 17	39	0.71
18 - 49	597	4.50
50 - 64	1589	30.63
65 +	7183	187.28
Overall	9447	31.54

*NOTE: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

⁺ If the cell count is less than 10, the number of P&I deaths is suppressed and <10 is written in the cell.

Table 9: Texas P&I Deaths Occurring Sept. 30, 2018- September 04, 2019* by Health Service Region (HSR)

HSR	Number of P&I Deaths	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
1	351	37.69
2/3	2739	31.61
4/5N	739	45.10
6/5S	2247	28.66
7	1055	28.75
8	1027	33.22
9/10	477	29.83
11	806	32.08
Unknown	<10	N/A
Overall	9447	31.54

*NOTE: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported during week 35. One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported in a 5-year-old resident of HSR 8 with no underlying health conditions. A specimen collected from the child was positive for influenza B by rapid test. The child was vaccinated for the current season. The second pediatric death was reported in a 6-year-old resident of HSR 6/5S with underlying conditions. A specimen was collected and positive for influenza A by PCR. The child was not vaccinated for the current season. The third pediatric death was reported in an 11-year-old resident of HSR 11 with underlying conditions. A specimen was collected and positive for influenza A by PCR. It is unknown if the child was vaccinated for the current season.

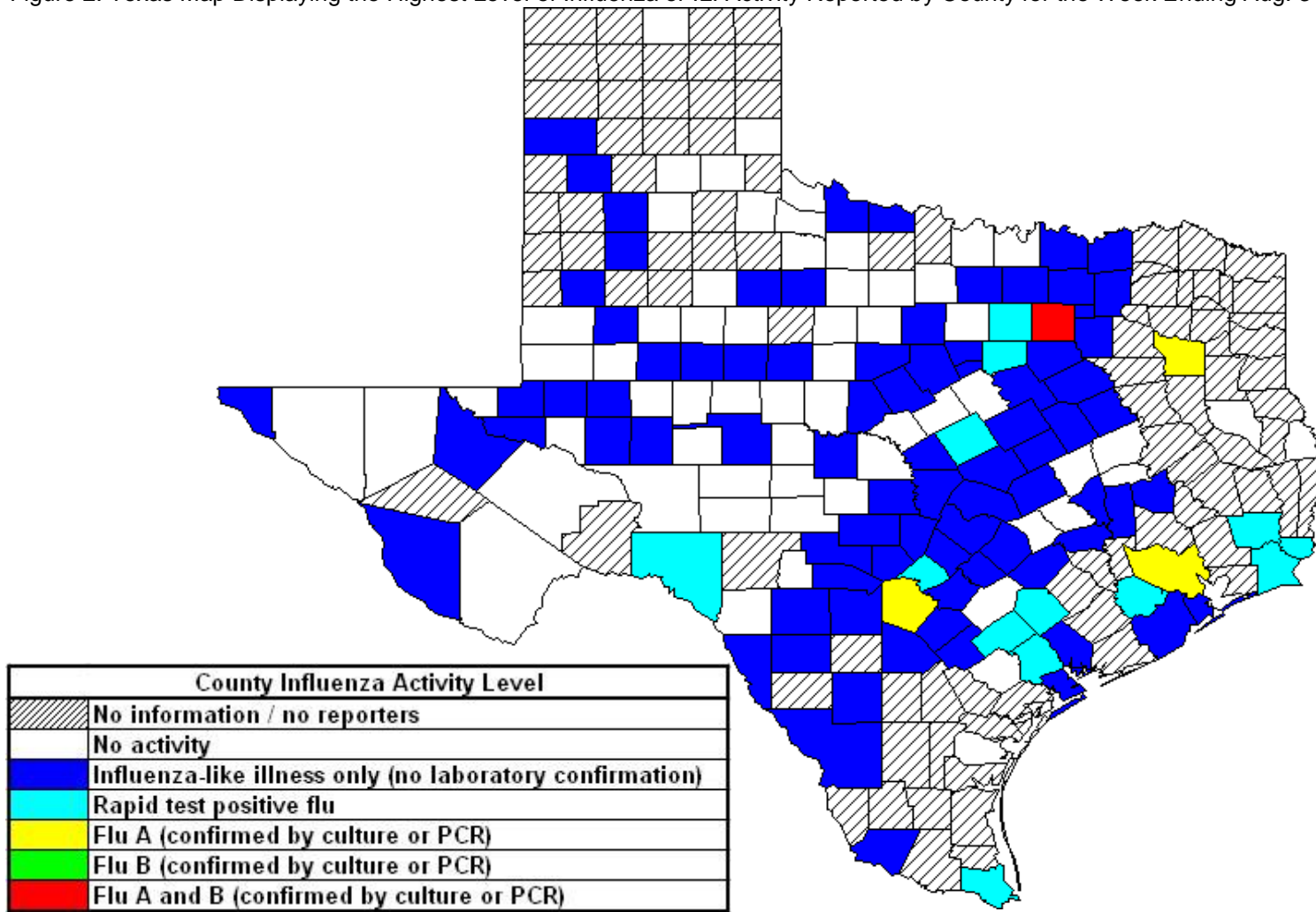
Seventeen influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2018-2019 influenza season. Cases of influenza-associated pediatric mortality (children <18 years of age) are reportable year-round and by law in Texas.

Table 10: Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths Reported in Texas during the 2018-2019 Season

Month of Pediatric Death	Influenza A (H1N1)	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza A (Not Subtyped)	Influenza B	Influenza, Not Typed / Not Differentiated	Influenza virus co-infection: A (not subtyped) and B	Total, All Influenza Types / Subtypes
2018							
October	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019							
January	1	1	4	1	0	0	7
February	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
March	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
April	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
May	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	1	10	3	0	0	17

Statewide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 2: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending Aug. 31, 2019 (MMWR Week 35)



Please note: The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law in Texas. This map contains data from sentinel sites and only displays influenza and ILI cases that were reported to public health. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date, or date received in the laboratory if the former is unknown.

Texas Influenza Surveillance Components and Measures

Activity codes (see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>)

Statewide influenza activity level

A code reported weekly by states and territories to CDC indicating the geographic spread of influenza in the state. Levels are no activity, sporadic, local, regional, and widespread.

ILINet Activity Indicator

A statewide level of influenza-like illness intensity (on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the lowest level) assigned to each state weekly by CDC based on data reported through ILINet.

Morbidity

Novel/variant influenza

Thorough investigations are performed on all cases of novel/variant influenza. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Texas ILINet

Providers voluntarily report weekly to CDC's ILINet system on the number of outpatient visits for ILI and total outpatient visits. Providers may submit up to 5 specimens per month for influenza testing. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/ILINet/> for information on how to become an ILINet provider.

ILI activity

Non-ILINet providers report ILI or influenza data weekly to local or regional health departments.

Outbreaks

Healthcare, schools, childcare, and correctional facilities report ILI and influenza outbreaks to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Mortality

Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance

The DSHS Vital Statistics Unit collects death certificate information for all deaths on Texas residents from various partners such as funeral homes and local registrars around the state. The death certificates are then sent to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) where the cause of death and underlying causes of death on the death certificates are coded with ICD-10 mortality codes. Once death certificates are coded, the information is sent back to DSHS Center for Health Statistics (CHS). CHS produces a Weekly Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Death Report and sends it to the State Influenza Surveillance Coordinator for inclusion in the Texas Weekly Flu Report. P&I deaths are identified based on ICD-10 multiple cause of death codes, and in particular, pneumonia and influenza mortality codes. Delays inherent in death reporting and coding practices may cause the number of reported P&I deaths to vary considerably each week.

Influenza-associated pediatric deaths

Deaths that are associated with influenza in children < 18 years of age are reported to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.* <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/IAPM/>

Laboratory

DSHS Austin laboratory

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to the DSHS Austin laboratory for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to one of the 9 Texas LRNs for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

NREVSS

Laboratories voluntarily report influenza and other respiratory virus data weekly through the CDC's online NREVSS reporting system. **Laboratories sign up for this program by contacting DSHS.** <http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/>

Recommended Resources

Texas Department of State Health Services

DSHS influenza page: <http://www.texasflu.org/>

Influenza surveillance data and reports: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>

Map of Texas Health Service Regions: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/state.shtm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National FluView weekly flu report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Variant influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/variant.htm>

Avian influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>

Swine influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm>

Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/>

Seasonal Flu Information for Schools and Childcare Providers: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm>

World Health Organization

Influenza page: <http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/>

Disease Outbreak News: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>