

2014-2015 Influenza Season Key Points



BY
JOHNATHAN LEDBETTER, MPH

Virology



- **Circulating Influenza Viruses**
 - Influenza A H3N2 drifted strain (A/Switzerland/9715293/2013)
 - ✦ Predominant strain
 - ✦ Early and middle part of the season
 - Influenza B virus
 - ✦ Increased during later part of the season
 - ✦ Over half of the influenza B's that were antigenically characterized from Texas belonged to the Victoria Lineage

ILI/Flu Activity & ILI/Flu-associated Outbreaks



- **Peak of Flu Activity**
 - Occurred in December of 2014

- **ILI/Flu-associated Outbreaks**
 - 3 times more outbreaks reported than last influenza season
 - ✦ 54 in 14-15 season versus 17 in 13-14 season
 - Most ever reported since keeping track of ILI/flu-associated outbreaks starting in 2010

Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality and Other Influenza Activities



- **16 influenza-associated pediatric deaths**
 - Over 62% of children were positive for influenza A
 - 50% of children had no underlying health conditions
 - Over 31% of the children were vaccinated with the 14-15 influenza vaccine
- **2014-2015 Influenza Vaccine effectiveness (VE) was low**
 - Updated overall VE was 19%
 - Earlier VE estimate was at 23%

Other Influenza Activities



- **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 viruses were identified in U.S. domestic poultry (backyard and commercial flocks), captive wild birds, and wild birds in December**
 - No reports human infections with these HPAI H5 viruses
- **Flu-associated parotitis cases reported to CDC from 25 states including Texas**
- **Flu-associated rash illness cases reported to CDC from all over the US**

ANY
QUESTIONS
?