

This report covers flu surveillance activities for the 28 counties that comprise Health Service Region 8: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Calhoun, Comal, Dewitt, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, La Salle, La Vaca, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Wilson, and Zavala.

**Flu Activity:**

Compared to last week, flu activity in the region is increased. Twenty-four counties submitted reports this week. Of the counties that reported, 19 counties reported influenza-like-illness. Six counties reported flu A by rapid test, two counties reported flu B by rapid test, and ten counties reported both flu A and flu B by rapid test.

**Pediatric Deaths:**

None during this reporting period.

**Institutional & School Outbreaks**

None this reporting period.

**Antiviral Resistance**

No antiviral resistant flu reported.

**Variant Influenza Viruses**

No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas.

**Flu Facts:**

According to Texas influenza laboratory data and influenza-like illness (ILI) indicators there has been an increase in influenza activity in recent weeks. However, it is still occurring at a low level around the state. ILI activity increased compared to last week and was above the 2013-2014 state ILINet baseline of 4.35%.

Influenza viruses can be spread by large respiratory droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks in close proximity to an uninfected person. Sometimes influenza viruses are spread when a person touches a surface with influenza viruses on it (e.g., a doorknob), and then touches his own nose or mouth. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "handwashing is the single most important procedure for preventing the spread of infection."

Highlighted areas indicate the highest level of influenza activity detected by county.

Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2011–2015 Seasons

**Health Service Region 8 Influenza Activity Map**

