Health Service Region 8
Influenza Activity Report
MMWR Week 42, Week Ending 10/23/2015

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

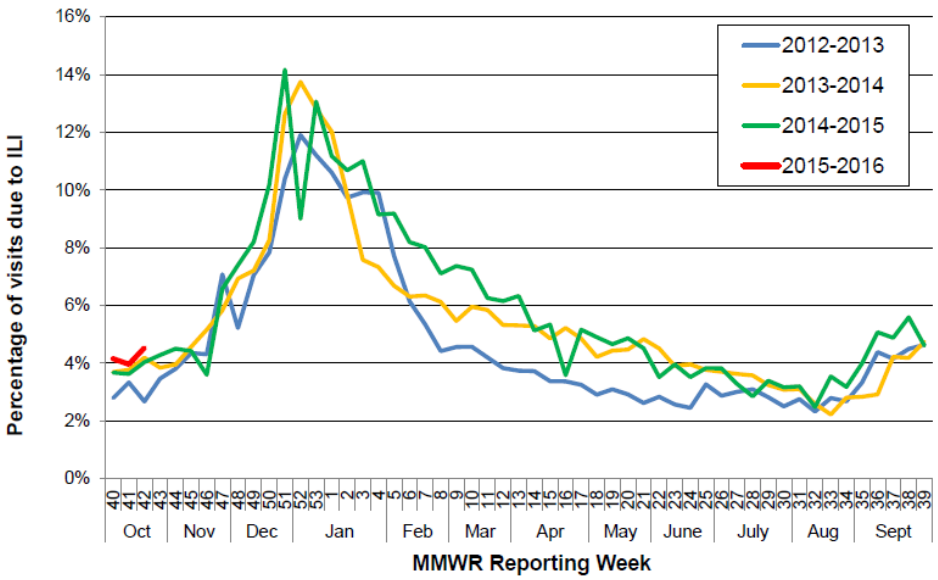
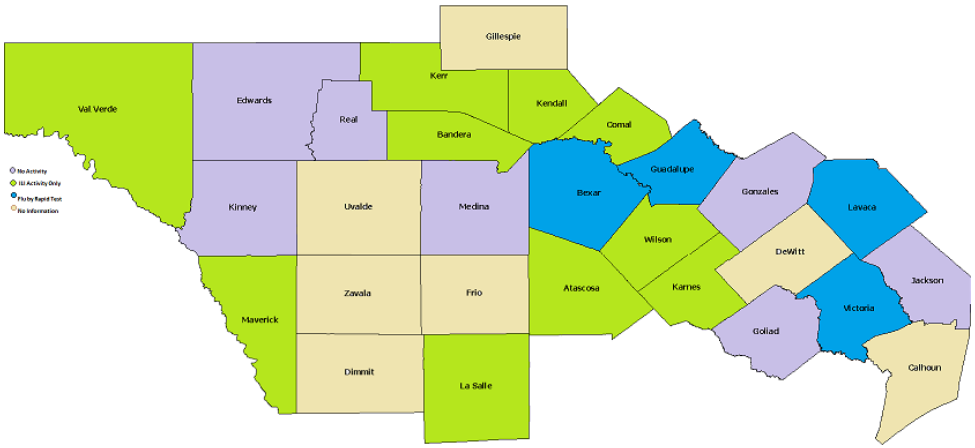
Flu Activity:
Reports were received from 22 counties this week.
Seven counties reported no flu or ILI activity.
Ten counties reported ILI activity only.
Four counties reported flu by rapid test.
In Region 8, activity in week 42 was about the same as last week.
Influenza activity remains low in Texas, but it appears to be increasing. The percentage of specimens positive for influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity slightly increased compared to last week. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity stayed above the 2014-2015 state ILINet baseline of 5.42%.

Pediatric Deaths:
No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported during week 37. Seventeen influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2014-2015 influenza season. Cases of influenza-associated pediatric mortality (children <18 years of age) are reportable year-round and by law in Texas.

Institutional & School Outbreaks- No outbreaks reported during this period.

Antiviral Resistance- No antiviral resistant flu reported.

Variant Influenza Viruses- No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas.

Why should people get vaccinated against the flu?

Influenza is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes death. Every flu season is different, and influenza infection can affect people differently. Even healthy people can get very sick from the flu and spread it to others. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 23,607 (range 3,349-48,614) influenza-associated deaths and over 200,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations occur every year in the United States.