

# Health Service Region 8 Influenza Activity Report MMWR Week 12 Week Ending 03/25/16



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 25 counties for this two-week period. Four counties reported no flu or ILI activity. Two counties reported ILI activity only. Eighteen counties reported flu by rapid test. One county reported flu by PCR. In Region 8, activity in week 12 was about the same as week 11.

**Antiviral Resistance-** No antiviral resistant flu reported.

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

### Pediatric Influenza Mortality

An influenza-associated pediatric death was reported during week 12 that occurred during week 11. The child was a 2-month-old resident of HSR 2/3 with no underlying medical conditions. A specimen collected from the child was positive for influenza A 2009 (H1N1) by PCR. The child was not vaccinated for influenza for the current season since the child was too young to get the influenza vaccine.

Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2015-2016 influenza season. Cases of influenza-associated pediatric mortality (children <18 years of age) are reportable year-round and by law in Texas.

### Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

No ILI or influenza-associated outbreaks were reported during week 12. No school closures were reported during week 12.

### Summary

Influenza activity remains elevated, but it appears to be decreasing across the state. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens positive for influenza and the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) slightly decreased. It is too early to tell if influenza activity has peaked for the season. One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported. No ILI/influenza outbreaks were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses were detected in Texas during week 12.

