

Health Service Region 8 Influenza Activity Report MMWR Week 8 Week Ending 02/26/2016



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. Five counties reported no flu or ILI activity. Four counties reported ILI activity only. Twelve counties reported flu by rapid test. Two counties reported flu by PCR. In Region 8, activity in week 7 was increased from week 6.

Antiviral Resistance- No antiviral resistant flu reported.

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

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

During week 08, four influenza-associated outbreaks were reported in schools located in HSR 6/5S. All influenza-associated school outbreaks are currently ongoing and being investigated. An influenza-associated outbreak in a long-term care facility located in HSR 2/3 was also reported during week 08. The outbreak is over as no new residents or staff have reported having any symptoms as of 2/20/16. No school closures were reported during week 08.

Summary

Influenza activity remains elevated across the state even though there was a small decrease in activity. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens positive for influenza and the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) somewhat decreased. It is too early to tell if influenza activity has peaked for the season. Five ILI/influenza-associated outbreaks and no influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses were detected in Texas during week 08.

