

Health Service Region 8 Influenza Activity Report MMWR Week 14 Week Ending 04/08/16



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 20 counties.
One county reported no flu or ILI activity.
Two counties reported ILI activity only.
Sixteen counties reported flu by rapid test.
One county reported flu by PCR.
In Region 8, activity in week 14 was about the same as week 13.

Antiviral Resistance- No antiviral resistant flu reported in Region 8.

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

Pediatric Influenza Mortality

One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported in week 14 that occurred during week 12. The child was a 10-year-old resident of HSR 8 with an underlying health condition. A specimen collected from the child was positive for influenza B and human metapneumovirus by PCR; a tracheal aspirate specimen collected from the child was positive for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The child was not vaccinated for influenza for the current influenza season.

Four 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 outbreaks or school closures occurred in Region 8 during week 13.

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 slightly increased and the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) marginally decreased. It appears that influenza activity has peaked for the season.

