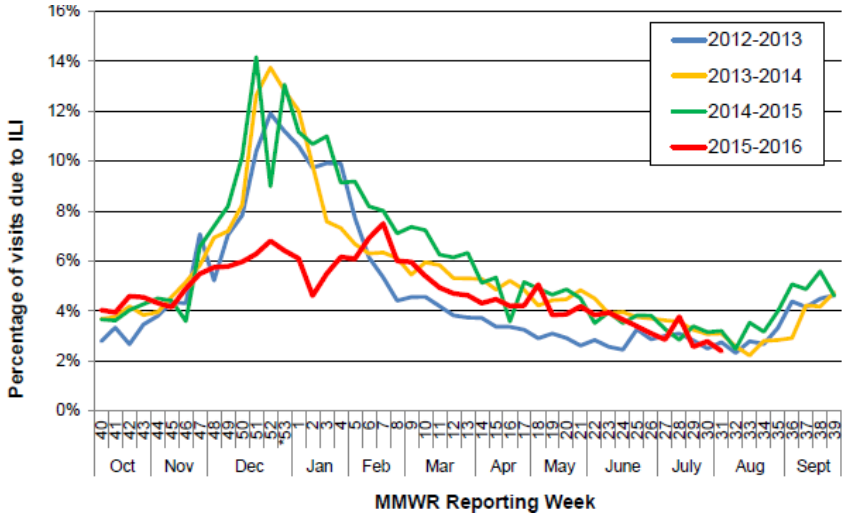
Health Service Region 8
Influenza Activity Report
MMWR Week 31
Week Ending 08/12/16

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 16 counties this week.
Nine counties reported no flu or ILI activity.
Four counties reported ILI activity only.
Three counties reported flu by rapid test.
In Region 8, activity in week 32 was about the same as week 31.

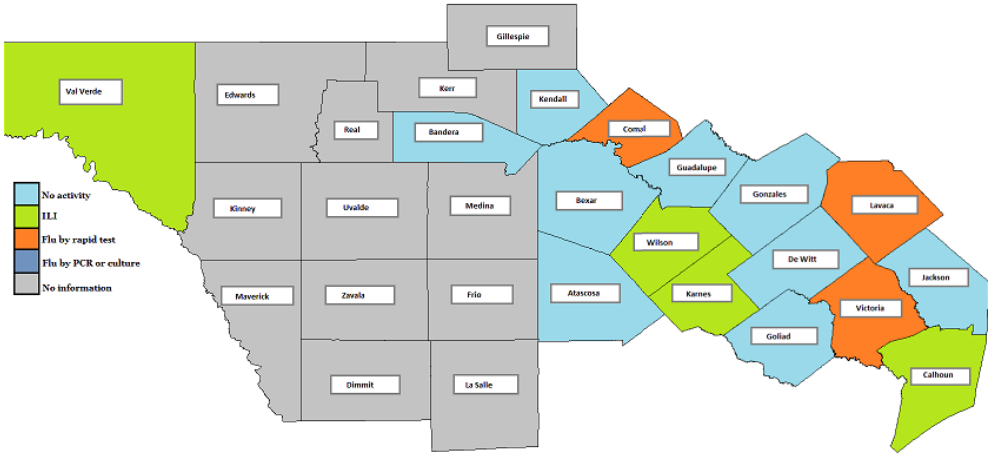


Antiviral Resistance
No antiviral resistant flu reported in Region 8.

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

Pediatric Influenza Mortality
None this week.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures
No new outbreaks reported.



Summary
Influenza activity remains low across the state of Texas. 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. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. No ILI or influenza-associated outbreaks were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially rhinovirus/enterovirus—were detected in Texas during week 31.

The start of flu season is just around the corner! CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older by the end of October, if possible. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses and prevent flu-related hospitalizations. Flu vaccines have been updated for the 2016-2017 season.