



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, LaSalle, Lavaca, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Wilson, and Zavala.

Flu Activity

Reports were received from 21 counties. Five counties reported ILI activity only. Sixteen counties reported flu by rapid test or PCR. In Region 8, flu activity for week 50 was about the same as week 49.

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

While no schools closed because of flu activity, several schools reported higher rates of absence this week. Most, if not all, schools will be closed for the holidays until January.

Summary

Influenza activity is increasing across the state of Texas. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) and the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by public health and hospital laboratories has slightly increased. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Two influenza-associated outbreaks were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)—were detected in Texas during week 49.

Please submit your reports weekly using the online survey.

