



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.

Overview by the Numbers

- 20 counties submitted reports this week.
• 1 county reported no flu or ILI activity
• 1 county reported ILI activity only
• 18 counties reported flu confirmed by rapid test or PCR
• In Region 8, flu activity for week 1 was increased from week 52.

Antiviral Resistance

No antiviral resistance testing data for Texas specimens are available at this time.

Variant Influenza Viruses

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

Pediatric Influenza Mortality

One pediatric influenza-associated death was confirmed in a 4-year-old patient with no underlying health conditions. The death occurred during MMWR week 52 (week ending December 30). A specimen collected from the child was positive for influenza A by PCR. The child did not receive the influenza vaccine for the current season. State-wide, four influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2017-2018 influenza season.

Regional Institutional Outbreaks

Three new outbreaks in long-term care facilities began this week, bringing the total number for the 2017-2018 season to 10.

State-wide Summary

Influenza activity remains high 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 marginally increased. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)—were detected in Texas during week 01

