

This report covers flu surveillance activities for the 28 counties that comprise Public Health 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 23 counties this week.
Four counties reported flu by PCR.
Fourteen counties reported flu by rapid test.
Four counties reported influenza-like illness.
In Region 8, activity in week 5 was about the same as week 4.

Antiviral Resistance

None

Variant Influenza Viruses

None this season.

Pediatric Influenza Mortality

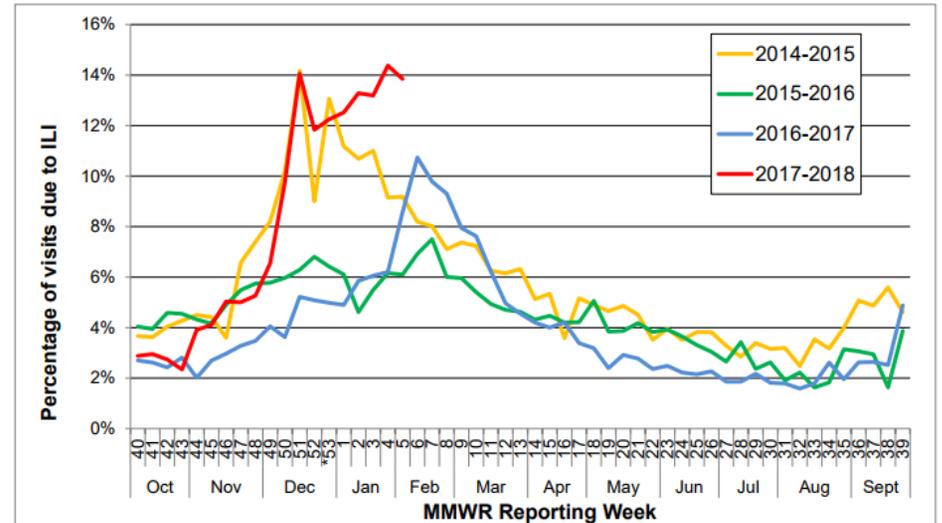
None in Region 8 this week.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

Multiple outbreaks are currently under investigation at several long term care facilities in the region. Increased respiratory illness has been reported at some schools, as well. Healthcare facilities and schools are working in conjunction with regional staff to monitor activity and reduce the spread of infection.

Statewide 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 decreased. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Twenty-five ILI or influenza-associated outbreaks were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially rhinovirus/enterovirus—were detected in Texas during week 05. It is too early to tell if influenza activity has peaked for the season in Texas.



*There was a week 53 in the 2014-2015 influenza season, but there is not a week 53 for the 2017-2018 influenza season or the other previous seasons; therefore, the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of week 52 and 1.

