

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 25 counties this week.
Two counties reported flu by PCR.
Seventeen counties reported flu by rapid test.
Six counties reported influenza-like illness.
In Region 8, activity in week 7 was about the same as week 6.

Variant Influenza Viruses

None this season.

Pediatric Influenza Mortality

One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported this week in a 13-year-old with underlying health conditions. A specimen collected from the child was positive for influenza B by PCR. The child did not receive the influenza vaccine for the current season. Seven influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2017-2018 influenza season.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

No new outbreaks reported this week.

Statewide Summary

Influenza activity remains high across the state of Texas although activity has slightly decreased over the past few weeks. 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 hospital laboratories has marginally decreased. The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by public health laboratories has slightly increased. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses—especially rhinovirus/enterovirus—were detected in Texas during week 07. It is too early to tell if influenza activity has peaked for the season in Texas.

