

Florida Influenza Surveillance for the Week 44, Ending November 1, 2003

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Summary

Florida continued to experience sporadic activity of influenza-like illness (ILI) during Week 44 of the 2003-2004 season. Broward County had the highest percent ILI activity for Week 44 (4.56%). This data should be interpreted with caution since it cannot be compared to the national baseline and reporting practices have a large impact on the percentages. There was one new positive specimen (A/H3N2) submitted to the Florida state laboratories during Week 44.

The West South Central region of the United States continued to be the only region in the country that experienced a percent ILI above the national baseline. These regions includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

Its still not too late to think about getting a flu shot. While October and November are the best months to get your flu shot, getting immunized in December or later will still provide protection against the flu. For more information about flu vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or your local county health department.

Florida Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Summary

Sixty-seven sentinels from 61 public clinics and private offices submitted reports for 27 counties during the week ending November 1, 2003 (Week 44). Counties with the highest percentage of patients with ILI were Broward, Hernando, Indian River, Monroe, Pasco and Polk. Ten counties reported a low percentage of patients with ILI and 10 counties reported no cases of ILI. A breakdown of ILI% reported for week ending November 1, 2003 by county is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Influenza-Like Illness Reporting by County for Week Ending 11/1/03 (Week 44)									
County	Additional Sentinels Needed to Meet CDC's Recommendations:	Enrolled as of 11/10/03		Reporting for Week 44		Participation for Week 44	ILI % Reported for Week 44 (Current)	ILI% Reported for Week 43 (Updated)	ILI% Reported for Week 42 (Updated)
		Sentinels recruited	from Offices	Sentinels reporting	from Offices				
Alachua		2	2	1	1	50%	0.19%	0.06%	0.26%
Brevard		3	3	1	1	33%	0.62%	0.00%	1.86%
Broward		7	7	4	4	57%	4.56%	0.34%	1.21%
Charlotte		1	1	0	0	0%			
Citrus		1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Collier		2	2	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Duval		12	9	4	4	33%	0.66%	0.31%	2.08%
Hernando		1	1	1	1	100%	3.26%		
Hillsborough		6	6	4	4	67%	0.97%	0.94%	0.47%
Indian River		8	5	7	4	88%	3.29%	4.54%	1.98%
Lake		2	2	2	2	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Lee		2	2	2	2	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Leon		2	2	2	2	100%	0.63%	0.57%	0.69%
Marion		1	1	1	1	100%	0.12%	0.12%	0.12%
Martin		1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	
Miami-Dade	3	6	6	4	4	67%	0.31%	0.41%	0.53%
Monroe		1	1	1	1	100%	3.73%	1.65%	3.03%
Okaloosa		4	4	3	3	75%	2.27%	1.57%	1.79%
Orange		12	9	6	4	50%	1.77%	4.32%	6.06%

Osceola		2	2	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	1.25%
Palm Beach		5	5	4	4	80%	1.55%	1.97%	2.09%
Pasco	1	1	1	1	1	100%	2.63%		
Pinellas		7	7	5	5	71%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Polk		7	4	6	5	86%	3.05%	1.58%	1.43%
Santa Rosa		1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sarasota		1	1	0	0	0%			
Seminole		2	2	0	0	0%			
St. Johns		1	1	1	1	100%	1.10%	0.00%	0.00%
St. Lucie		1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Volusia	1	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.56%	0.00%

Florida Specimen Testing for Week 44

The Jacksonville Central and Tampa Branch laboratories received 8 specimens for influenza isolate testing during the week ending November 1, 2003 (Week 44). One specimen from Orange County tested positive for Influenza A (H3N2). The remaining specimens were negative for influenza.

Florida Rapid Testing Performed by Private Laboratories

No new cases of influenza were reported during Week 44.

National Influenza Surveillance Week 44

This section summarizes the weekly influenza report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More detailed information can be found at there website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

Influenza-Like Illness Report for the Weekending November 1, 2003.

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 2.2% nationwide. This is less than the national baseline of 2.5%. On a regional level, the percentage of visits for ILI ranged from 0.6% to 11.2%. Due to wide variability in regional level data, it is not appropriate to apply the national baseline to regional level data. National percentage and regional percentages of patient visits for ILI are weighted on the basis of state population.

U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Laboratories Report. Forty-five (6.7%) of the 674 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. Four influenza A (H3N2) and 41 untyped influenza A viruses were identified.

Since September 28, 2003, 193 (4.4%) of the 4,371 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. Fifty-three of influenza A (H3N2) viruses and 3 influenza B viruses have been subtyped. One hundred thirty-seven influenza A viruses await isolate subtyping. Of these 193 specimens, 77% (148) were reported from the West South Central region and 15% (28) were from the Mountain region.

State and Territorial Epidemiologists Report. Texas reported regional influenza activity, Colorado, Louisiana, and Montana reported local influenza activity, and Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and New York City and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. Twenty-four states and

the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity.

2003-2004 Summary By Region

Region	WHO and NREVSS Laboratories						ILI Reporting: Weighted ILI% For Week 44
	Total Specimens	AH1N1	AH3N2	A-Unk	B	Ratio Pos.	
New England Region	19	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.796
Mid-Atlantic Region	573	0	0	3	0	0.005	1.349
East North Central Region	307	0	0	1	0	0.003	0.732
West North Central Region	814	0	0	0	1	0.001	1.325
South Atlantic Region	694	0	3	0	0	0.004	0.909
East South Central Region	164	0	0	4	0	0.024	1.258
West South Central Region	628	0	46	102	0	0.236	5.239
Mountain Region	633	0	4	24	0	0.044	0.990
Pacific Region	539	0	0	3	2	0.009	1.311

* Weekly ratios rather than proportions are presented because specimens reported positive for influenza virus each week may include specimens submitted for testing during an earlier week.

122 US Cities Vital Statistics Mortality Report. The percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza was 6.3%. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.0% for week 44.

International Influenza Activity Week 44

WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, Melbourne Australia

One of Australia's biggest influenza seasons since 1998 peaked from mid to late August 2003, and by October cases of influenza have generally subsided. Influenza A (H3) viruses were cited as the primary cause of the outbreaks. For more information about Australian influenza, visit the Melbourne, Australia Branch website at <http://www.influenzacentre.org/>.

FluWatch Report from the Canadian Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

For the week ending November 1, 2003, widespread influenza activity was reported in all regions in the Northwest Territories, localized influenza activity was reported in all parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and in one region of Ontario, and sporadic influenza activity is reported in 4 regions in British Columbia. For more information about the *FluWatch* report, visit their website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspsp/fluwatch/index.html>.

Report from the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS)

Of the 19 European countries that are members of the EISS, widespread influenza activity was reported in Ireland, Scotland and Spain reported regional activity, Norway reported local activity, and Belgium, England, France, Northern Ireland, Portugal and Switzerland reported sporadic activity for the week ending November 1, 2003. For more information about the EISS report, visit their website at <http://www.eiss.org/index.cgi>.

2002-2003 Influenza Surveillance Summaries

An international summary of the 2002-2003 influenza surveillance season (October-September) can be found on page 393 in the November 7, 2003 edition of the WHO's *Weekly Epidemiological Record* (Vol. 78) at <http://www.who.int/wer/2003/wer7845/en/>.

WHO Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for the 2004 influenza season

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/recommendations2004/en/>

* Reporting is incomplete for this week. Numbers may change as more reports are received.