



## Week 50: December 11-17, 2011



### Summary

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) monitors multiple surveillance systems such as the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), the Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance System (FPIMSS), notifiable disease reports (Merlin), EpiCom, and Florida ILINet in order to track influenza activity in the state.

#### National:

- Influenza and ILI are at low levels nationwide according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports. Using Florida ILINet data, CDC calculated minimal ILI intensity for Florida in week 50.
- Since August, 2011, cases of influenza due to novel strains have been identified in 6 states. Eleven people in five states were infected with a novel H3N2 influenza A containing elements of the 2009 pandemic strain of H1N1 influenza A, apparently by person to person transmission, and one case in Minnesota was infected with a novel H1N2 influenza A virus. These viruses originate from influenza that circulates in pigs, and are different than the seasonal strains of influenza currently known to be circulating in Florida. None of these cases have resulted in deaths, and most cases have occurred in school-age children. No cases of novel influenza have been reported in Florida. More information can be found on the CDC website at [http://www.cdc.gov/media/haveyouheard/stories/novel\\_influenza.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/haveyouheard/stories/novel_influenza.html)

#### State:

- Influenza and ILI activity in Florida is low in all FDOH surveillance systems. No counties report moderate or widespread activity. Seven counties report that influenza activity is increasing, and six report decreasing influenza activity.
- ESSENCE and ILINet ILI activity levels are near previous non-pandemic seasons at this time in most regions of Florida.
- In week 50, no specimens tested PCR-positive for influenza at the state lab. In recent weeks, the overall number of specimens submitted and the percent positive for influenza have been low. Other viruses known to be currently circulating, potentially causing ILI, include adenovirus, rhinovirus, parainfluenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).
- No outbreaks of ILI or influenza were reported in week 50.

#### Weekly state influenza activity: Sporadic

Florida is currently reporting Sporadic influenza activity statewide, due to low activity levels in all regions of Florida as shown in our influenza surveillance systems. This activity level represents the statewide spread of influenza, and is not a measure of flu intensity.

#### Pediatric influenza Mortality

No pediatric influenza mortalities were reported in week 50. There have been no influenza-associated pediatric mortalities-associated deaths among those less than 18 years old are reportable in Florida.

TABLE 1: Summary of Florida Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity for Week 50

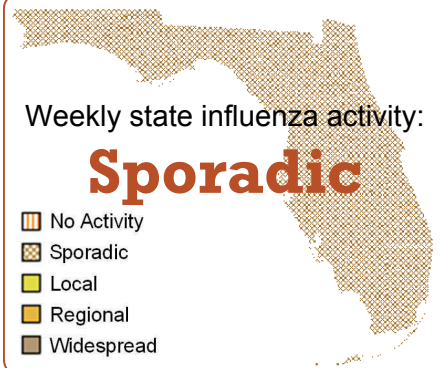
Measure	Difference from previous week	Current week 50	Previous week 49	Page of Report
Overall statewide activity code reported to CDC	No Change	Sporadic	Sporadic	1
Percent of visits to ILINet providers for ILI	▼ 0.2	1.3%	1.5%	2
Percent of emergency department visits (from ESSENCE) due to ILI	▲ 1.3	3.6%	2.3%	3
Percent of laboratory specimens that were positive for influenza	▼ 12.9	0.0%	12.9%	5
Number of counties reporting moderate influenza activity	▲ 1	1	0	6
Number of counties reporting widespread influenza activity	No Change	0	0	6
Number of counties reporting increasing influenza activity	▼ 2	7	9	7
Number of counties reporting decreasing influenza activity	No Change	6	6	7
Number of ILI outbreaks reported in EpiCom	No Change	0	0	10

December 21, 2011

Posted on the Bureau of Epidemiology website: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/floridaflu/>

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ILINet is a nationwide surveillance system composed of sentinel providers. Florida has 110 providers enrolled in ILINet who submit weekly ILI and total visit counts, as well as submitting ILI specimens to the BOL for confirmatory testing. For this season, BOE has designated 16 of these ILINet physicians' offices as Super-Sentinels. These Super-Sentinels will receive more active follow-up from BOE and participating county health departments, with the goal of increasing data quality and surveillance specimen submission. Complete lab and visit data from Florida ILINet Super-Sentinels will be presented in the Florida Flu Review in future weeks.

**FIGURE 1** shows the percentage of visits for ILI\* reported by ILINet Sentinel Providers statewide.

ILI percent remains low and close to other non-pandemic seasons at this time.

77 of 110 ILINet Sentinels have reported visit counts as of 8:00 a.m., December 21, 2011.

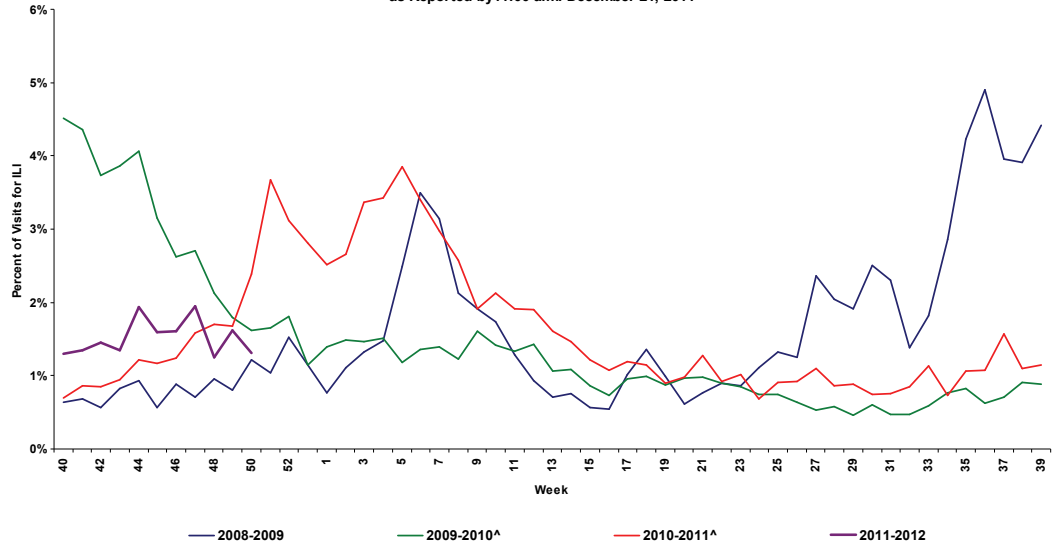
15 of 16 ILINet Super-Sentinels have reported visit counts as of 8:00 a.m., December 21, 2011.

**Note:** In response to several states' recent infections due to the H3N2 and H1N2 strains of novel influenza A, FDOH is enhancing its virologic surveillance. ILI sentinel physicians have been advised to submit more specimens to the BOL from children under age 15. BOL is able to detect presumptive positives for both novel influenza viruses through routine testing. **No cases of novel influenza A H3N2 or H1N2 have been reported in Florida.** Detailed guidance documents were sent to ILINet sites, ILINet super-sentinel sites, and IISP sites.

**FIGURE 2** shows ILI visit counts reported by ILINet sentinel providers statewide by age group.

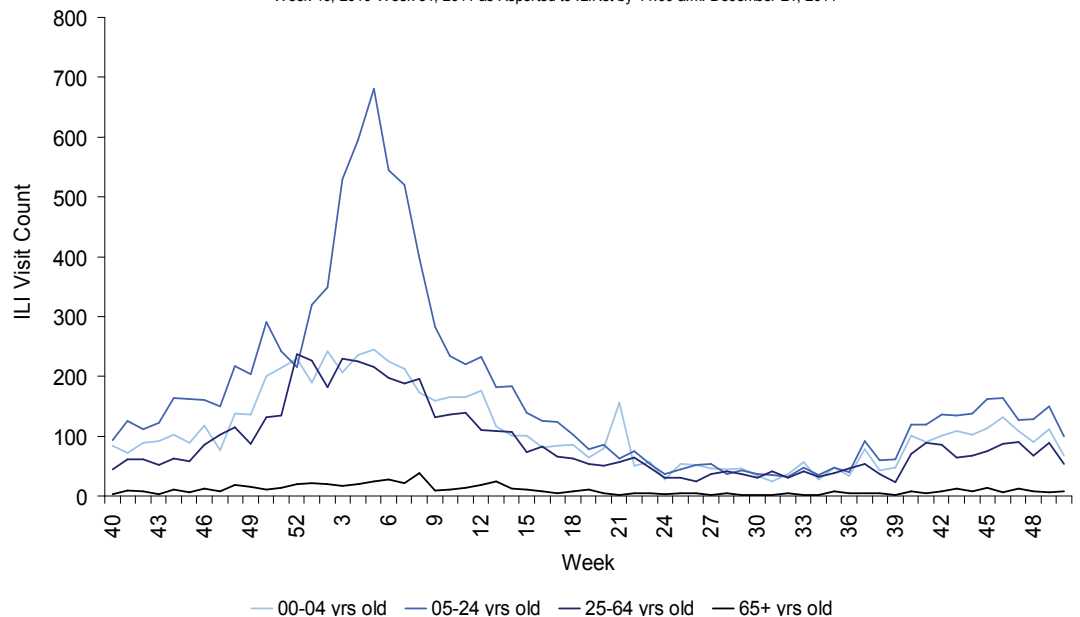
ILI visit counts are at low levels in all age groups

**FIGURE 1: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-Like Illness\* Reported by ILINet Sentinel Providers Statewide, 2008-2009 (Weeks 40-39), 2009-2010 (Weeks 40-39), 2010-2011 (Week 40-39), and 2011-2012 (Weeks 40-51) as Reported by 11:00 a.m. December 21, 2011**



\*ILI = Influenza-like illness, fever >100°F AND sore throat and/or cough *in the absence* of another known cause.  
 ^There is no week 53 during the 2009-2010, 2010-2011, and 2011-12 seasons; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

**FIGURE 2: Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Visit Counts Reported by ILINet Sentinel Providers Statewide by Age Group Week 40, 2010-Week 51, 2011 as Reported to ILINet by 11:00 a.m. December 21, 2011**

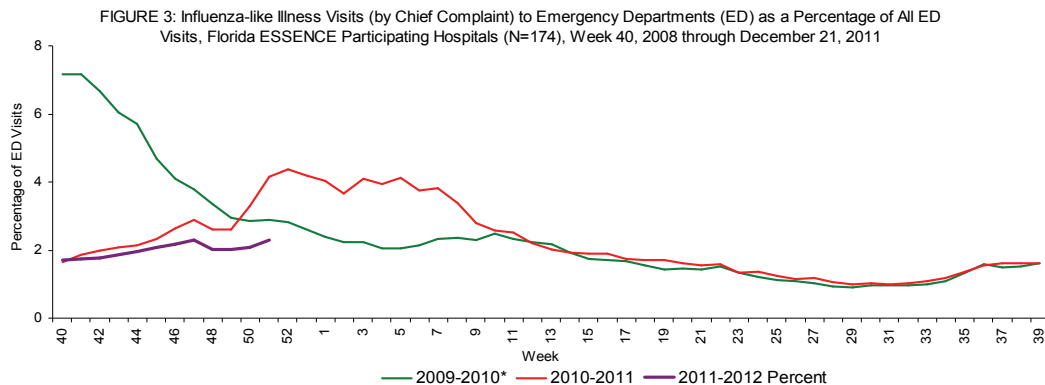


†Data presented here are counts, not proportions as included in Figure 2. This is because age group denominator data is not available through ILINet.

Florida uses ESSENCE for syndromic surveillance, which currently collects data daily from 174 hospital emergency departments (ED). These data are processed into 11 different syndrome categories based on the patient's chief complaint. One of the categories is ILI, which is composed of chief complaints that include the words "influenza" or "flu," or complaints that contain fever plus cough and/or sore throat.

**FIGURE 3** shows ESSENCE data on ILI visits to EDs as a percentage of all ED Visits.

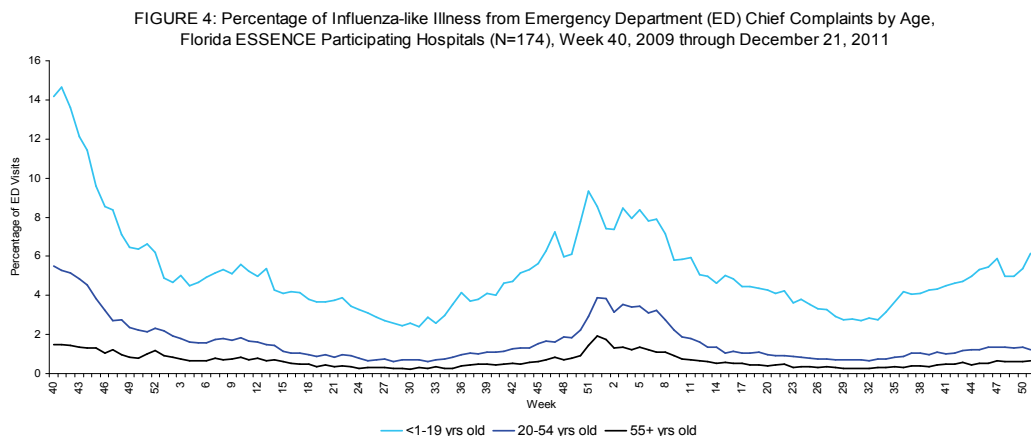
Overall activity for influenza-like illness reported in ESSENCE is similar to levels seen during the same time period in non-pandemic years.



\*There is no week 53 for the 2007-2008, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011 seasons; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

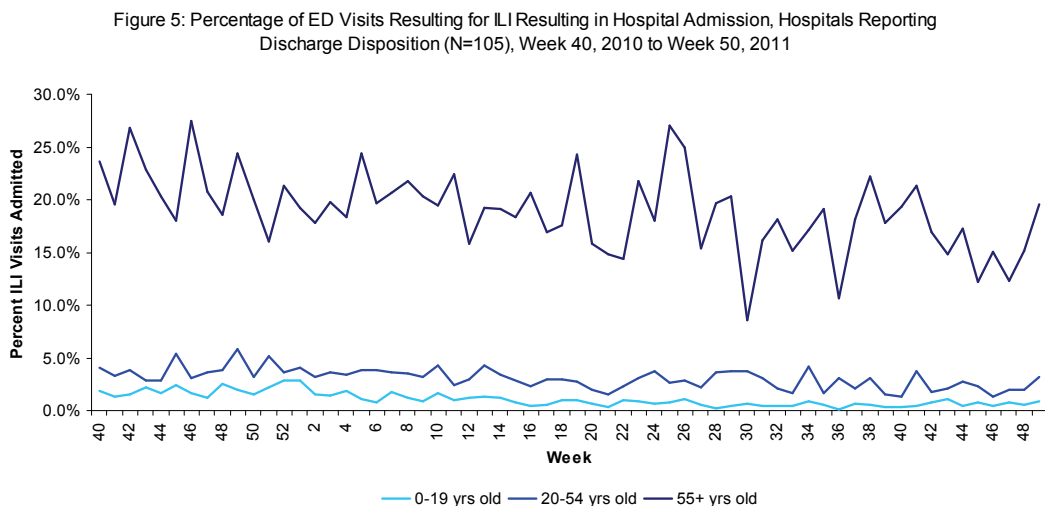
**FIGURE 4** shows percentage of ILI among all ED visits by age group.

Age-specific trends show ILI increasing in all age groups



One hundred five ESSENCE participating facilities are able to provide discharge disposition data for their ED visits going back to week 40, 2010. Using this information, the percent of ED visits for ILI that result in hospitalization can be calculated. The highest percentage of admissions is in the 55+ years old age group. The low number of visits in the 55+ age group causes variability in the ILI admission percentage from week to week.

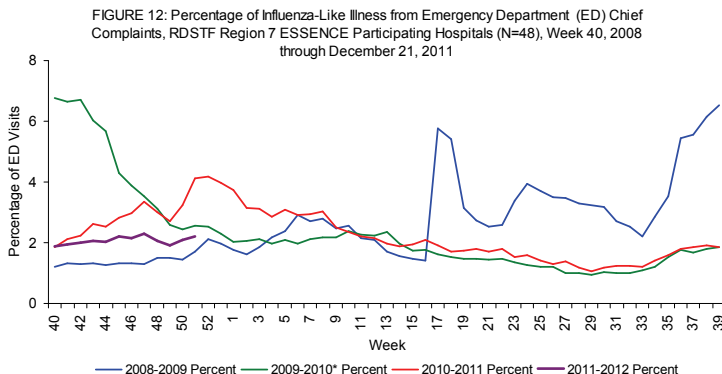
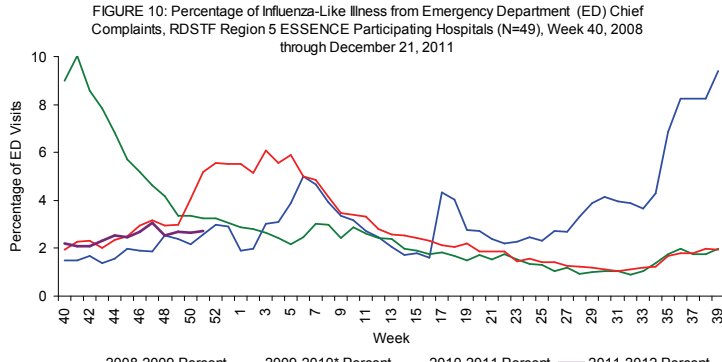
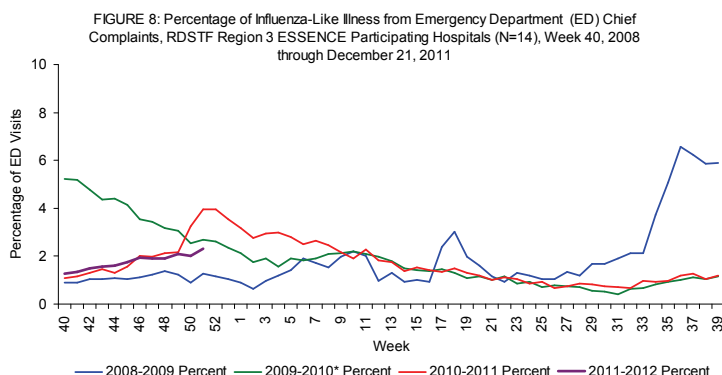
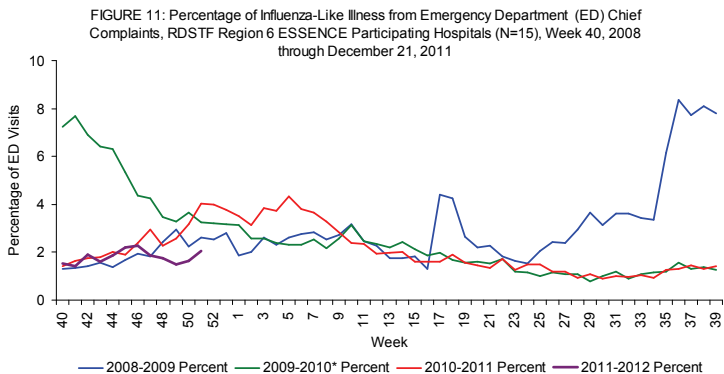
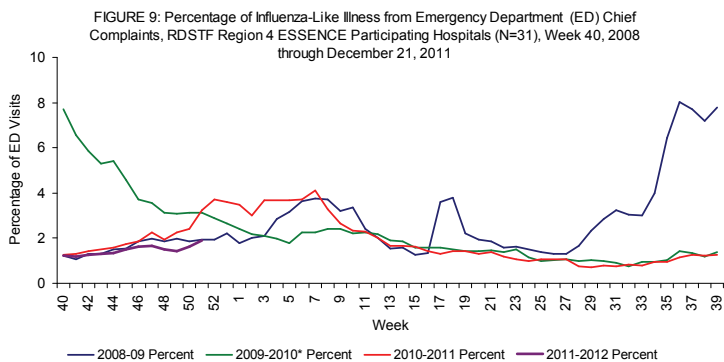
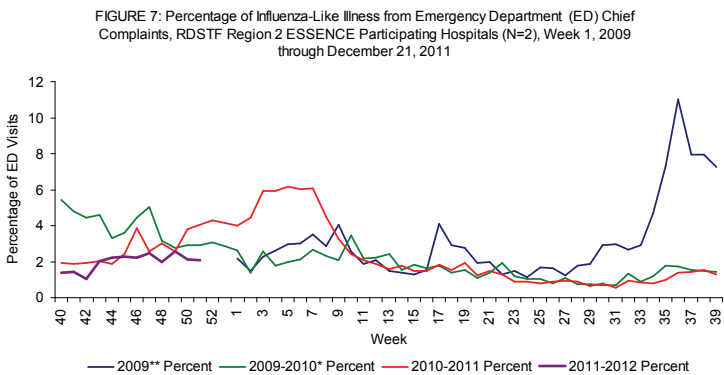
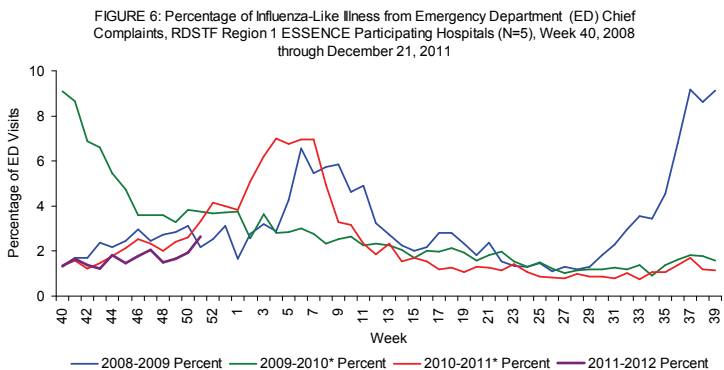
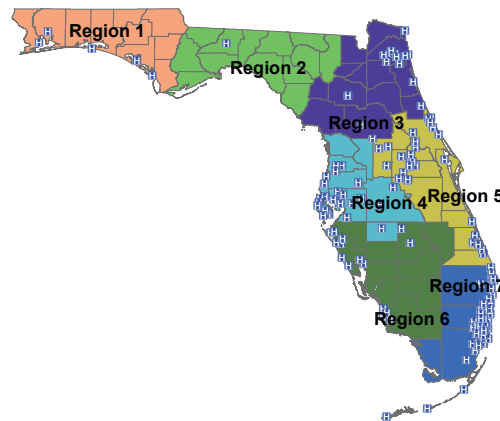
**FIGURE 5** shows the percentage of ED visits for ILI that resulted in hospitalization, by age group



**FIGURE 6 - FIGURE 12** describe ED chief complaint data from ESSENCE by Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF).

ILI activity in ESSENCE is at low levels in all RDSTF regions, and ILI is at levels similar to those seen in previous non-pandemic influenza seasons at this time.

Map 1: Hospitals Reporting Emergency Department (ED) Data to Florida ESSENCE, December 21, 2011 (N=174)



**Table 2** shows the number of specimens tested by the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL), how many are influenza positive, and how many are H1N1 or other influenza subtypes.

**FIGURE 13 - FIGURE 14** use BOL viral surveillance data to track the progress of influenza infection over time. They include weekly information on how many specimens are tested by the BOL, what proportion of those test positive for influenza, and what subtypes are found for the positive influenza specimens.

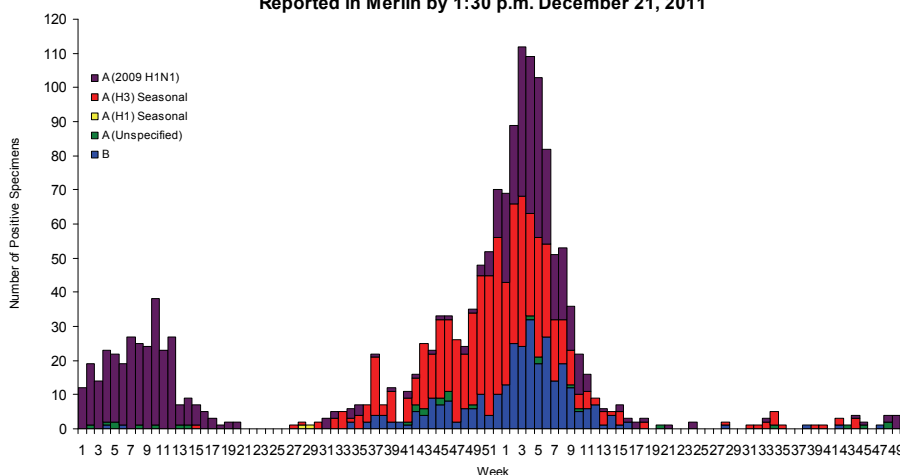
**In the summer months, small numbers of influenza specimens submitted to BOL tested positive. Specimens tested positive for influenza A H3, 2009 H1N1, and influenza B.**

No one strain of influenza is currently predominant in Florida.

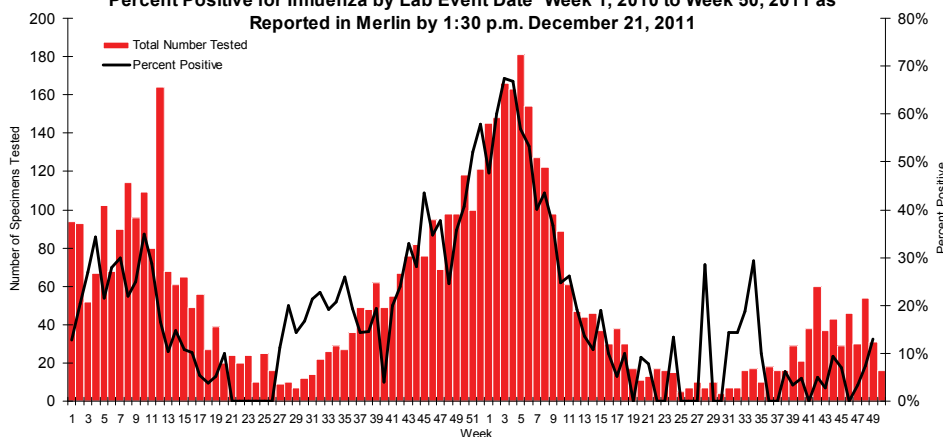
**Table 2: Bureau of Laboratories Viral Surveillance for Week 50 by Lab Event Date\* as reported by 1:30 p.m. December 21, 2011**

	Current Week 50	Previous Week 49
<b>Total Specimens Tested</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>
Influenza Positive Specimens (% of total)	0 (0.0%)	4 (12.9%)
H1N1 Positive Specimens (% of influenza positives)	-	4 (100.0%)
H3 Influenza A	-	-
Influenza A Unspecified	-	-
Influenza B Unspecified	-	-

**FIGURE 13: Number of Influenza-Positive Specimens Tested by the Florida Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) by Subtype by Lab Event Date\* Week 1, 2010 to Week 50, 2011 as Reported in Merlin by 1:30 p.m. December 21, 2011**



**FIGURE 14: Number of Specimens Tested by Florida Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) and Percent Positive for Influenza by Lab Event Date\* Week 1, 2010 to Week 50, 2011 as Reported in Merlin by 1:30 p.m. December 21, 2011**



\*Please note that lab event date is defined as the earliest of the following dates associated with the lab: date collected, date received by the laboratory, date reported, or date inserted.

For county-specific laboratory data, please refer to the Flu Lab Report in Merlin.

For instructions on how to use the Flu Lab Report, please see the Guide to Flu Lab Report on the Bureau of Epidemiology website:

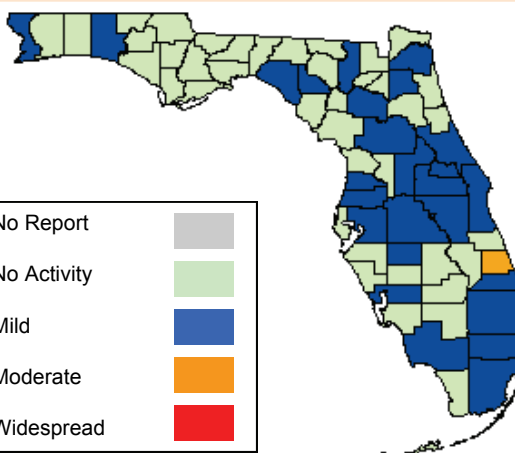
[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/htopics/flu/FluLabReportGuide.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/htopics/flu/FluLabReportGuide.pdf)

As of 9:00 a.m. December 21, 2011 a total of 67 (100%) counties had reported their weekly level of influenza activity. We have achieved 100% reporting for the this week due to enhanced follow-up with counties. *Please note that data reported by counties after the deadline Tuesday at 5 p.m. are recorded but may not be included in the activity map for previous weeks.*

**TABLE 3: Weekly County Influenza Activity for Week 50 (ending December 17, 2011) as Reported by 9:00 a.m. December 21, 2011**

Activity Level	Week 49 Number of Counties	Week 50 Number of Counties	Week 50 Counties
No Report	0	0	-
No Activity	41	40	Baker, Bay, Bradford, Calhoun, Citrus, DeSoto, Dixie, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsen, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hendry, Highlands, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Pinellas, Putnam, Santa Rose, Sarasota, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Union, Wakulla, Washington
Mild	26	26	Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Columbia, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lafayette, Lake, Marion, Martin, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Seminole, Taylor, Volusia, Walton
Moderate	0	1	St. Lucie
Widespread	0	0	-

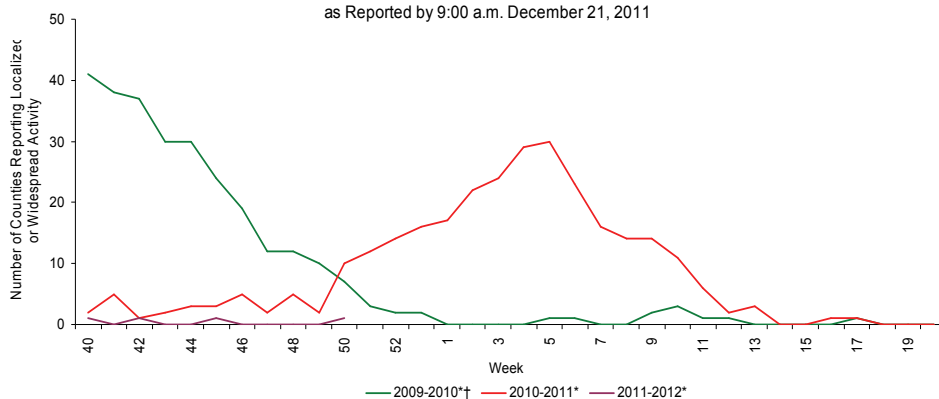
**Map 2: Weekly County Influenza Activity for Week 50 as Reported by 9:00 a.m. December 21, 2011**



One county reported moderate. No counties reported widespread activity

**FIGURE 15** shows the number of counties reporting localized or widespread activity, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011.

**FIGURE 15: Number of Counties Reporting Moderate (Localized) or Widespread Activity, 2009-2010 (Weeks 40-20), 2010-2011 (Weeks 40-20), and 2011-2012 (Weeks 40-50) as Reported by 9:00 a.m. December 21, 2011**



\* There is no week 53 during the 2007-2008, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011 seasons; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

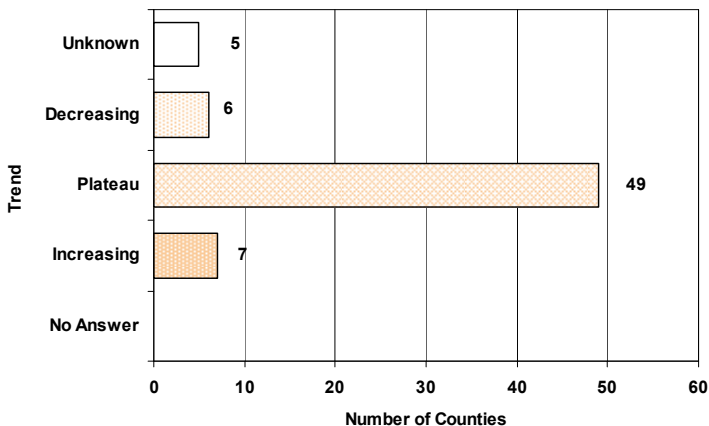
† As of Week 40 2010, the influenza activity code categorizations have changed. Please see [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctr/epi/FluActivityDef.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctr/epi/FluActivityDef.htm) for explanations of previous year activity code interpretations.



County influenza activity data is reported to the Bureau of Epidemiology through EpiGateway on a weekly basis by the county influenza coordinator. Specific information is requested about laboratory results, outbreak reports, and surveillance system activity. Figures 16-25 displayed below reflect a county's assessment of influenza activity within their county as a whole as well as influenza activity within specific settings. For week 50, six counties indicated that activity was decreasing, 49 indicated it was about the same as previous weeks, and seven indicated that activity was increasing.

**FIGURE 16** shows the assessment of the overall influenza activity trend in each county as reported by county health department flu coordinators for week 50 as of 9:00 a.m. December 21, 2011.

**FIGURE 16: Assessment of Overall Influenza Activity Trend**



Definitions for the County Influenza Activity Trends are available at:  
[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/CountyInfluenzaTrendGuide.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/CountyInfluenzaTrendGuide.html)

Counties are asked to evaluate influenza activity in certain settings within their county. Each setting has a scale for activity that ranges from none or minimal activity to very high activity. What defines each of the values varies by facility type, but the example of the assessment in elementary, middle, and high schools is included below. More detailed information on the meanings of the levels for each setting can be found on the webpage also included below.

No or very minimal activity -- Scattered cases of ILI with no increase in absenteeism or disruption of school activities.

Moderate activity -- Absenteeism elevated above baseline (in range of 10 to 25%) in some but fewer than half of schools where it is known; occasional children sent home because of ILI.

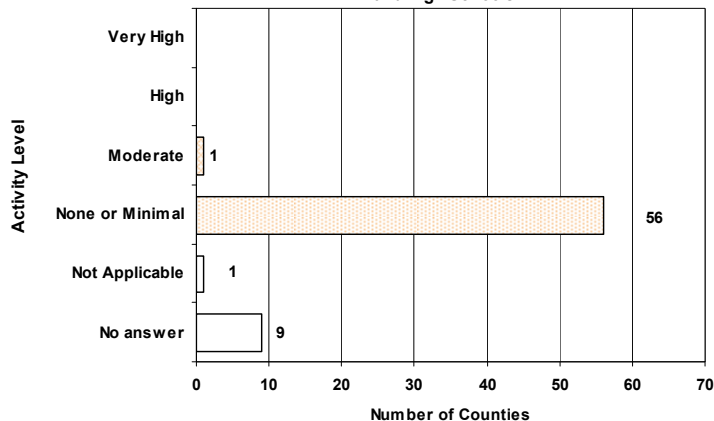
High activity -- Absenteeism elevated above baseline (in range of 10 to 25%) in more than half of schools; most schools sending several or many children home each day because of ILI.

Very high activity -- Absenteeism high enough to force curtailment of some or all school activities.

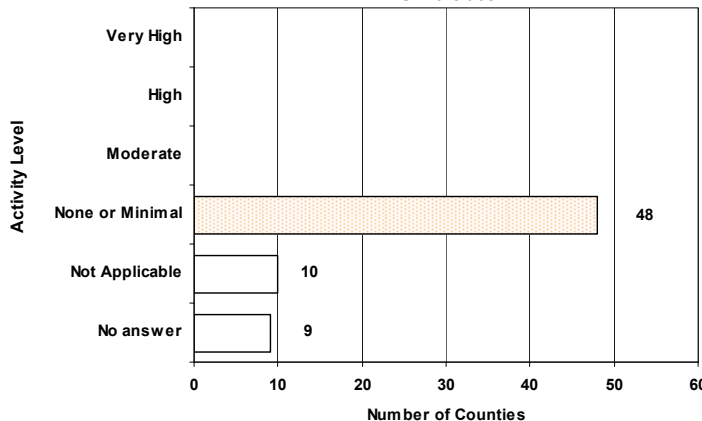
County influenza settings assessment guides are available at:  
[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/epi/FluAssessment.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/FluAssessment.htm)

**FIGURE 17 - FIGURE 18** show the activity levels in various facilities by county as reported by county health department flu coordinators for week 50 as of 9:00 a.m. December 21, 2011.

**FIGURE 17: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Elementary, Middle, and High Schools**

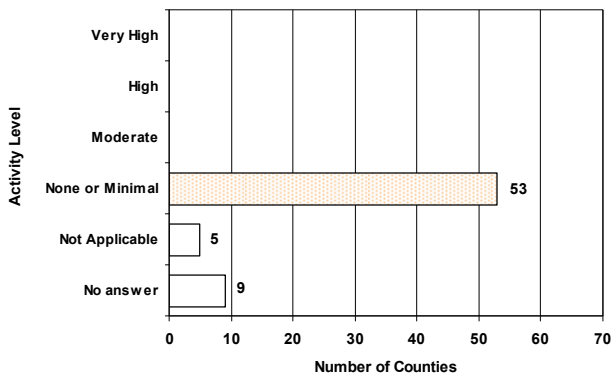


**FIGURE 18: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Colleges and Universities**

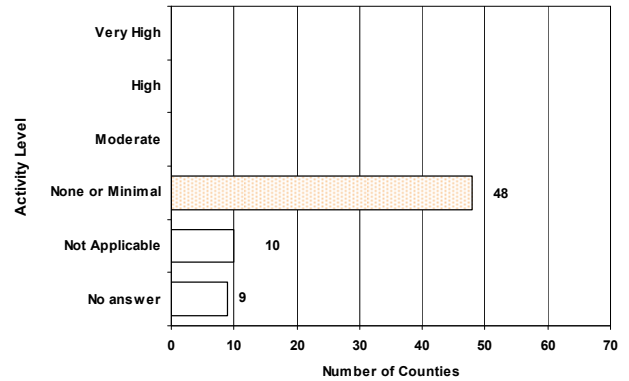


**FIGURE 19 - FIGURE 25** show the activity levels in various facilities by county as reported by county health department flu coordinators for week 50 as of 9:00 a.m. December 21, 2011.

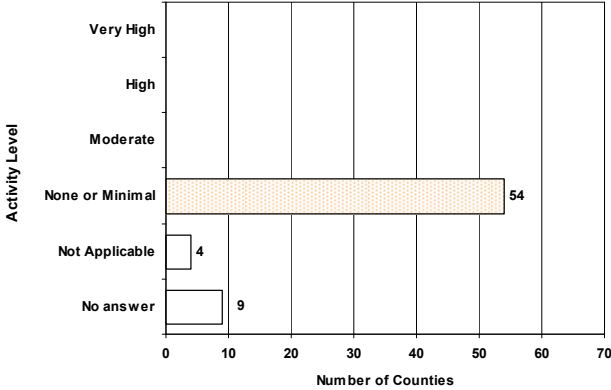
**FIGURE 19: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Jails/Prisons**



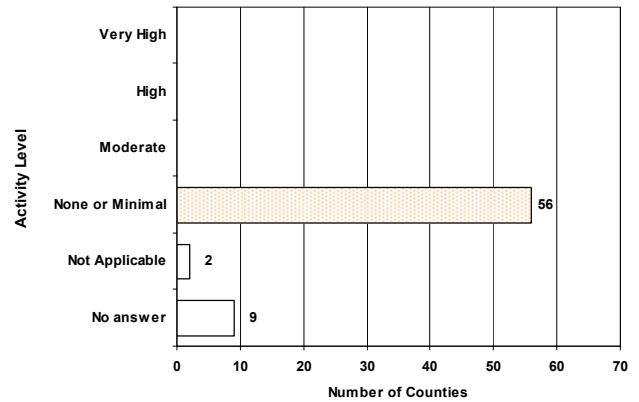
**FIGURE 20: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Retirement Facilities**



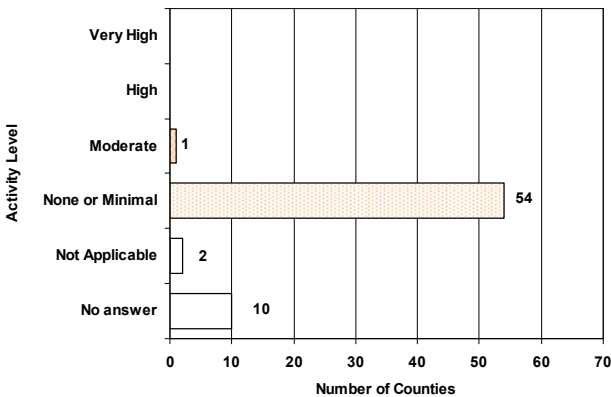
**FIGURE 21: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Nursing Homes**



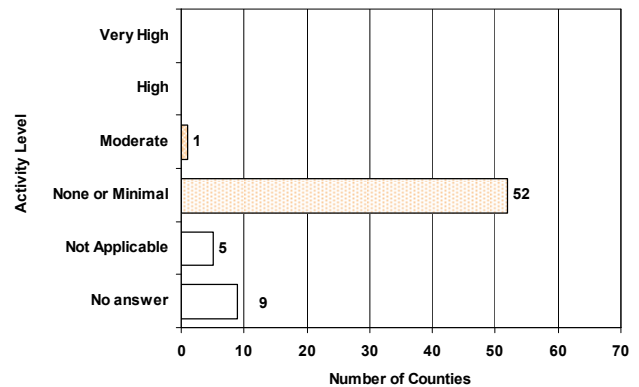
**FIGURE 22: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Health Care Facilities**



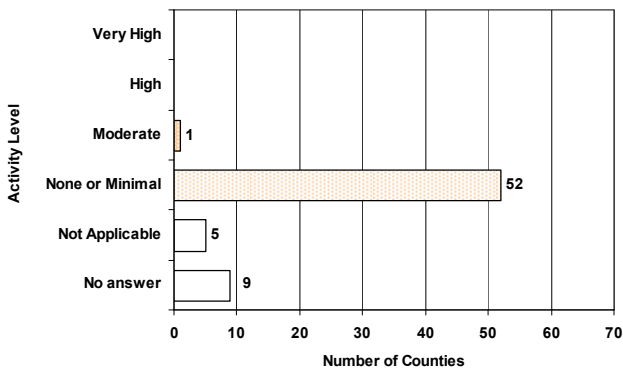
**FIGURE 23: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Daycare Centers**



**FIGURE 24: Assessment of Influenza Activity in Businesses**



**FIGURE 25: Assessment of Influenza Activity in State or Local Government Offices**





FDOH started the Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance System (FPIMSS) in 2006 in order to more timely assess the number of pneumonia and influenza deaths occurring in the state. This system was modeled on the CDC's 122 Cities Mortality Reporting System. Each week, the vital statistics office in the 24 most populous counties in Florida manually reviews the death certificates received for the previous week. Any mention of pneumonia or influenza on the death certificate, with certain prescribed exceptions, is counted as a pneumonia or influenza death. These counts, by age group, are then reported to the state through EpiGateway.

**FIGURE 26** shows Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths for 24 Florida Counties, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-11, and 2011-12

For week 50 (ending December 17) there were:

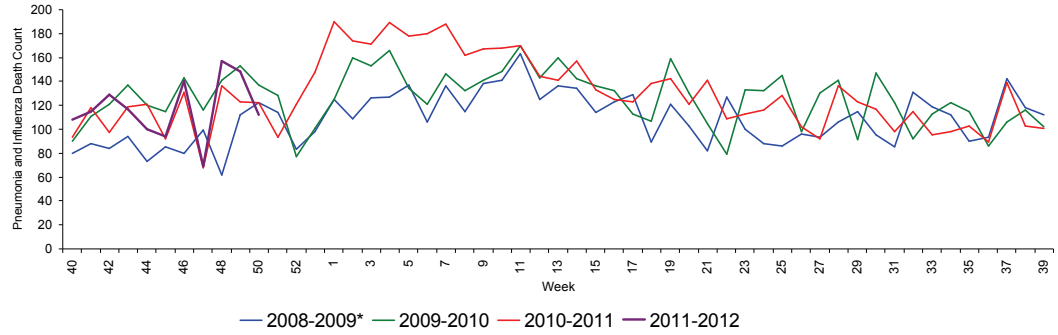
- **112 deaths reported**
- **Upper bound of 95% confidence interval for prediction: 184 deaths**
- **No excess deaths**

24 of 24 participating counties reported for week 50.

Note: One county has begun piloting an electronic vital records system. Numbers may change as new data from this system are received.

**FIGURE 27** shows Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths for 24 Florida Counties, week 40, 2009 - week 50, 2011 as reported to FPIMSS by 5:00 p.m. December 21, 2011

FIGURE 26: Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths for 24 Florida Counties, 2008-2009 (Weeks 40-39), 2009-2010 (Weeks 40-39), 2010-2011 (Week 40-38), and 2011-2012 (Week 40-50) as Reported to FPIMSS by 5:00 p.m. December 21, 2011



\*There is no week 53 for the 2007-2008, 2009-2010, and 2010-2011 seasons; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

FIGURE 27: Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths in Four Age Groups for 24 Florida Counties, Week 40, 2009-Week 50, 2011 as Reported to FPIMSS by 5:00 p.m. December 21, 2011

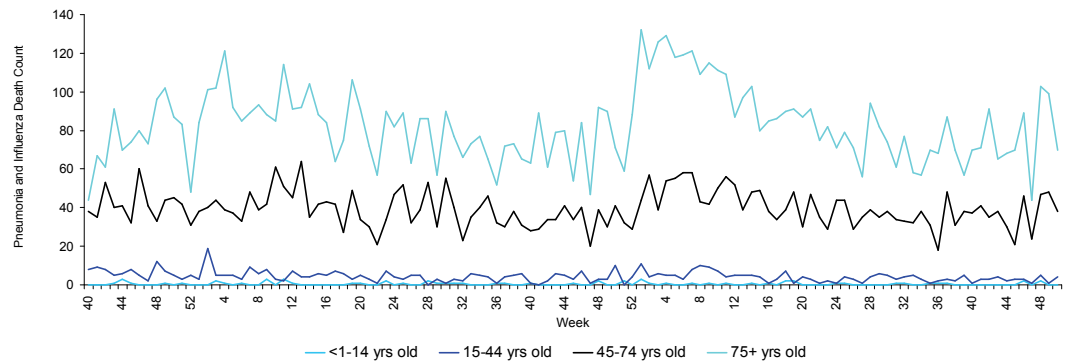
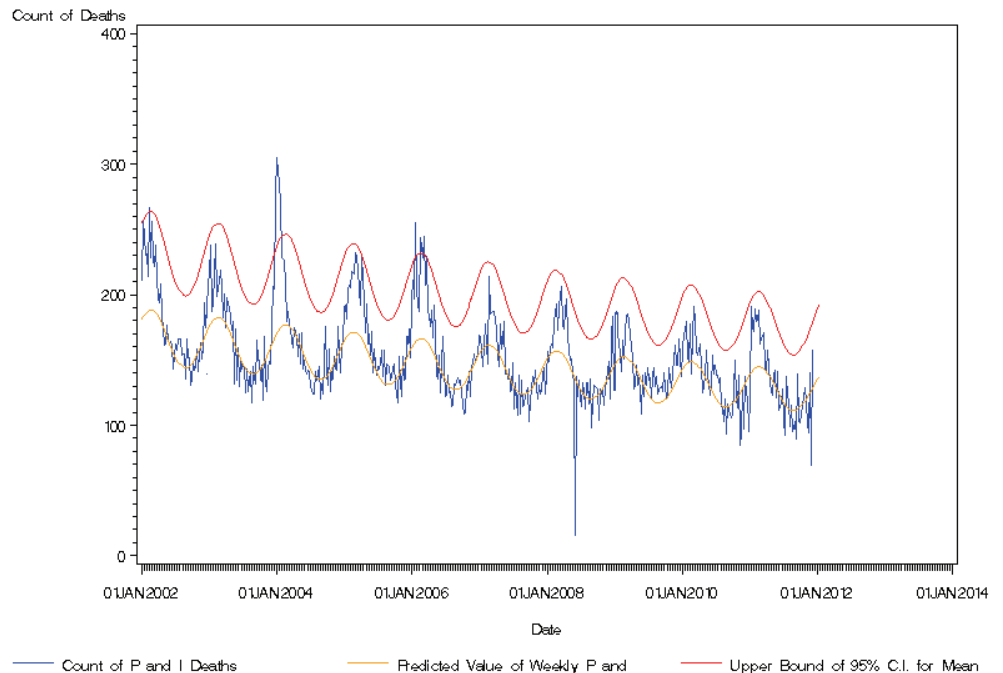


Figure 28: Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths for 24 Counties, Serfling Model January 24, 2009-December 17, 2011 as Reported to FPIMSS as of 5:00 p.m. December 21, 2011

**FIGURE 28** shows the reported count of pneumonia and influenza deaths for 24 Florida counties, the number of deaths predicted using the Serfling Model, and the upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for this prediction



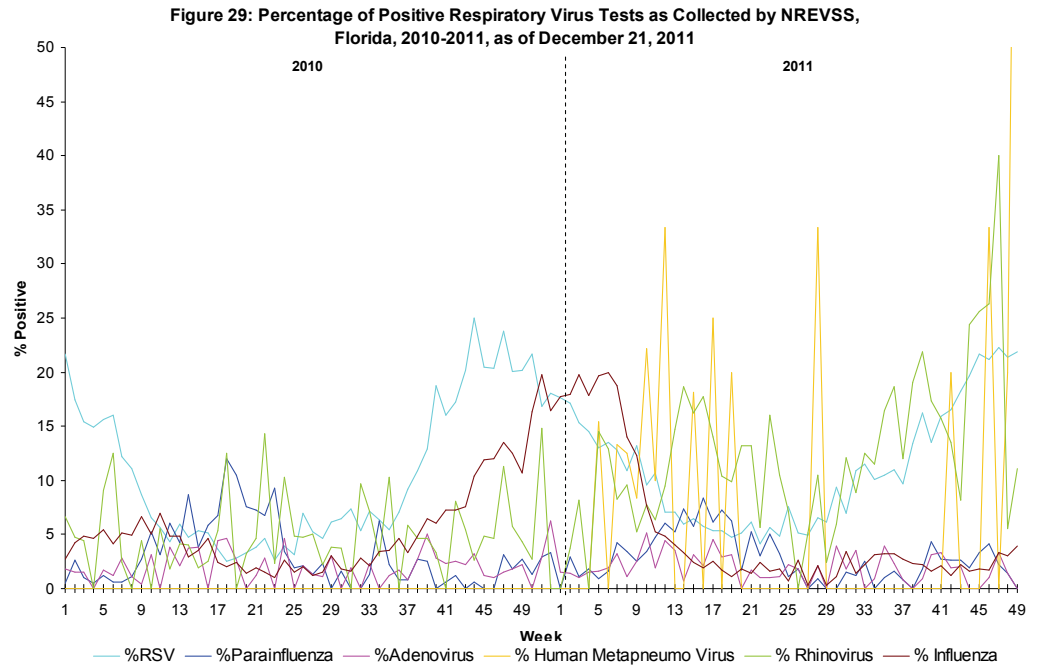
The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collects data from laboratory facilities around the country on a weekly basis. NREVSS monitors temporal and geographic patterns of RSV, human parainfluenza viruses, human metapneumo virus (HMPV), respiratory and enteric adenoviruses, and rotavirus. Florida has over 30 participating laboratory facilities.

**FIGURE 29** shows the percentage of positive tests for multiple respiratory viruses reported by NREVSS-participating laboratories in Florida

The six respiratory viruses summarized in Figure 1 are:

- RSV
- Parainfluenza 1-3
- Adenovirus
- HMPV
- Rhinovirus
- Influenza

Recent spikes in HMPV and Rhinovirus are due to low numbers of tests for these viruses. Data will change as more data are received.



## Influenza and ILI Outbreaks

In week 50 there were **no** influenza or ILI outbreaks reported into EpiCom.

No influenza or ILI outbreaks were reported in Florida during summer 2011, or so far in the 2011-12 season.

## Pediatric Influenza-Associated Mortality

In week 50 there were **no** influenza associated pediatric deaths reported in Florida.

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported in Florida during summer 2011, or so far in the 2011-12 season.