



Weeks 29-30: July 13 – July 26, 2014



Summary

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) uses many different surveillance systems to measure influenza activity. A summary of all these systems can be found on our website at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/floridafiu>.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS):

- In weeks 18 and 19, respectively, the first and second MERS cases were identified in Indiana and Florida travelers returning from the Middle East. More information can be found here: <http://www.flhealth.gov/mers> and here: <http://www.cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS/MERS/INDEX.HTML>.
- There is no evidence that the Indiana and Florida cases were epidemiologically linked to one another. There is no evidence of sustained community wide transmission of MERS. The MERS situation in the U.S. represents a very low risk to the general public in this country.

National Influenza:

- **Influenza virus continues to circulate at low levels nationally.**
- **The predominantly circulating strain in recent weeks has been influenza B, which is typical for this time of year.**
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continue to recommend vaccination as long as influenza viruses are circulating.
 - Nationally (including Florida), almost all circulating influenza is a good match for the vaccine.

State Influenza:

- **Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) influenza-like illness (ILI) visits have remained low, which is typical for this time of year;** current data suggest that the influenza season peaked during weeks 52-7.
- In weeks 29 and 30, 16 specimens were submitted to Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) for influenza testing. Five specimens tested PCR positive for influenza A (H3).
- **In week 29, the preliminary estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia or influenza in Florida is lower than the seasonal baseline, based on previous years' data.** Estimated deaths due to pneumonia and influenza are identified using preliminary death certificate data viewed in ESSENCE-FL.

July 30, 2014

Posted on the Bureau of Epidemiology website: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/floridafiu>

Produced by: Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health

Contributors: Yngrid Padilla, MPH; Heather Rubino, PhD; Lea Heberlein-Larson, MPH; Valerie Mock; Janet Hamilton, MPH; Leah Eisenstein, MPH

In this Issue:

Summary	1
NREVSS Respiratory Virus Surveillance	1
ESSENCE-FL Syndromic Surveillance Summary	2
ESSENCE-FL Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality	2
Influenza and ILI Outbreaks	2

TABLE 1: Summary of Florida ILI Activity for Week 30

Measure	Difference from previous week	Current week 30	Previous week 29
Percent of total visits to participating outpatient ILINet providers for ILI	▲ 0.3	0.9%	0.6%
Percent of emergency department and urgent care center visits (from ESSENCE-FL) due to ILI	No Change	1.2%	1.2%
Percent of laboratory specimens that were positive for influenza (out of total number tested)	▼ 38.5	0.0%	38.5%
Number of ILI outbreaks reported in EpiCom	No Change	1	1

NREVSS Respiratory Virus Surveillance

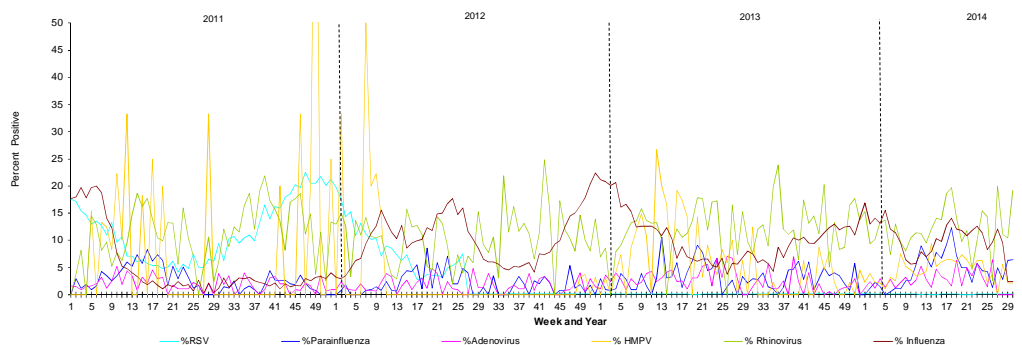
The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collects data from laboratories around the country on a weekly basis. NREVSS monitors temporal and geographic patterns of six common respiratory viruses. Five Florida facilities reported in week 30.

FIGURE 1 shows the percentage of positive tests for six respiratory viruses reported by NREVSS-participating laboratories in Florida.

The six respiratory viruses summarized in Figure 1 are:

- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- Parainfluenza 1-3
- Adenovirus
- Human Metapneumo Virus (HMPV)
- Rhinovirus
- Influenza

FIGURE 1: Percentage of Positive Respiratory Virus Tests as Collected by NREVSS, Florida Week 1, 2011 to Week 30, 2014, as of July 30, 2014

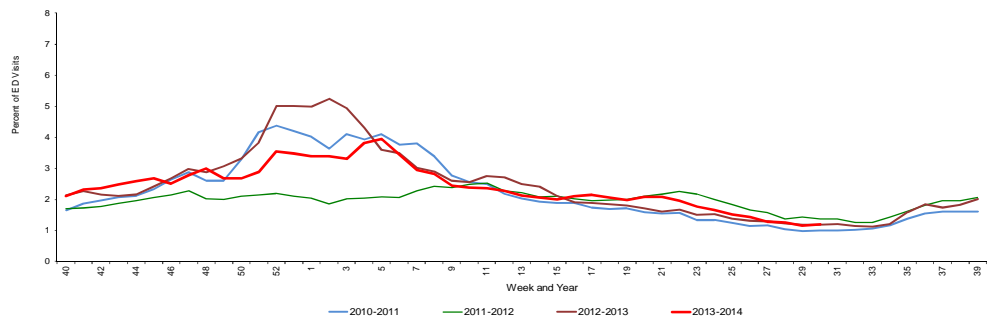


ESSENCE-FL collects data daily from 212 EDs and UCCs. These data are processed into 11 different syndrome categories based on the patient's chief complaint. One of the categories is ILI, which is composed of chief complaints that include the words "influenza" or "flu," or complaints that contain fever plus cough or sore throat.

FIGURE 2 shows ESSENCE-FL data on ILI visits to EDs and UCCs as a percentage of all visits.

Overall activity for ILI reported in ESSENCE-FL is at expected levels for this time of year.

FIGURE 2: Percentage of ILI visits from Emergency Department (ED) and Urgent Care Center (UCC) Chief Complaints, ESSENCE-FL Participating Facilities (N=212), Week 40, 2010 through Week 30, 2014 accessed July 29, 2014



ESSENCE-FL Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality

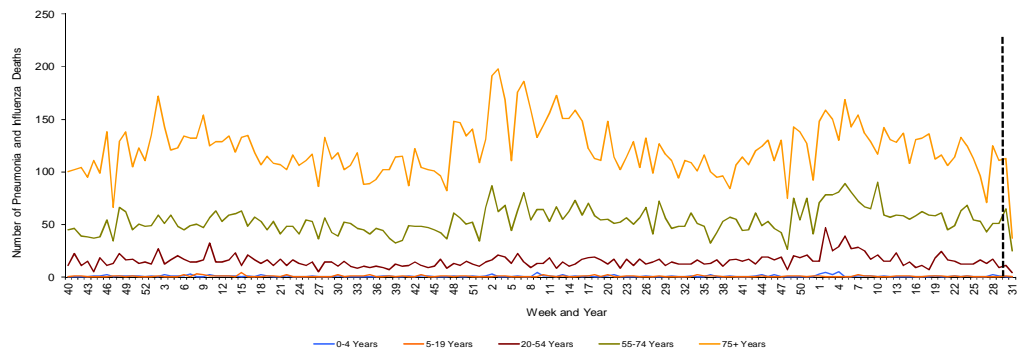
Over the past year, the FDOH Bureau of Vital Statistics and county health departments (CHDs) have been rolling out an electronic death record system for Florida. ESSENCE-FL now displays electronic vital statistics death record data from all 67 Florida counties. For pneumonia and influenza surveillance, death record literals are queried in ESSENCE-FL using a free-text query that searches for references to pneumonia and influenza on death certificates. Any mention of pneumonia or influenza in the death certificate literals, with certain exceptions, is counted as a pneumonia and influenza death. Current season pneumonia and influenza death numbers are preliminary estimates, and may change as more data are received. *The most recent data available are displayed here. ESSENCE-FL vital statistics death records data are currently considered to be complete through week 29, 2014.*

FIGURE 3 shows pneumonia and influenza deaths for all Florida counties by age group, Week 40, 2011 - Week 31, 2014, as reported into ESSENCE-FL.

For week 29 (ending July 19, 2014), there were:

- 163 preliminary estimated pneumonia and influenza deaths reported
- Upper bound of 95% confidence interval for prediction: 199 deaths
- **No excess deaths**

FIGURE 3: Vital Statistics Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths by Age Group, Reported into ESSENCE-FL, Week 40, 2011 through Week 31, 2014



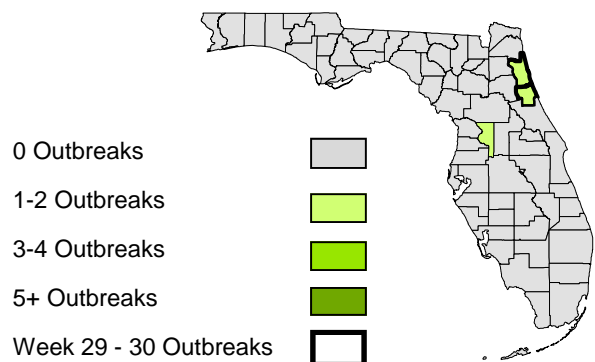
Death records data reported into ESSENCE-FL are currently considered to be complete through week 29, 2014.

Influenza and ILI Outbreaks

TABLE 2 : Summary of Florida ILI Outbreaks by Facility Type, Week 21, 2014-Week 30, 2014

Facility Type	Number of Outbreaks	Implicated Viruses
Jails and Prisons	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One outbreak due to enterovirus
Nursing Homes	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two outbreaks due to influenza A (H3)
Total	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One outbreak due to enterovirus • Two outbreaks due to influenza A (H3)

Map 1: Influenza and ILI outbreaks by County, Weeks 21-30, 2014 as Reported by 11:00 a.m. July 30, 2014



In weeks 29 and 30, two influenza outbreaks were reported in to EpiCom.

- St. Johns County: A long-term care facility reported 31 residents and 15 staff members with ILI. One of the ill residents tested positive for influenza A by rapid antigen test at the facility. Three nasopharyngeal specimens were collected and tested positive for influenza A (H3) by PCR at BPHL. Antiviral chemoprophylaxis was provided to all residents and staff. Influenza prevention and control measures were discussed with facility.
- Flagler County: An assisted living facility reported 17 residents with ILI. Two of the 17 were hospitalized, they tested positive for influenza A by rapid antigen test at the facility. Three nasopharyngeal specimens were collected and tested positive for influenza A (H3) by PCR at BPHL. Influenza prevention and control measures were discussed with the facility. All symptomatic residents were treated with prophylaxis.