This is the first weekly Florida influenza surveillance report for the 2007-08 season. Influenza surveillance* in Florida consists of six surveillance components: 1) Florida Sentinel Physician Influenza Surveillance Network (FSPISN); 2) Florida Pneumonia & Influenza Mortality Surveillance System; 3) State laboratory viral surveillance; 4) County influenza activity levels; 5) Notifiable Disease Reports: Influenza-associated deaths in children & post-influenza infection encephalitis; 6) Influenza or ILI outbreaks.

During week 40 statewide influenza activity was reported as sporadic. The proportion of patient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) as reported by the Florida Sentinel Physician Influenza Surveillance Network was 1.03 percent and this is below the state threshold for moderate activity of 1.75 percent. Two of four specimens tested by Bureau of Laboratories were positive for influenza. No counties reported widespread activity. One county reported localized activity. Eight counties reported sporadic activity and 35 counties reported no activity. Twenty-three counties did not report. The graph below shows the progression of the 2006-07 & 2007-08 Florida influenza seasons as monitored by three** of six surveillance systems.

*The purposes of these surveillance systems are to determine when and where influenza activity is occurring, to identify circulating viruses, to detect changes in the circulating influenza viruses, to track patterns of influenza-associated morbidity and mortality and estimate the overall impact of influenza in the state of Florida.
During week 40, 1.03% of patient visits to Florida sentinel providers were due to ILI. This percentage is below the statewide baseline of 1.75%. The percentage of visits ranged from 0.00% in the Southwest and Northwest regions to 1.67% in the Northeast region. For the 2006-07 influenza season the statewide ILI activity percent was 1.60% percent for week 40.

Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Sentinel Providers Statewide Summary 2007-08, 2006-07, and 2005-06

*FSPISN reporting is incomplete for this week (45%). Numbers may change as more reports are received.

**The 2006—07 threshold for moderate activity is calculated from the previous 3 years of FSPISN data. Only weeks with 10% or greater of laboratory specimens testing positive are included in the calculation. The threshold is only specific to 2006—07 data.

**Regression Prediction Model of Proportion of Influenza-Like Illness**

During week 40, the total count of pneumonia and influenza (P&I) deaths reported was below the epidemic threshold. This indicates there were no deaths in excess of the expected count for week 40 and observed mortality does not indicate that Florida has surpassed the epidemic threshold for this week.
Since September 30th, 2007, Florida Department of Health Laboratories have tested a total of 4 specimens for influenza viruses and 2 (50%) were positive. Both of the positive influenza specimens were influenza A unsub-typed. Laboratory information is preliminary and may change as additional results are received.
The table below shows the weighted ILI activity by region as reported by Florida sentinel physicians for the 2006-07 & 2007-08 seasons. The graphs below include ILI activity as reported by sentinel physicians and FDOH laboratory data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>2007-08 ILI %</th>
<th>2006-07 ILI %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centraleast</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centralwest</td>
<td>1.40%</td>
<td>1.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northcentral</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>1.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>1.40%</td>
<td>2.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>0.35%</td>
<td>2.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>2.62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The diagrams show the number of isolates and weighted ILI activity by region over time.
During week 40, Palm Beach County reported localized activity, 8 counties (Alachua, Brevard, Broward, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, and Volusia) reported sporadic activity. Thirty-five counties reported no activity. Twenty-three counties did not report.

**Weekly County Influenza Activity**

(Week ending October 6, 2007 - Week 40)

County influenza activity levels are reported by county health department epidemiologists.

![Map showing level of influenza activity by county](image)

**Level of Influenza Activity by County**

- No Report
- No Activity
- Sporadic
- Localized
- Widespread

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Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Epidemiology
VI. REPORTS OF INFLUENZA OR INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) OUTBREAKS

On October 10, 2007 Palm Beach CHD Epidemiology reported ILI activity in two long-term care facilities. In addition, a local laboratory hospital reported four positive cases of influenza A by rapid antigen testing.

On September 27, 2007 Miami-Dade CHD Epidemiology reported two university students with ILI symptoms and confirmed influenza A by PCR testing at the State Laboratory—Jacksonville.

Influenza and ILI outbreaks should be reported via EpiCom at: [https://www.epicom.fl.net](https://www.epicom.fl.net) on the Influenza Forum.

VII. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE REPORTS: INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN (<18 YEARS) & POST-INFLUENZA INFECTION ENCEPHALITIS

As of the week ending September 30, 2007, no influenza-associated deaths among those <18 years of age and/or post influenza infection encephalitis were reported in the state of Florida.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reportable Disease</th>
<th># of Cases 07-08 Influenza Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza-associated deaths among those &lt;18 years of age</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-influenza infection encephalitis</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Influenza-associated deaths among those < 18 years of age and/or post-influenza infection encephalitis are reportable; case report forms can be accessed at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/topicscrforms.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/topicscrforms.htm).
Since the recent outbreak activity began at the end of December 2003, there have been a total of 330 confirmed human cases and 202 deaths. Cases and deaths occurred in the following nations: Azerbaijan 8 cases and 5 deaths; Cambodia 7 cases and 7 deaths; China 25 cases and 16 deaths; Djibouti 1 case 0 deaths; Egypt 38 cases and 15 deaths; Indonesia 108 cases and 87 deaths; Lao People’s Democratic Republic 2 cases and 2 deaths; Nigeria 1 case and 1 death; Iraq 3 cases and 2 deaths; Thailand 25 cases and 17 deaths; Turkey 12 cases and 4 deaths; and, Vietnam 100 cases and 46 deaths. Changes in the WHO case definition for human infection with avian influenza H5N1 can be found here:
For a complete analysis and summary of WHO confirmed human cases of H5N1 from 12/1/2003 to 4/30/2006, please visit:

The current phase of alert as defined by the WHO global influenza preparedness plan is phase 3, which states that human infections with a new subtype are occurring, but no human-to-human spread, or at most rare instances of spread to a close contact. At the present time the WHO is not recommending restrictions on travel to areas affected by H5N1 avian influenza, but is suggesting that travelers to these areas avoid contact with live animal markets and poultry farms, and any free-ranging or caged poultry. Evidence suggests that the primary route of infection at this time is associated with direct contact with infected poultry, or surfaces and objects contaminated by their droppings.

Find more information at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/htopics/BirdFlu.htm