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), National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS), EpiCom, and Florida ILINet in order to track influenza activity in the state.

State:
- Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity is low in many of our monitoring systems. Influenza activity levels seen in ESSENCE and ILINet are similar to previous non-pandemic years at this time.
- In weeks 24-25, no specimens tested by the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) tested positive for influenza. One influenza hospitalization was reported in Marion County.
- No other pathogens are currently causing significant levels of influenza-like illness in Florida.

### TABLE 1: Summary of Florida Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity for Week 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Difference from previous week</th>
<th>Current week 25</th>
<th>Previous week 24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent of visits to ILINet providers for ILI</td>
<td>▼ 0.2</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of emergency department visits (from ESSENCE) due to ILI</td>
<td>▲ 0.1</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of hospital admissions (from ESSENCE) due to ILI</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of laboratory specimens that were positive for influenza (of 22 specimens tested in week 25)</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ILI outbreaks reported in Epi Com</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of 2009 H1N1 Cases Reported</td>
<td>▲ 1</td>
<td>1 Hospitalization</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Pediatric Influenza Deaths Reported</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NREVSS Respiratory Virus Surveillance

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 respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human parainfluenza viruses (HPIV), respiratory and enteric adenoviruses and rotavirus. Florida has over 45 participating laboratory facilities.

**FIGURE 1** 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 (HPIV)
- Adenovirus
- Human Metapneumo Virus
- Rhinovirus
- Influenza

**Note:** In April, May, and June, the percentage of positive parainfluenza tests has increased dramatically. Concurrently, the number of parainfluenza tests performed each week declined, resulting in an increase in percent positive. During peak activity in 2009, there were 400-800 tests performed each week, compared with between 25-100 each week in recent months. The majority of parainfluenza viruses are type 3.
**ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance Summary-Statewide**

The Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) currently collects data daily from 143 hospital emergency departments (ED). Data are processed into 11 different syndrome categories based on the patient’s chief complaint. One category is influenza-like illness (ILI), which comprises chief complaints that include “influenza” or “flu,” or either fever and cough or sore throat.

**Overall activity for influenza-like illness reported in ESSENCE is near expected levels for this time of year.** Percentage of ILI visits to Florida ED are slightly higher than previous summers, but much lower than during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.

**Florida Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance**

The Florida Department of Health 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 surveillance 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 via the EpiGateway web-interface. As of week 44 we are now using a Serfling model to more accurately calculate our predicted values for weekly pneumonia and influenza mortality.

**For week 25 (ending June 26, 2010) there were:**
- 145 deaths reported
- Upper bound of 95% confidence interval for prediction: 148 deaths
- NO excess deaths

24 out of 24 participating counties reported their data for week 25.