Week 47: November 17 - 23, 2013

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 page 11.

National:
- Influenza and influenza-like illness (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 46.
- Since first identified in the U.S., the CDC has reported 340 cases of influenza A H3N2v infection and one fatality. No cases of H3N2v infection have been reported in Florida. For information, visit http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/h3n2v-cases.htm.

For current information on novel or pandemic strains of influenza (including avian or swine origin influenza A) visit http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-from-animals/novel-influenza-viruses.html.

State:
- Most Florida counties reported mild influenza activity. Twenty counties reported increasing influenza activity.
- Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) ILI visits have increased overall in recent weeks and the statewide percent of ED visits for ILI is slightly above typical levels for this time of year.
  - North, Southwest and Central Florida have elevated activity for this time of year.
- In Florida, the most common influenza subtype detected at the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) in recent weeks has been influenza A (2009 H1N1).
  - In week 47, 18 of 41 specimens submitted for influenza testing at BPHL tested PCR positive for influenza. Six tested PCR positive for influenza A (2009 H1N1), and twelve tested PCR positive for influenza A unspecified. All of these are seasonal strains of influenza.
  - Nationally (including Florida), almost all circulating influenza is a good match for the vaccine.
- No influenza or ILI outbreaks (epidemiologically linked cases of influenza in a single setting) were reported in week 47.
- No pediatric influenza-associated deaths were reported in week 47. One pediatric influenza-associated death has been reported in the 2013-2014 season.
- The preliminary estimated number of Florida deaths due to pneumonia or influenza in week 46 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.
- Because of low influenza activity in most regions of the state, Florida reported regional influenza activity to CDC in week 47. This activity level represents the geographic spread of influenza in Florida.

Map 1: County Influenza Activity Week 47, 2013

Forty-two counties reported mild influenza activity. For more information, see page 6.

Map 2: Influenza and ILI Outbreaks Week 47, 2013

Four outbreaks of influenza or ILI have been reported since Week 40, 2013. For more information, see page 10.
Descriptions of Florida influenza and ILI surveillance systems can be found on page 11.

**TABLE 1: Summary of Florida Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity for Week 47**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Difference from Previous Week</th>
<th>Current Week 47</th>
<th>Previous Week 46</th>
<th>Page of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall statewide activity code reported to CDC</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Sporadic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of visits to ILINet providers for ILI</td>
<td>▲ 0.1</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of ED and UCC visits (from ESSENCE-FL) due to ILI</td>
<td>▲ 0.3</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of laboratory specimens that were positive for influenza</td>
<td>▼ 10.6</td>
<td>43.9%</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting moderate influenza activity</td>
<td>▲ 2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting widespread influenza activity</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting increasing influenza activity</td>
<td>▼ 1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting decreasing influenza activity</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ILI outbreaks reported in EpiCom</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ILINet Influenza-Like Illness-Statewide**

ILINet is a nationwide surveillance system composed of sentinel providers. Florida has 101 providers enrolled in ILINet who submit weekly ILI and total visit counts, as well as submit ILI specimens to the BPHL for confirmatory testing. For this season, the Bureau of Epidemiology (DCBE) has designated 13 of these ILINet physicians’ offices as Super-Sentinels. These Super-Sentinels receive more active follow-up from DCBE and participating county health departments (CHDs), with the goal of increasing data quality and surveillance specimen submission.

**FIGURE 1** shows the percentage of visits for ILI* reported by ILINet sentinel providers statewide.

The percent of visits to ILINet sentinels outpatient physicians for ILI is at expected levels for this time of year. Fifty-six of 101 ILINet sentinels reported visit counts as of 5:00 p.m., November 26, 2013.

Twelve of 13 ILINet Super-Sentinels reported visit counts as of 5:00 p.m., November 26, 2013.

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

In week 47, the number of visits to ILINet sentinels for ILI increased in the 5-24, 25-64 and 65+ age groups.

*ILI = Influenza-like illness, fever >100°F AND sore throat and/or cough in the absence of another known cause.

†Data presented here are counts, not proportions as included in Figure 2. This is because age group denominator data is not available through ILINet.
ESSENCE-FL collects data daily from 187 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 3** shows ESSENCE-FL data on ILI visits to EDs and UCCs as a percentage of all visits.

The percent of visits to EDs and UCCs for ILI is near expected levels for this time of year.

**Figure 4** shows percentage of ILI among all ED and UCC visits by age.

The percent of ED and UCC visits for ILI is similar to previous years at this time for the 0-4, 5-24 and 25-64 age groups. ILI visits for the 0-4 age group are higher than previous years at this time.
The percent of ED and UCC visits for ILI is near expected levels.

RDSTF Regions 1-6 report increasing visits for ILI to EDs and UCCs in week 47, 2013.

RDSTF Region 7 reports decreasing visits for ILI to EDs and UCCs in week 47, 2013.

Regions 2, 3, and 4 report higher numbers of visits for ILI to EDs and UCCs than in previous seasons at this time.

*There is no week 53 for the 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2013-2014 seasons; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.
**TABLE 2** shows the number of specimens tested by BPHL, how many are influenza positive and their subtypes.

**FIGURE 12 - FIGURE 13** use BPHL viral surveillance data to track the progress of influenza infection over time. They include weekly information on how many specimens are tested by the BPHL, what proportion of those test positive for influenza and what subtypes are identified.

Recent influenza specimens submitted to BPHL tested positive for influenza A 2009 H1N1, influenza B and influenza A (H3).

In recent weeks, influenza A (2009 H1N1) has been the most common strain of influenza detected by BPHL.

**Table 2: Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) Viral Surveillance for Week 47 by Lab Event Date* as reported by 10:00 a.m. November 27, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Week 47</th>
<th>Previous Week 46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Specimens Tested</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza positive specimens (% of total)</td>
<td>18 (43.9%)</td>
<td>30 (54.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A (2009 H1N1) (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>6 (33.3%)</td>
<td>28 (93.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A (H3) (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A not yet subtyped (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>12 (66.7%)</td>
<td>2 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B unspecified (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that lab event date is defined as the earliest of the following dates associated with the lab: date specimen 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.

As of 9:30 a.m. November 27, 2013 a total of 67 (100%) counties had reported their weekly level of influenza activity. 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 47 (ending November 23, 2013) as Reported by 9:30 a.m. November 27, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Level</th>
<th>Week 47 Number of Counties</th>
<th>Week 46 Number of Counties</th>
<th>Week 47 Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Activity</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Bay, Calhoun, Charlotte, Columbia, Dixie, Franklin, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Jefferson, Levy, Liberty, Monroe, Nassau, Santa Rosa, Taylor, Union, Walton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bradford, Leon, Madison, Martin, Orange, Osceola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

County influenza activity data is reported to DCBE through EpiGateway on a weekly basis each county influenza coordinator. Specific information is requested about laboratory results, outbreak reports and surveillance system activity. Figures 14-23 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 47, six counties indicated that activity was decreasing, 37 indicated activity was about the same as previous weeks and 20 indicated that activity was increasing.

**FIGURE 14** shows the assessment of the overall influenza activity trend in each county as reported by CHD influenza coordinators for week 47 as of 9:30 a.m. November 27, 2013.

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 15 - FIGURE 18** show the activity levels in various facilities by county as reported by CHD influenza coordinators for week 47 as of 9:30 a.m., November 27, 2013.
FIGURE 19 - FIGURE 23 show the activity levels in various facilities by county as reported by CHD influenza coordinators for week 47 as of 9:30 a.m., November 27, 2013.

In week 47, 2013, no influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.

One influenza-associated pediatric mortality has been reported so far in the 2013-2014 influenza season.

Pediatric Influenza-Associated Mortality
Over the past year, the FDOH Bureau of Vital Statistics and 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 46, 2013.

**FIGURE 24** shows the count of preliminary estimated pneumonia and influenza deaths for all Florida counties, the number of deaths predicted using a multi-year regression model, and the upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for this prediction.

For week 46 (ending November 16, 2013):
- 157 preliminary estimated pneumonia and influenza deaths reported
- Upper bound of 95% confidence interval for prediction: 193 deaths
- No excess deaths.

**FIGURE 25** shows pneumonia and influenza deaths for all Florida counties, Week 40, 2010 - Week 48, 2013, as reported into ESSENCE-FL.

**FIGURE 26** shows pneumonia and influenza deaths for all Florida counties by age group, Week 40, 2010 - Week 48, 2013, as reported into ESSENCE-FL.

*Death records data reported into ESSENCE-FL are currently considered to be complete through week 46, 2013.*
FIGURE 27 shows the percentage of positive tests for multiple respiratory viruses reported by NREVSS-participating laboratories in Florida.

The 6 respiratory viruses summarized in Figure 27 are:
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- Parainfluenza 1-3
- Adenovirus
- Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)
- Rhinovirus
- Influenza

Influenza and ILI Outbreaks

In week 47, 2013 no influenza or ILI outbreaks were reported in EpiCom.

Four outbreaks of influenza or ILI have been reported so far in the 2013-2014 influenza season.

Map 7: Influenza and ILI outbreaks by county, Week 40, 2012 - Week 47, 2013 as Reported by 9:30 a.m. November 27, 2013

Four influenza or ILI outbreaks have been reported into EpiCom in the 2013-2014 season so far.
Florida ILINet

Measures trends in ILI visits to outpatient doctor’s offices
Network of volunteer healthcare providers who:
  - Report ILI and total visit counts every week
  - Submit specimens for confirmatory testing

ESSENCE-FL Syndromic Surveillance

Measures trends in ILI visits and hospital admissions from emergency departments and urgent care clinics
EDs and UCCs electronically transmit visit data into ESSENCE-FL daily
Visit data summarized in the Florida Flu Review include:
  - Percent of ED/urgent care visits due to ILI
  - Percent of ED/urgent care visitors with ILI who are admitted to the hospital

ESSENCE-FL Vital Statistics Portal

Measures influenza mortality by using Death certificates with pneumonia or influenza listed as a cause of death as a proxies
Death certificate data from the Bureau of Vital Statistics can be accessed through ESSENCE-FL and are used for pneumonia and influenza mortality surveillance

County Influenza Activity in EpiGateway

Uses data provided by CHDs to create a county-by-county breakdown of influenza and ILI activity around the state
CHD epidemiologists report their county’s influenza and ILI surveillance data weekly into the EpiGateway website
  - Influenza activity is classified as: No Activity, Mild, Moderate, or Widespread
  - Setting-specific influenza activity and influenza trend is also reported

Outbreak Reporting in EpiCom

Tracks influenza and ILI outbreak investigations by CHDs and shows what types of influenza are responsible for outbreaks and where outbreaks are occurring
CHD epidemiologists report outbreaks of influenza or ILI into EpiCom, Florida’s online disease communication system
  - Outbreaks are defined as two or more cases of influenza or ILI in a specific setting

BPHL

BPHL performs confirmatory testing and subtyping on surveillance specimens from ILINet sentinel providers, outbreak investigations, patients with severe or unusual influenza presentations and medical examiners

Case-Based Influenza Surveillance

Pediatric Influenza-Associated Mortality
  - Deaths in children with laboratory-confirmed influenza infection are reportable in Florida
Influenza due to Novel or Pandemic Strains
  - Patients with influenza infection due to novel or pandemic strains are reportable in Florida

National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)

Measures trends in different viruses that cause respiratory disease
Network of laboratories who report counts of test results for common respiratory viruses, including influenza, RSV, rhinovirus and others

Information on locating influenza vaccination can be found using the flu vaccine locator at: http://flushot.healthmap.org/