Week 41: October 5 - 11, 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 page 11.

Enterovirus D68 activity:
- Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) is one of more than 100 non-polio enteroviruses. This virus was first identified in California in 1962. The U.S. is currently experiencing a nationwide outbreak of enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory illness.
- Two cases of EV-D68 have been confirmed in Florida residents. Both cases have since recovered and are in good condition.

National Influenza activity:
- Influenza activity continues to increase nationally.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continue to recommend vaccination as long as influenza viruses are circulating.

State Influenza and ILI activity:
- Most Florida counties are reporting mild influenza activity. In week 41, 19 counties reported increasing influenza activity; 39 counties indicated activity is at a plateau.
- Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) influenza-like illness (ILI) visits have remained low but are increasing in all regions, which is typical 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 (H3): In week 41, 18 of 29 specimens submitted for influenza testing at BPHL were PCR positive for influenza. Five were PCR positive for influenza B and thirteen for influenza A (H3). These are seasonal strains of influenza.
  - No influenza or ILI outbreaks (epidemiologically-linked cases of influenza in a single setting) were reported to EpiCom in week 41.
  - No pediatric influenza-associated deaths were reported in week 41.
  - The preliminary estimated number of Florida deaths due to pneumonia or influenza in week 39 were below excess thresholds.
  - Because of increasing influenza activity in some areas of the state, Florida reported local influenza activity to CDC in week 40. This activity level represents the geographic spread of influenza in Florida.

Weekly state influenza activity:

Local

Predominantly circulating influenza strain this season:

A (H3)

Map 1: County Influenza Activity Week 41, 2014

Thirty-eight counties reported mild influenza activity. For more information, see page 6.

Map 2: Influenza and ILI Outbreaks Week 41, 2014

One outbreak of influenza has been reported since Week 40, 2014. For more information, see page 10.
ILINet is a nationwide surveillance system composed of sentinel providers. Florida has 107 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 (BOE) has designated 13 of these ILINet physicians’ offices as Super-Sentinels. These Super-Sentinels receive more active follow-up from BOE 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 sentinel outpatient physicians for ILI is below levels seen at this time in previous years

- Fifty-four of 107 ILINet providers reported visit counts as of 5:00 p.m., October 15, 2014.
- Eight of 13 ILINet Super-Sentinels reported visit counts as of 5:00 p.m., October 15, 2014.

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

In week 41, the number of visits to ILINet sentinels for ILI decreased in the 5-24, 25-64, and 65+ age groups, and increased in the 0-4 age group.

### TABLE 1: Summary of Florida Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity for Week 41

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Difference from Previous Week</th>
<th>Current Week 41</th>
<th>Previous Week 40</th>
<th>Page of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall statewide activity code reported to CDC</td>
<td>▲ 1</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Sporadic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of visits to ILINet providers for ILI</td>
<td>▲ 0.3</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of ED and UCC visits (from ESSENCE-FL) due to ILI</td>
<td>▲ 0.2</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of laboratory specimens that were positive for influenza</td>
<td>▲ 14.2</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting moderate influenza activity</td>
<td>▼ 2-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</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>▼ 9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting decreasing influenza activity</td>
<td>▲ 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ILI outbreaks reported in EpiCom</td>
<td>▲ 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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 1. This is because age group denominator data is not available through ILINet.
ESSENCE-FL collects data daily from 216 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 above levels seen in previous years at this time.

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

The percent of ED and UCC visits for ILI is above to previous years at this time.

ESSENCE-FL Syndromic Surveillance-Statewide

ESSENCE-FL Syndromic Surveillance-Regional

Map 3: Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centers Reporting Data to ESSENCE-FL by Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF), October 15, 2014 (N=216)
ESSENCE-FL Syndromic Surveillance-Regional (Continued)

**FIGURE 5 - FIGURE 11** describe ED and UCC chief complaint data from ESSENCE-FL by Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) regions.

- The percent of ED and UCC visits for ILI is near expected levels in most regions.
- ED and UCC visits for ILI in RDSTF Regions 1-3 and 5 are at or near levels seen during previous years at this time.
- ED and UCC visits for ILI in RDSTF Regions 4, 6 and 7 are higher than levels seen during previous years 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.*
Bureau of Public Health Laboratories Viral Surveillance

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.

- Influenza A (H3) and influenza B have been identified by BPHL this season.
- In recent weeks, influenza specimens submitted to BPHL tested positive for influenza B and influenza A unspecifed.
- Influenza A (H3) has been the most common strain of influenza detected by BPHL so far in the first week of the 2014-2015 influenza season.

**TABLE 2** shows the number of specimens tested by BPHL, how many are influenza positive and their subtypes.

**Table 2:** Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) Viral Surveillance for Week 41 by Lab Event Date* as reported by 10:00 a.m. October 15, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Specimens Tested</th>
<th>Current Week 41</th>
<th>Previous Week 40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza positive specimens (% of total)</td>
<td>18 (35.1%)</td>
<td>13 (24.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A (2009 H1N1) (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A (H3) (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>13 (72.2%)</td>
<td>5 (38.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A not yet subtyped (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B unspecified (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>5 (27.8%)</td>
<td>8 (61.5%)</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 11:30 a.m. October 15, 2014, a total of 67 (100%) counties 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 41 (ending October 11, 2014) as Reported by 11:30 a.m. October 15, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Level</th>
<th>Week 40 Number of Counties</th>
<th>Week 39 Number of Counties</th>
<th>Week 40 Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Report</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Gadsden, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okaloosa, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Union, Volusia, Wakulla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Alachua, Okeechobee, Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Map 4: Weekly County Influenza Activity Level for Week 41 Reported by 11:30 a.m. October 15, 2014

Three counties reported moderate activity.

Map 5: Weekly County Influenza Activity Trend for Week 41 Reported by 11:30 a.m. October 15, 2014

Nineteen counties reported increasing influenza and ILI activity.

County influenza activity data are reported to BOE through EpiGateway on a weekly basis by 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 41, four counties indicated that activity was decreasing, 39 indicated activity was about the same as previous weeks and 19 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 41 as of 11:30 a.m. October 15, 2014.
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.

**FIGURE 15 - FIGURE 18** show the activity levels in various facilities by county as reported by CHD influenza coordinators for week 41 as of 11:30 a.m., October 15, 2014.
FIGURE 19 - FIGURE 23 show the activity levels in various facilities by county as reported by CHD influenza coordinators for week 41 as of 11:30 a.m., October 15, 2014.

Pediatric Influenza-Associated Mortality

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported so far in week 41, the first week of the 2014-2015 influenza season.
ESSENCE-FL Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality

FDOH Bureau of Vital Statistics and county health departments (CHDs) collect death record data electronically in all 67 Florida counties, which can be accessed using ESSENCE-FL. 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 39, 2014.

**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 39 (ending Oct 4, 2014):
- 135 preliminary estimated pneumonia and influenza deaths were reported.
- Upper bound of 95% confidence interval for prediction: 178 deaths.
- No excess deaths.

**FIGURE 25** shows pneumonia and influenza deaths for all Florida counties, week 40, 2012 - week 41 2014, as reported into ESSENCE-FL. Deaths due to pneumonia and influenza are at levels seen during previous years at this time.

**FIGURE 26** shows pneumonia and influenza deaths for all Florida counties by age group, week 40, 2010 - week 41 2014, as reported into ESSENCE-FL.

Death records data reported into ESSENCE-FL are currently considered to be complete through week 39, 2014.
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. Eight Florida facilities reported in week 41.

**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 Reported in EpiCom

In week 41, 2014, no influenza or ILI outbreaks were reported in to EpiCom.

One influenza outbreak has been reported into EpiCom so far in the 2013-2014 season.
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 visits due to ILI

ESSENCE-FL Vital Statistics Portal  
*Measures influenza mortality by using death certificates with pneumonia or influenza listed as a cause of death.*
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/](http://flushot.healthmap.org/)

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**TABLE 4 : Summary of Florida Influenza and ILI Outbreaks by Facility Status, Week 40-41, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Number of outbreaks</th>
<th>Implicated Viruses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>One outbreak, due to influenza A unspecified and influenza B unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleges and universities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daycares</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private businesses</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and state government offices</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jails and prisons</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement homes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing homes</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare facilities</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>No outbreaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>One outbreak, due to influenza A unspecified and influenza B unspecified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>