**Weekly state influenza activity:**

- **Local:**
  - No Activity
  - Sporadic
  - Local
  - Regional
  - Widespread

- **State Influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity:**
  - **Most Florida counties are reporting mild influenza activity.** In week 43, 22 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 43, 13 of 40 (32.5%) specimens submitted for influenza testing at BPHL were PCR positive for influenza. Nine were positive for influenza A (H3), two were positive for A unspecified, one was positive for influenza B unspecified, one was positive for influenza B Victoria lineage. These are seasonal strains of influenza.
  - One influenza outbreak (epidemiologically-linked cases of influenza in a single setting) was reported to EpiCom in week 43.
  - No pediatric influenza-associated deaths were reported in week 43.
  - The preliminary estimated number of Florida deaths due to pneumonia or influenza in week 42 was below the excess threshold.
  - Because of increasing influenza activity in some areas of the state, Florida reported local influenza activity to CDC in week 43. This activity level represents the geographic spread of influenza in Florida.
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 43**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Difference from Previous Week</th>
<th>Current Week 43</th>
<th>Previous Week 42</th>
<th>Page of Report</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall statewide activity code reported to CDC</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of visits to ILINet providers for ILI</td>
<td>▼ 0.1</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.7%</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>3.2%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of laboratory specimens that were positive for influenza</td>
<td>▼ 10.5</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting moderate influenza activity</td>
<td>No Change</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting widespread influenza activity</td>
<td>▲ 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting increasing influenza activity</td>
<td>▼ 3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of counties reporting decreasing influenza activity</td>
<td>▲ 1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of ILI outbreaks reported in EpiCom</td>
<td>▼ 6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ILINet Influenza-Like Illness-Statewide

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 above levels seen at this time in previous years

- Fifty-four of 107 ILINet providers reported visit counts as of 5:00 p.m., October 28, 2014.
- Eight of 13 ILINet Super-Sentinels reported visit counts as of 5:00 p.m., October 28, 2014.

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

In week 43, the number of visits to ILINet sentinels for ILI decreased in all age groups.

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†Data presented here are counts, not proportions as included in Figure 1. This is because age group denominator data is not available through ILINet.

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

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 levels seen in previous years at this time.

ESSENCE-FL Syndromic Surveillance-Regional

Map 3: Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centers Reporting Data to ESSENCE-FL by Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RSTDF), October 29, 2014 (N=216)
FIGURE 5 - FIGURE 11 describe Emergency Department (ED) and Urgent Care Center (UCC) chief complaint data from ESSENCE-FL by Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) regions.

- ED and UCC visits for ILI in RDSTF Region 7 are above levels seen during previous years at this time.
- ED and UCC visits for ILI in RDSTF Regions 1-6 are at or near 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.
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.

- 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 A (H3) and influenza B Yamagata lineage.
- Influenza A (H3) has been the most common strain of influenza detected by BPHL so far in the 2014-2015 influenza season.

Table 2: Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) Viral Surveillance for Week 43 by Lab Event Date* as reported by 10:00 a.m. October 29, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Specimens Tested</th>
<th>Current Week 43</th>
<th>Previous Week 42</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza positive specimens (% of total)</td>
<td>13 (32.5%)</td>
<td>37 (43.0%)</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>9 (69.2%)</td>
<td>31 (83.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A not yet subtyped (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>2 (15.4%)</td>
<td>2 (5.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B Yamagata (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3 (8.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B Victoria (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>1 (7.7%)</td>
<td>1 (2.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B unspecified (% of influenza positives)</td>
<td>1 (7.7%)</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 11:30 a.m. October 29, 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 43 (ending October 25, 2014) as Reported by 11:30 a.m. October 29, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Level</th>
<th>Week 43 Number of Counties</th>
<th>Week 42 Number of Counties</th>
<th>Week 43 Counties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Report</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Dade, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Lake, Leon, Liberty, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Nassau, Okaloosa, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Suwannee, Taylor, Volusia, Wakulla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lee, Orange, Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widespread</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Dixie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One county reported widespread activity.

Twenty-two 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 42, two counties indicated that activity was decreasing, 37 indicated activity was about the same as previous weeks and 25 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 43 as of 11:30 a.m. October 29, 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 43 as of 11:30 a.m., October 29, 2014.
FIGURE 19 to FIGURE 23 show the activity levels in various facilities by county as reported by CHD influenza coordinators for week 43 as of 11:30 a.m., October 29, 2014.

Pediatric Influenza-Associated Mortality

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported in week 43, or in the 2014-2015 influenza season.
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 42 (ending Oct 18, 2014):
- 169 preliminary estimated pneumonia and influenza deaths were reported.
- Upper bound of 95% confidence interval for prediction: 196 deaths.
- No excess deaths.

FIGURE 25 shows pneumonia and influenza deaths for all Florida counties, week 40, 2010 - week 43, 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, 2012 - week 43, 2014, as reported into ESSENCE-FL.

*Death records data reported into ESSENCE-FL are currently considered to be complete through week 42, 2014.*
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 43, 2014, one outbreak of influenza was reported in to EpiCom.

Pinellas County:
- An assisted living facility five residents and one staff member with ILI. Four of the ill residents were hospitalized. Three tested positive for influenza A at the hospital. Infection prevention and control measures were discussed with facility leadership.

Map 6: Influenza and ILI outbreaks by county, Week 43, 2014 as Reported by 11:30 a.m., October 29, 2014

Nine influenza outbreaks have 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 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.*
- 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/)