

Summary

Weeks 35-36: August 30 to September 12, 2015

National influenza activity:

- Influenza virus continues to circulate at low levels nationally.
- The predominantly circulating strain in recent weeks has shifted from influenza B to influenza A (H3), which is typical for this time of year.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continue to recommend vaccination as long as influenza viruses are circulating.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 viruses have been identified in U.S. backyard and commercial flocks of birds during the spring and summer of 2015. HPAI H5 has not been identified in Florida birds, but identifications are anticipated. No humans have been identified with HPAI infection in Florida or the rest of the nation.
 - To learn more about HPAI, please visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-from-animals/novel-influenza-viruses.html>.

State influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI)¹ activity:

- Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) ILI visits reported into ESSENCE-FL (Florida's syndromic surveillance system) have increased in recent weeks, which is typical for this time of year.
- Two ILI outbreaks were reported in week 36 with one each in Collier and Hillsborough County.
- In week 35, the preliminary estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza in Florida is similar to levels seen in previous years at this time.
- In weeks 35 and 36, 4 of 41 (9.8%) specimens submitted to BPHL for influenza testing were PCR positive for seasonal strains of influenza: two were positive for influenza B unspecified, one was positive for influenza A (H3), and one was positive for influenza A (2009 H1N1).

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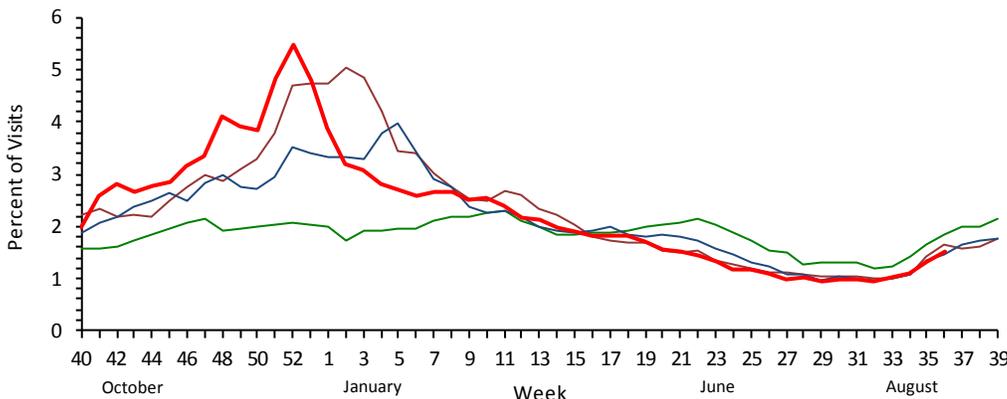
Table 1. Summary of Florida ILI Activity, Weeks 35 through 36, 2015

Measure	Difference From Previous Week	Current Week 36	Previous Week 35	Data Source ²
Percent of ED and UCC visits due to ILI	▲ 0.2%	1.5%	1.3%	ESSENCE-FL
Percent of laboratory specimens positive for influenza	▲ 5.6%	13.3%	7.7%	Laboratory Surveillance
Number of reported ILI outbreaks	▲ 2	2	0	EpiCom

ED and UCC Visits for ILI³ by Flu Season

ED = emergency department, UCC = urgent care center

The percent of ILI visits to ESSENCE-FL participating facilities has increased in recent weeks and is at or near levels seen in previous years at this time.



The figure to the left shows the percent of visits to EDs and UCCs with chief complaints of ILI, as reported by participating ESSENCE-FL facilities (N=243) from week 40, 2011 through week 36, 2015, accessed September 16, 2015.

— 2014-2015 — 2012-2013
— 2013-2014 — 2011-2012

¹ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is considered to be a fever >100°F AND sore throat and/or cough in the absence of another known cause.

² The Florida Department of Health (DOH) uses many different surveillance systems to measure influenza activity. A summary of all these systems can be found on our website at: floridahealth.gov/floridafu

³ As of April 30, 2015, FLS was added to list of abbreviations in ESSENCE-FL and is now expanded to **Flu Like Symptoms**. As a result of this change, any visit with a chief complaint containing FLS will now code into the ILI syndrome and the Influenza subsyndrome. Historical records have been reprocessed to reflect this change.

P&I Mortality

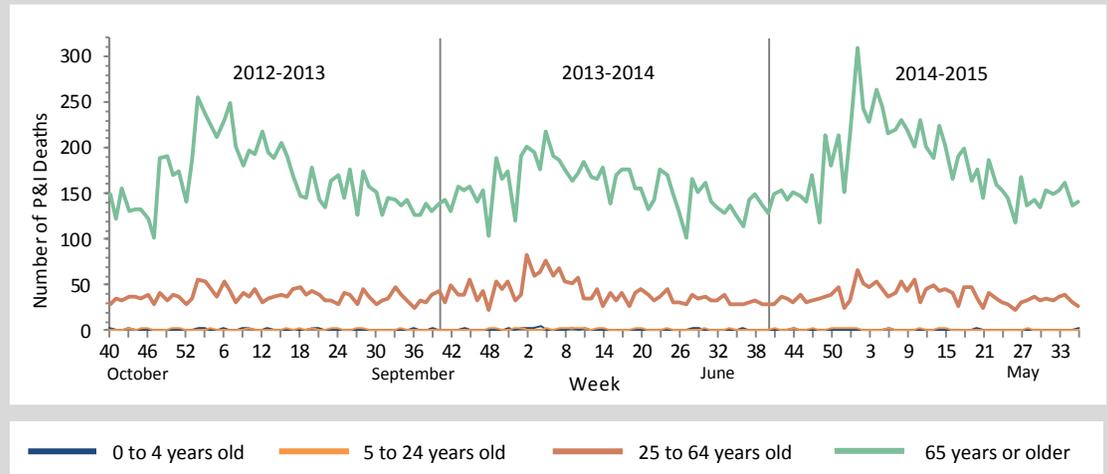
P&I = Pneumonia and Influenza

The figure below shows P&I deaths for all Florida counties by age group from week 40, 2012 through week 36, 2015, as reported into ESSENCE-FL. *Vital statistics death records data are currently considered to be complete through week 35, 2015.*

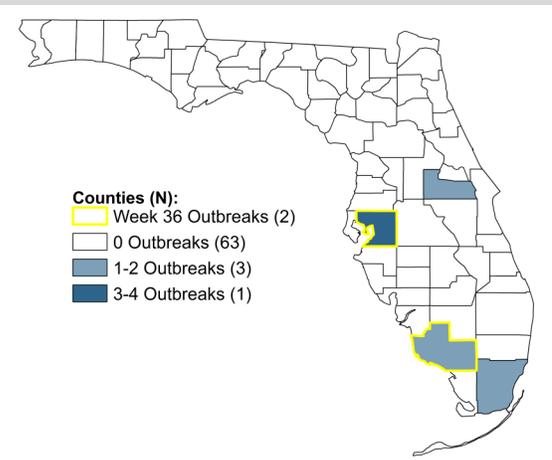
The total number of P&I deaths reported in week 35 is similar to levels seen in previous years at this time.

178 preliminary estimated P&I deaths have been reported for week 36, 2015.

Based on a multi-year regression model to predict P&I mortality in the Florida population, no excess deaths were reported for week 36, 2015. The upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for prediction is 194 deaths.



Influenza and ILI Outbreaks



Two ILI outbreaks were reported in week 36, one in Hillsborough County and one in Collier County.

The map to the left shows the number of outbreaks reported in each Florida county since week 20, 2015, as reported by 11 a.m. September 16, 2015. In the last 17 weeks, six outbreaks have been reported into EpiCom.

Hillsborough County: A nursing home reported 26 residents and eight staff with ILI. Specimens were collected from four residents and tested positive for rhinovirus by PCR at BPHL. Staff vaccination rates for 2014-2015 influenza season were not available. Infection control measures were reviewed with facility leadership. This investigation is ongoing.

Collier County: A residential treatment facility reported 13 residents and seven staff with ILI. Specimens were collected from three ill persons and were sent to BPHL for PCR testing; results are pending. Infection control measures were reviewed with facility leadership. This investigation is ongoing.

Laboratory Viral Surveillance

The figure below shows the percentage of positive tests for respiratory viruses reported by the National Respiratory and Enteric Viral Surveillance System (NREVSS) and participating and validated laboratories using electronic lab reporting (ELR) with FDOH. Currently, 11 facilities are reporting data for the 2014-2015 season; nine reporting through NREVSS and two reporting through ELR.

Rhinovirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are circulating at this time. Rhinovirus and RSV activity have increased in the last week, similar to trends seen in previous years at this time. These viruses circulate annually in Florida and also regularly fluctuate between weeks.

