



Summary

Weeks 23-24: June 7 to June 20, 2015

National influenza activity:

- **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been identified in U.S. backyard and commercial flocks of birds. HPAI has not been identified in Florida birds, but identifications are anticipated. No people have been identified with HPAI in Florida or the rest of the nation.** To learn more about HPAI, please visit: 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) influenza-like illness (ILI) reported into ESSENCE-FL (Florida's syndromic surveillance system) visits have remained low, which is typical for this time of year.
- In week 24, the preliminary estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza in Florida is lower than levels seen in previous years at this time.
- In weeks 23 and 24, 30 specimens were submitted to Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) for influenza testing. Seven specimens tested PCR positive: one for influenza A (H3), six for influenza B Yamagata lineage.

Summertime surveillance for influenza and ILI:

- FDOH continues to conduct surveillance for influenza and ILI during the summer months. While activity is traditionally lower during the summer months, some regions of Florida can see year-round activity and elevated out of season activity can suggest important changes in the virus or the introduction of a novel strain of influenza or respiratory illness. Continuing surveillance efforts supports quick response to those events.

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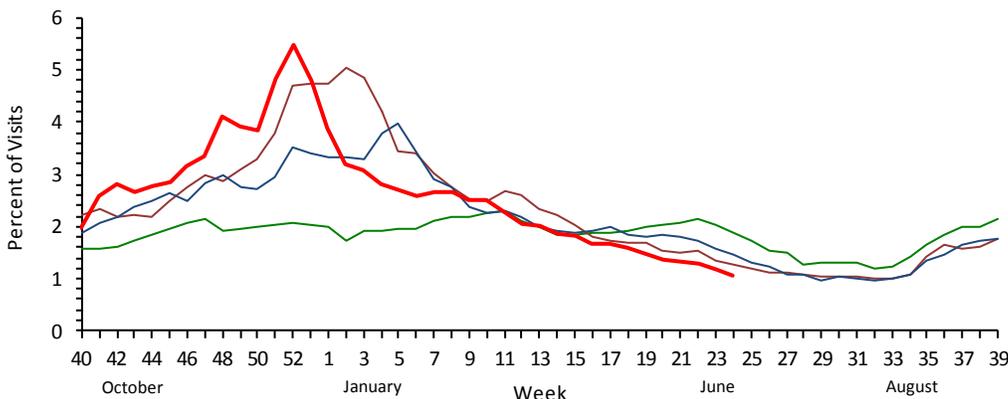
Table 1. Summary of Florida ILI Activity, Weeks 23 through 24, 2015

Measure	Difference from Previous Week	Current Week 24	Previous Week 23	Data Source ²
Percent of emergency department & urgent care center visits due to ILI	▼ 0.13%	1.05%	1.18%	ESSENCE-FL
Percent of laboratory specimens positive for influenza	▼ 4.0%	21%	25%	Laboratory Surveillance
Number of reported ILI outbreaks	No change	0	0	EpiCom

ED and UCC Visits for ILI³ by Flu Season

ED = emergency department, UCC = urgent care center

In recent weeks, the percent of ILI visits³ to ESSENCE-FL participating facilities has decreased. The percentage in of ILI visits in weeks 23 and 24 are below levels seen in previous years at this time.



The figure to the left shows the percentage of influenza like-illness visits from ED and UCC chief complaints out of all visits as reported by participating ESSENCE-FL facilities (N=240) for Week 40, 2011 through Week 24, 2015, accessed June 24, 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/floridaflu

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. The historical records have been reprocessed to reflect this change.

P&I Mortality

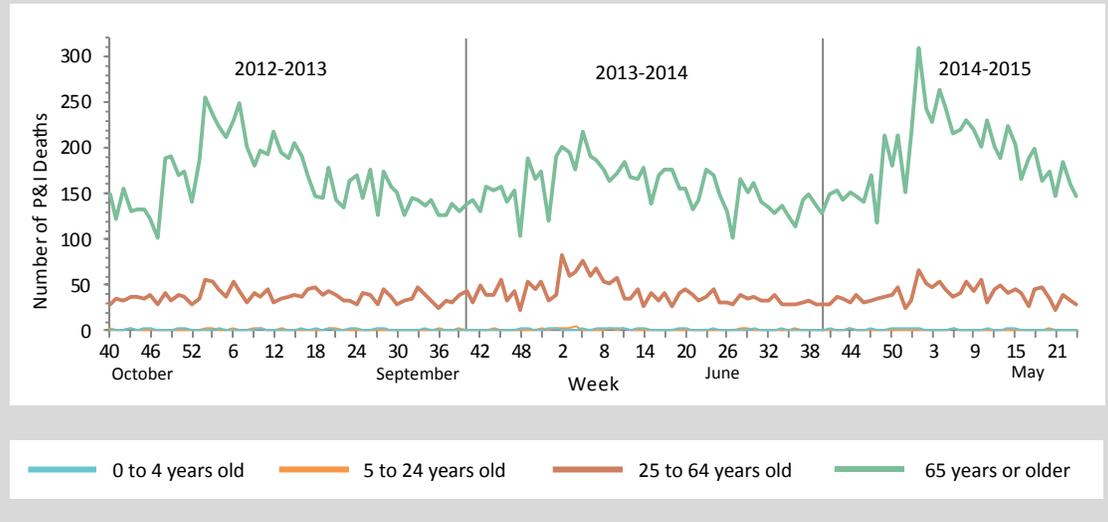
P&I = Pneumonia and Influenza

The figure below shows P&I deaths for all Florida counties by age group, week 40, 2012 through week 24, 2015, as reported into ESSENCE-FL. *Vital statistics death records data are currently considered to be complete through week 23, 2015.*

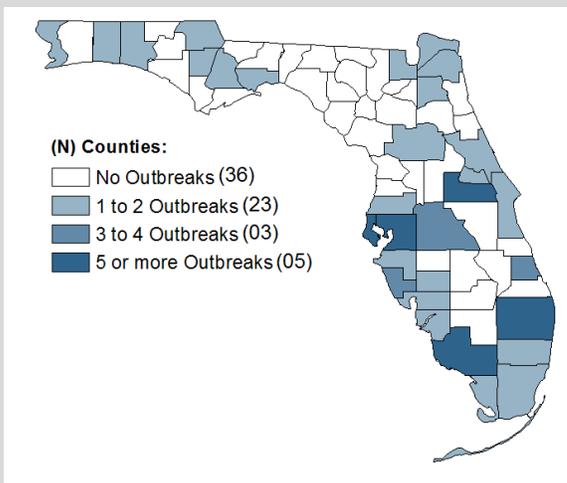
The total number of pneumonia and influenza (P&I) deaths reported in recent weeks are lower than levels seen in previous years at this time.

157 preliminary estimated P&I deaths have been reported for week 23, 2015.

Based on a multi-year regression model to predict P&I mortality in the Florida population, no excess deaths were reported for week 23, 2015. The upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for prediction is 209 deaths.



Influenza and ILI Outbreaks



No outbreaks of influenza or ILI have been reported since week 17, 2015.

The map to the left shows the number of outbreaks reported in each Florida county since week 40, 2014 (October), as reported by 11 a.m. June 24, 2015. During this time, 105 outbreaks have been reported into EpiCom. Less than half (31 or 46.3%) of counties reported at least one outbreak in the 2014-2015 influenza season. The last influenza outbreak was reported April 30, 2015.

Influenza and ILI outbreaks during the summer months are particularly interesting as they may suggest unusual or severe influenza and ILI activity. This unusual ILI or influenza activity might suggest a change in the virus or the introduction of a new virus. Florida's unique population mix and large number of out-of-state and international visitors put it at risk of novel virus introduction, underscoring the importance of surveillance for influenza and ILI outbreaks even during the summer months.

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 participating in Electronic Lab Reporting (ELR) with the Florida Department of Health. Currently, nine lab facilities are included for data on the 2014-2015 season, nine reporting into NREVSS and two reporting through ELR.

In recent weeks, there has been an increase in the percent of specimens testing positive for rhinovirus and parainfluenza I-III and a decrease in the percent of specimens testing positive for influenza. This trend is expected.

