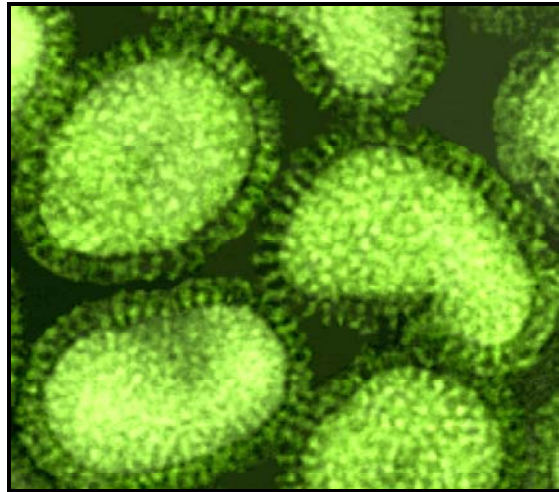


Florida Influenza Surveillance

*Week Ending March 6, 2004
(Week 09)*

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Summary

Florida influenza-like illness (ILI) activity remained level across the state for the week ending March 6, 2004. Six counties reported as having a high ILI% activity for week 09. However, not all sentinels have reported at the time that this summary was written (79% reporting as of March 16, 2004). Compared to data from the previous week (ending February 28, 2004), six counties reported an increase in ILI activity for week 09, while seven counties reported a decrease and seventeen counties remained at a level activity. One county did not have at least 50% of the active sentinels reporting and therefore the change in ILI activity could not be determined. Of the thirty-one counties represented by the Florida Sentinel Physician Influenza Surveillance Network (FSPISN), ten counties reported no influenza-like illness activity for the week ending March 6, 2004. The FSPISN providers reported seeing 16,739 total patients during week 09, of which, 270 patients were seen with influenza-like illness symptoms (1.61% statewide ILI activity). None of the specimens tested positive for influenza at the state branch laboratories for this surveillance week. The influenza activity code for Florida was reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as “sporadic” for the week ending March 6, 2004.

Across the nation, two states reported local activity; thirty-one states, including Florida, reported sporadic activity; and seventeen states reported no ILI activity for the week ending March 6, 2004. Mortality due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) remained below the epidemic threshold for the week ending March 6, 2004. The percentage of patient visits seen with influenza-like illness to sentinel providers across the nation was 1.1% for week 09.

The World Health Organization as of March 16, 2004 has reported no further cases of human infection with the avian influenza virus in Southeast Asia. The total number of human cases to date is 22 in Vietnam, of which 15 have passed away and 11 in Thailand, of which 7 have passed away. A fact sheet about the significance of avian influenza for human health can be found at the World Health Organization’s website: <http://www.who.int>

The Bureau of Epidemiology would like to remind all participants in the Florida Sentinel Physician Influenza Surveillance Network to report weekly numbers even if no patients are seen with influenza-like illness (ILI) during the surveillance week. The data collected even when there is little to no influenza activity helps to establish baselines and thresholds for the state of Florida. Timeliness of reports is also necessary in order to accurately identify the ILI activity within a county, region and state. Weekly reports are due no later than the Tuesday at 5 pm EST following the end of the surveillance week. The Bureau of Epidemiology would like to thank all of the

providers, county coordinators and state branch laboratories for their continued participation in the Florida Influenza Surveillance Programs.

FSPISN Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Summary

Seventy-three sentinels from 65 public clinics and private offices submitted reports for 30 counties during the week ending Marcy 6, 2004 (Week 09). Counties with the highest percentage of patients with ILI were Monroe (2.23%, with 1 of 1 sentinel locations reporting); Pasco (3.03%, 1 of 1 reporting); Leon (4.50%, 1 of 2 reporting); Indian River (4.72%, 3 of 3 reporting); Escambia (10.73%, 1 of 1 reporting); and Santa Rosa (28.33%, 1 of 2 reporting). Fourteen counties reported a low percentage of patients with ILI, and 10 counties reported no cases of ILI. A breakdown of ILI% reported for week ending March 6, 2004 by county is listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1. INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS REPORTING BY COUNTY FOR WEEK ENDING 03/06/04 (WEEK 09)
Report Date: March 16, 2004

County	Change	Active within the last 4 weeks		Reporting for Week 09		Participation for Week 09	ILI % Reported Week 09 (Current)	ILI% Reported Week 08 (Updated)	ILI% Reported Week 07 (Updated)
		Active Sentinels	From Offices	Sentinels Reporting	From Offices				
Alachua	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.07%	0.07%	0.13%
Brevard	Deceasing	4	3	3	3	75%	0.34%	1.54%	3.65%
Broward	Deceasing	6	5	5	5	83%	0.57%	1.47%	0.63%
Charlotte	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Citrus	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Collier	Level	2	1	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	8.21%
Duval	Deceasing	7	4	4	4	57%	0.69%	1.04%	0.60%
Escambia	Increasing	1	1	1	1	100%	10.73%	4.26%	15.87%
Hillsborough	Increasing	4	4	4	4	100%	0.13%	0.00%	0.13%
Indian River	Increasing	8	3	7	3	88%	4.72%	1.91%	2.25%
Lake	Deceasing	2	2	2	2	100%	0.55%	0.78%	1.45%
Lee	Deceasing	2	2	2	2	100%	0.49%	0.38%	0.39%
Leon	Increasing	2	1	1	1	50%	4.50%	0.56%	0.26%
Marion	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Martin	Deceasing	1	1	1	1	100%	0.40%	0.52%	0.00%
Miami-Dade	Deceasing	5	5	5	5	100%	0.61%	0.79%	0.61%
Monroe	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	2.23%	2.72%	3.05%
Okaloosa	Level	4	3	3	3	75%	0.59%	0.71%	0.19%
Orange	Level	9	5	6	5	67%	1.28%	1.36%	1.04%
Osceola	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Palm Beach	Increasing	4	2	2	2	50%	1.54%	0.98%	1.52%
Pasco	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	3.03%	3.28%	7.55%
Pinellas	Level	6	5	5	5	83%	1.65%	1.56%	1.79%
Polk	Increasing	7	4	7	4	100%	1.67%	0.00%	2.62%
Putnam	Level	2	1	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	22.74%
Santa Rosa	Level	2	1	1	1	50%	28.33%	25.00%	23.22%
Seminole	-	1	1	0	0	0%	-	0.00%	1.02%
St. Johns	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
St. Lucie	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Volusia	Level	4	2	2	2	50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Walton	Level	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

State Laboratory Specimen Testing in Florida

None of the 3 specimens received by the Florida State Branch Laboratories for influenza isolate testing during the week ending March 6, 2004 (Week 09) were found positive for influenza.

From September 28, 2003 to March 6, 2004, the Florida laboratories tested a total of 731 specimens and found 238 positive for influenza A (H3N2), 100 that were unknown A or had culture results pending, and one positive for influenza B. The remaining specimens were negative for influenza. Table 2 details isolates found since September 28, 2003 by county.

TABLE 2. ISOLATES BY COUNTY FOUND DURING 2003-2004 SURVEILLANCE					
Report Date: March 16, 2004					
Number of previously reported positive specimens (positive specimens, Week 09)					
County	Type A - H3N2	Type A - H1N1	Type A - Unknown	Type A - Unknown Culture Pending	Type B
Alachua	10		6		
Bay					1
Brevard	1				
Broward	6			5	
Charlotte				1	
Citrus	5			3	
Collier	3				
Duval	30		10		
Hardee	1			1	
Hernando	1				
Hillsborough	14			6	
Indian River	34		17		
Lake	1				
Lee	2				
Leon	22		4		
Marion	1				
Martin	1				
Miami-Dade	16		14		
Monroe	2		1		
Okaloosa	6				
Orange	5		4	1	
Osceola	2		1		
Palm Beach	7			3	
Pasco	3				
Pinellas	10			3	
Polk	21			5	
Putnam	6		1	3	
Sarasota	9				
St Johns	10		4		
Taylor			1		
Volusia	8		4		
Wakulla	1			1	
Washington			1		

Rapid Testing Performed by Private Laboratories in Florida

Reports received from non-sentinel, private hospitals and private laboratories since September 28, 2003 are summarized in Table 3.

TABLE 3. RAPID INFLUENZA TESTS BY COUNTY DURING 2003-2004
Report Date: March 16, 2004

County	Rapid Tests Performed	Negative Tests	Positive for A/B	Positive for A	Positive for B
Alachua	Unknown	Unknown	5	0	0
Bay	714	468	103	144	1
Brevard	1239	948	0	300	0
Broward	7	6	0	1	0
Clay	Unknown	Unknown	1	0	0
Collier	Unknown	Unknown	362	0	0
Hillsborough	Unknown	Unknown	3	40	1
Marion	2	1	1	0	0
Miami-Dade	294	180	91	0	0
Orange	24	16	15	0	0
Pinellas	3	1	2	67	0
Sarasota	Unknown	Unknown	79	80	1

National Influenza Surveillance

This section summarizes the weekly influenza report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More detailed information can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

Influenza-Like Illness Report for the Week Ending March 6, 2004

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained at 1.1% nationwide. This is below the national baseline of 2.5%. Due to wide variability in regional level data, it is not appropriate to apply the national baseline to regional level data. National percentage and regional percentages of patient visits for ILI are weighted on the basis of state population.

Antigenic Characterization

The CDC has antigenically characterized two influenza A (H1) viruses, 648 influenza A (H3N2) viruses, and 18 influenza B viruses that were submitted by U.S. laboratories since October 1, 2003. The influenza A (H1) viruses were similar antigenically to the vaccine strain A/New Caledonia/20/99. Of the 648 influenza A (H3N2) isolates characterized, 106 (16.4%) were similar antigenically to the vaccine strain A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2), and 542 (83.6%) were similar to the drift variant, A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2). Sixteen of the influenza B viruses were similar to B/Sichuan/379/99 and two influenza B viruses were similar to B/Hong Kong/330/2001. Nine of the A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like viruses came from Florida

U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and Nation Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Laboratories Report

During week ending March 6, 2004, five (0.7%) of the 713 specimens tested at WHO and NREVSS laboratories were positive. Of these five positive specimens, two were influenza A (H3N2) viruses, one was influenza A viruses that was not subtyped, and two were influenza B viruses. Since September 28, 2003, WHO and NREVSS laboratories tested 107,687 specimens for influenza viruses and found 23,644 positive specimens. Of the positive specimens, 163 were influenza B viruses, 6,460 were influenza A (H3N2), and two were A (H1). Weekly ratios reported by the nine regions are presented in Table 4.

TABLE 4. 2003-2004 SPECIMEN TESTING SUMMARY BY REGION

Report Date: March 16, 2004

Region	Total Specimens	A H1N1	A H3N2	A-Unk	B	Ratio Pos.	ILI Reporting Weighted ILI %
New England	4,635	-	478	933	2	0.305	2.031
Mid-Atlantic	11,750	-	322	1411	12	0.149	2.418
East North Central	9,557	-	1051	554	8	0.169	3.413
West North Central	11,869	-	609	1795	4	0.203	2.641
South Atlantic	18,797	1	1306	3775	70	0.274	3.102

East South Central	4,420	-	441	250	2	0.157	2.882
West South Central	19,983	-	961	4144	17	0.256	5.602
Mountain	12,856	-	628	2802	38	0.27	2.666
Pacific	13,820	-	664	1355	10	0.147	3.457

122 U.S. Cities Vital Statistics Mortality Report

The percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza was 7.2%. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 8.3% for the week ending March 6, 2004.

International Influenza Surveillance

This section summarizes the weekly influenza report from around the globe. More detailed information can be found at the corresponding websites for each organization.

Report from the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS)

EISS reports continued decrease in influenza activity, with only German and Italy reporting regional activity, and most networks reporting declining or unchanged levels of activity. Norway reported isolating two B/Shanghai/361/2002-like viruses, the first of this virus type reported in Europe this winter. Influenza A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like viruses were the predominant strain circulating in Europe this season. Since September 28, 2003, younger age groups (0-14) experienced the highest clinical incidence of influenza. For more information about the EISS, please visit the following website: <http://dev.eiss.org/>

World Health Organization (WHO) Communicable Disease Surveillance and Response

WHO influenza updates and reports to date have included the following item:

- ◆ Current Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) reports can be found at http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/en/

WHO Recommended Composition of Influenza Vaccine

WHO has recommended that the composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2004-2005 northern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:

- ◆ An A/New Caledonia/20/99(H1N1)-like virus
- ◆ An A/Fujian/411/2002(H3N2)-like virus
- ◆ A B/Shanghai/361/2002-like virus

For more detailed information please see "Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccine for use in the 2004-2005 influenza season" in *The Weekly Epidemiological Record (WER)*, vol. 79, 9.

Influenza Surveillance – Definitions and Reminders

Definitions of the influenza activity codes

No Activity: *No laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza and no reported increase in the number of cases of ILI.*

Sporadic: *Small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI.*

Local: *Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in a single region of the state.*

Regional: *Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in at least two but less than half the regions of the state.*

Widespread: *Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory-confirmed influenza in at least half the regions of the state.*

Important Reminders

- * *Influenza activity reporting by sentinel providers is voluntary.*
- * *The influenza surveillance data is used to answer the question of where, when, and what viruses are circulating. It can be used to determine if influenza activity is increasing or decreasing, but it cannot be used to ascertain how many people have become ill with influenza so far this season.*
- * *Reporting is incomplete for this week. Numbers may change as more reports are received.*