

Florida Influenza Surveillance for the Week 43, Ending October 18, 2003
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Summary

So far this season, Florida is experiencing low activity of influenza-like illness (ILI). Indian River and Orange Counties had the highest percent ILI reported for Week 43. This data should be interpreted with caution since it cannot be compared to the national baseline and reporting practices have a large impact on the percentages.

There were two positive specimens submitted to the state laboratories, both during Week 42. These specimens were from Okaloosa County and were found positive for Influenza A (H3N2). There have been a few other states in the US where influenza A (H3N2) has been isolated but overall the West South Central region of the United States continued to be the only region in the country that experienced a percent ILI above the national baseline. These regions include Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

With the continued low activity of ILI, this is the time to think about getting a flu shot. October and November are the best months to get your flu shot if you are in a high-risk group. You should avoid getting a flu shot too early, because protection from flu can begin to decline within a few months after getting the shot. For more information about flu vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or your local county health department.

Florida Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

As of November 3, sixty-one sentinels from 54 public clinics and private offices submitted reports for the week ending October 18, 2003. Counties with the highest percentage of patients with ILI were Indian River County (4.54%, 6 of 8 sentinels reporting) and Orange County (4.32%, 5 of 8 sentinels reporting). Twelve counties reported a low percentage of patients with ILI, and 11 counties reported no cases of ILI. A breakdown of ILI% reported for Week 43 by county is listed in Table 1.

County	Recruited as of 10/18/03		Reporting for Week 43		Participation for Week 43	ILI % Reported for Week 43	ILI% Reported for Week 42	ILI% Reported for Week 41
	Sentinels recruited	From Offices	Sentinels reporting	From Offices				
Alachua	2	2	1	1	50%	0.06%	0.26%	0.00%
Brevard	3	3	1	1	33%	0.00%	1.86%	
Broward	7	6	4	4	57%	0.34%	1.21%	0.00%
Charlotte	1	1			0%			
Citrus	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Collier	2	2	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Duval	12	9	4	4	33%	0.31%	2.08%	2.46%
Hillsborough	6	6	4	4	67%	0.94%	0.47%	1.76%
Indian River	8	3	6	3	75%	4.54%	1.98%	3.71%
Lake	2	2	2	2	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.56%
Lee	2	2	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Leon	2	2	2	2	100%	0.57%	0.69%	0.26%
Marion	1	1	1	1	100%	0.12%	0.12%	0.22%
Martin	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%		
Miami-Dade	6	6	4	4	67%	0.41%	0.53%	0.53%
Monroe	1	1	1	1	100%	1.65%	3.03%	0.00%
Okaloosa	4	3	2	2	50%	1.57%	1.79%	0.47%
Orange	8	5	5	3	63%	4.32%	6.06%	10.36%
Osceola	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	1.25%	0.00%
Palm Beach	5	5	4	4	80%	1.97%	2.09%	0.00%

Pasco	1	1			0%			
Pinellas	8	8	5	5	63%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Polk	7	4	6	4	86%	1.58%	1.43%	1.42%
Santa Rosa	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sarasota	1	1			0%			
Seminole	2	2			0%			
St. Johns	3	2	1	1	33%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
St. Lucie	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Volusia	1	1	1	1	100%	0.56%	0.00%	0.00%

Florida Specimen Testing for Week 43

Since September 28, 2003, only two specimens from Okaloosa County were found positive for Influenza A (H3N2). No new positive specimens have been reported from the state laboratories.

Florida Rapid Testing Performed by Private Laboratories

No new cases of influenza were reported during Week 43. Two cases of influenza were reported during late August in Sarasota County. An unsubtyped influenza A virus was found in Broward County during the Week 40.

National Influenza Surveillance

This section summarizes the weekly influenza report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Week 43:

Influenza-Like Illness Report.

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.8% nationwide. This is less than the national baseline of 2.5%. On a regional level, the percentage of visits for ILI ranged from 0.7% to 6.6%. 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.

U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Laboratories Report. Forty-eight (6.8%) of the 707 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive during week 43. Thirty-two influenza A (H3N2) viruses, 15 unsubtyped influenza A viruses and 1 influenza B virus were identified.

Since September 28, 2003, 121 (3.9%) of the 3,115 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. Most (98%) of the viruses were influenza A. Forty-seven of these influenza A viruses have been subtyped and found positive for influenza A (H3N2) viruses. Two of the 121 specimens were influenza B. Influenza A viruses have been identified in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Okalahoma, Texas, and Washington. Influenza B virus have been identified in Hawaii and North Dakota. The majority of the isolates (91%) were reported from the West South Central region.

State and Territorial Epidemiologists Report. Texas reported widespread influenza activity, and Alabama and Louisiana reported local influenza activity. Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island reported sporadic influenza activity.

2003-2004 National Summary By Region

Region	Specimen Testing						ILI Reporting: Weighted ILI%
	Total Specimens	AH1N1	AH3N2	A-Unk	B	Ratio Pos.	
New England Region	15	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.713
Mid-Atlantic Region	447	0	0	3	0	0.007	1.327
East North Central Region	85	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.793
West North Central Region	605	0	0	0	1	0.002	1.422
South Atlantic Region	535	0	2	0	0	0.004	1.028
East South Central Region	145	0	0	0	0	0.000	1.308
West South Central Region	479	0	44	66	0	0.230	4.022
Mountain Region	392	0	1	1	0	0.005	0.964
Pacific Region	412	0	0	2	1	0.007	1.54

* Weekly ratios rather than proportions are presented in reporting ILI because specimens reported positive for influenza virus each week may include specimens submitted for testing during an earlier week.

122 US Cities Vital Statistics Mortality Report. The percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza was **6.31**. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for week 43.

National Laboratory Surveillance:

Laboratories other than those participating as U.S WHO or NREVSS collaborating laboratories may submit influenza isolates to CDC for further testing.

August: Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were reported from Alaska, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin. An unsubtype influenza A virus was reported from Louisiana.

September: Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were identified in Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, and Texas, and unsubtype influenza A viruses were identified in Louisiana, Texas, and Washington.

October: Influenza A(H3N2) viruses collected in Texas have been submitted to CDC for further testing.