

Summary

Weeks 25-26: June 21 to July 4, 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.
- Two Influenza and ILI outbreaks were reported in week 25, one in Orange County and one in Miami-Dade.
- In week 26, 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 25 and 26, 19 specimens were submitted to Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) for influenza testing. Four specimens (21%) tested PCR positive: three for influenza A (H3) and one for influenza B Victoria 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.

Posted July 8, 2015
Produced by the Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE), Florida Department of Health

Posted on the BOE website:
floridahealth.gov/floridafu

Contributors: Heather Rubino, PhD; Ellen Dugan, MPH; Patricia Barrett, BS; Brandon Ramsey, BS; Leah Eisenstein, MPH; Lea Heberlein-Larson, MPH; Valerie Mock; Janet Hamilton, MPH



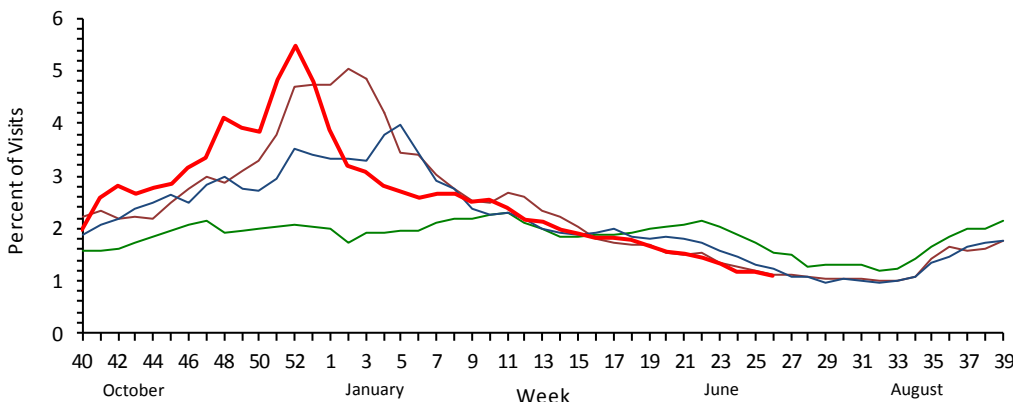
Table 1. Summary of Florida ILI Activity, Weeks 25 through 26, 2015

Measure	Difference from Previous Week	Current Week 26	Previous Week 25	Data Source ²
Percent of emergency department & urgent care center visits due to ILI	▼ 0.08%	1.08%	1.16%	ESSENCE-FL
Percent of laboratory specimens positive for influenza	▼ 24%	0%	24%	Laboratory Surveillance
Number of reported ILI outbreaks	▼ 2	0	2	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 continued to decrease for the tenth consecutive week. The percentage of ILI visits in weeks 25 and 26 are at 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 26, 2015, accessed July 8, 2015.

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

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

²The 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

³As 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

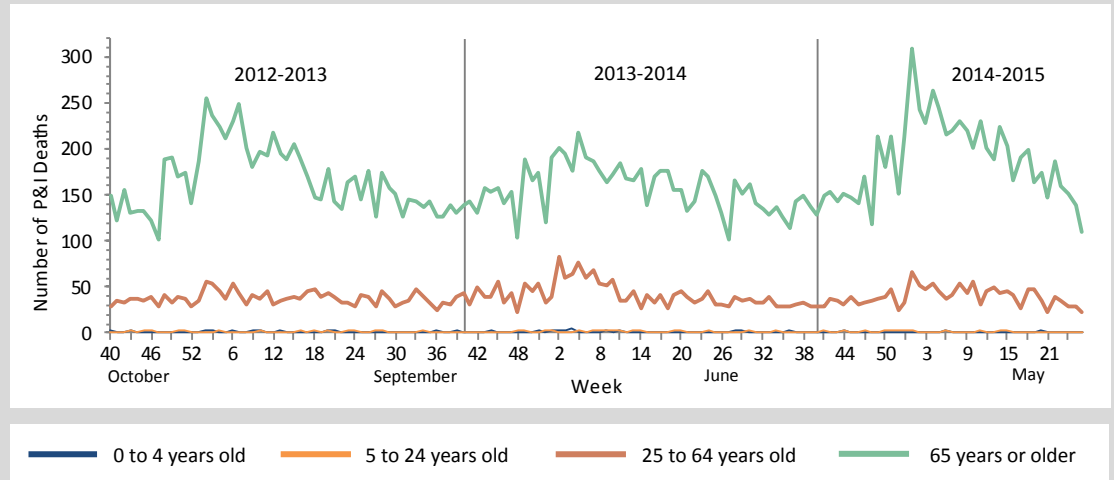
P&I = Pneumonia and Influenza

The figure below shows P&I deaths for all Florida counties by age group, week 40, 2012 through week 26, 2015, as reported into ESSENCE-FL. *Vital statistics death records data are currently considered to be complete through week 25, 2015.*

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

159 preliminary estimated P&I deaths have been reported for week 25, 2015.

Based on a multi-year regression model to predict P&I mortality in the Florida population, no excess deaths were reported for week 25, 2015. The upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for prediction is 201 deaths.



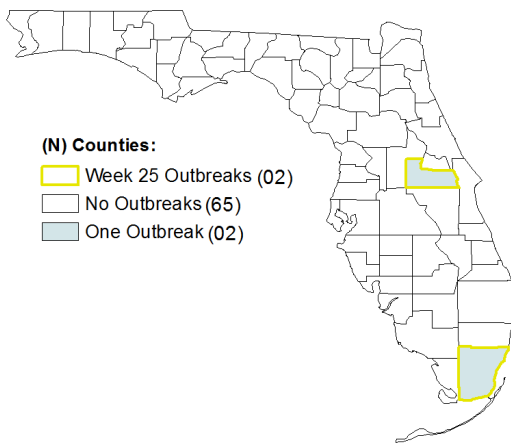
Influenza and ILI Outbreaks

Two outbreaks of influenza or ILI were reported in week 25, 2015.

The map to the left shows the number of outbreaks reported in each Florida county, week 21, 2015 through week 26, 2015, as reported by 11 a.m. July 8, 2015.

Orange County: A nursing home reported two residents with ILI. None of the ill residents were hospitalized. Two specimens were collected and tested positive for influenza A by rapid antigen test at local healthcare providers. One specimen was forwarded to BPHL and tested positive for influenza A (H3) by PCR. Close contacts were given chemoprophylaxis. To prevent further infections. Infection control measures were reviewed with facility leadership. This investigation is closed.

Miami-Dade: Multiple conference attendees staying at a local hotel reported symptoms of ILI. There were 38 of 79 (48%) conference attendees who agreed to be contacted by the health department and 18 of the 38 contacted (47%) had ILI symptoms. Of the 18 symptomatic attendees, 13 (72%) attendees were available for interviews regarding symptoms and disease onset. One attendee reported onset of symptoms prior to the conference. Two attendees tested negative for influenza by local healthcare providers. No other laboratory testing identified the causative agent. This investigation is closed.



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, 11 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 a slight increase in the percent of specimens testing positive for influenza and RSV. No specimens tested positive for other respiratory viruses in week 26. This trend is expected.

