

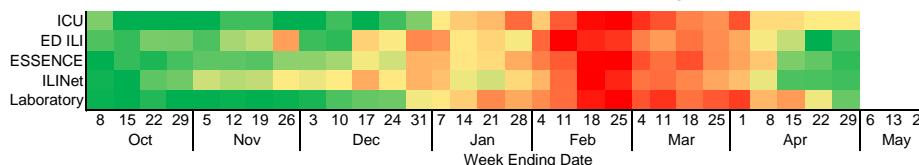


Chicago Flu Update

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

May 5, 2017

Julie Morita, MD, Commissioner



The **Quick View** heat graph represents the varying level of intensity among the five influenza surveillance indicators that are routinely monitored during the influenza season (Figures 1-5).

News & Updates The 22nd Annual Chicago Infection Control Conference will be held on June 9th, 2017 at the Chicago Cultural Center; visit the [Chicago HAN¹](#) website for more information and to register. Influenza viruses are detected throughout the year at low levels and can cause disease. Vaccination is the best way to protect against influenza and all Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to get vaccinated annually.

What is the risk?

Currently, the risk of influenza infection has decreased.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

For the week of April 23-29, 2017, four influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations were reported (Figure 1).

Since October 2, 2016, 270 influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations have been reported; 184 were positive for influenza A (107 H3N2, 2 H1N1pdm09 and 75 unknown subtype [subtyping not attempted or not all subtypes tested]) and 86 were positive for influenza B. The median age of reported cases is 62 years (range of 1 month - 100 years). Fourteen deaths have been reported among ICU cases including two pediatric patients and 18 cases were admitted from long-term care facilities; selected characteristics are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Selected attributes of influenza-associated intensive care unit hospitalizations reported for Chicago residents for current season (2016-2017), October-May.

Age Group	#	%	Sex	#	%
0-4	28	10	Male	128	47
5-17	29	11	Female	142	53
18-24	6	2	Med. Cond./Complication[†]		
25-49	31	12	Lung Disease	87	32
50-64	59	22	Cardiac Disease	77	29
≥65	117	43	Diabetes	64	24
			Ventilator Support	68	25
Race/Ethnicity					
NH-White	80	30	Reported Deaths	14	5
NH-Black	102	38	Treatment/Vaccination[†]		
Hispanic	73	27	Reported Antiviral Tx	188	70
Asian	15	6	Reported Flu Shot	107	40

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding; † As reported in INEDSS (Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System).

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

CDPH receives data from several hospitals in Chicago that provide emergent care, which report on a weekly basis the total number of emergency department visits, and of those visits, the number with influenza-like illness (ILI) (i.e., fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). For the week of April 23-29, 2017, with 8 hospitals reporting, 2.2% of emergency department visits were due to ILI (Figure 2).

ESSENCE is an electronic syndromic surveillance system that utilizes emergency department chief complaint data submitted daily by Chicago hospitals; ILI activity is determined solely based on the patient's chief complaint and does not take into account the entire medical record, as the ILI activity reported in Figure 2 does.

Figure 1. Number of influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations reported for Chicago residents, for the current season (2016-2017) by influenza type, October-May.

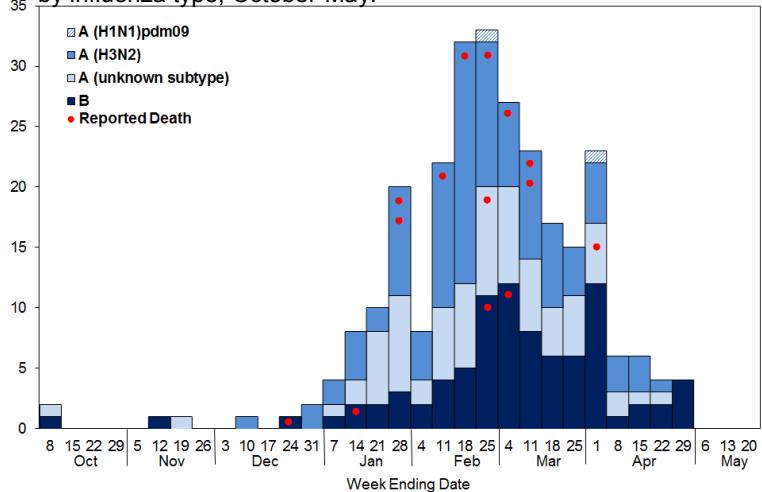
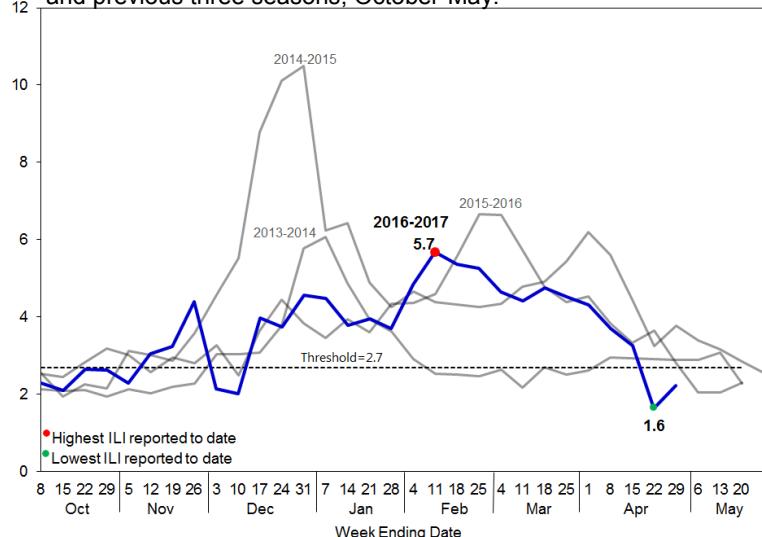


Figure 2. Percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness based on manual reports by individual hospitals, Chicago, by week, for the current season (2016-2017) and previous three seasons, October-May.



Currently, all Chicago hospitals submit data to **ESSENCE**, covering every emergency department visit in the city. For the week of April 23-29, 2017, 1.3% of all emergency department visits were due to ILI; Northside and Southside hospitals had slightly higher ILI at 1.5% and Westside hospitals had slightly lower ILI at 1.0% (**Figure 3**).

Several outpatient clinics throughout Chicago participate in CDC's Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (**ILINet**) by reporting on the number of patients with ILI seen weekly. For the week of April 23-29, 2017, with 24 facilities reporting, 3.6% of outpatient visits were due to influenza-like illness (**Figure 4**).

Which influenza strains are circulating?

Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza RT-PCR. For the week of April 23-29, 2017, with 6 laboratories reporting, 14 of the 572 (2.4%) specimens tested for influenza were positive (2 A (H3N2), 0 A (H1N1pdm09), 0 A [unknown subtype], and 12 influenza B).

Since October 2, 2016, 2,041 of 19,963 (10.2%) specimens tested for influenza have been positive; 1,249 typed as influenza A (1,067 H3N2, 21 H1N1pdm09, and 161 unknown subtype [subtyping not attempted or not all subtypes tested]) and 792 typed as influenza B (**Figure 5**). Since mid-March, influenza B has accounted for over 50% of the specimens testing positive for influenza; influenza B tends to increase towards the end of the season (**Figure 6**).

Figure 6. Percent of specimens testing positive (by RT-PCR) for influenza B as reported by local laboratories serving Chicago hospitals, for the current season (2016-2017) and previous three seasons, October-May.

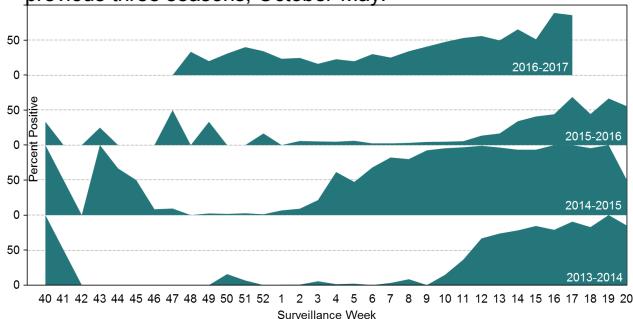


Figure 3. Percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness by hospital region based on chief complaint data submitted to ESSENCE, Chicago, by week, for the current season (2016-2017) and previous three seasons, October-May.

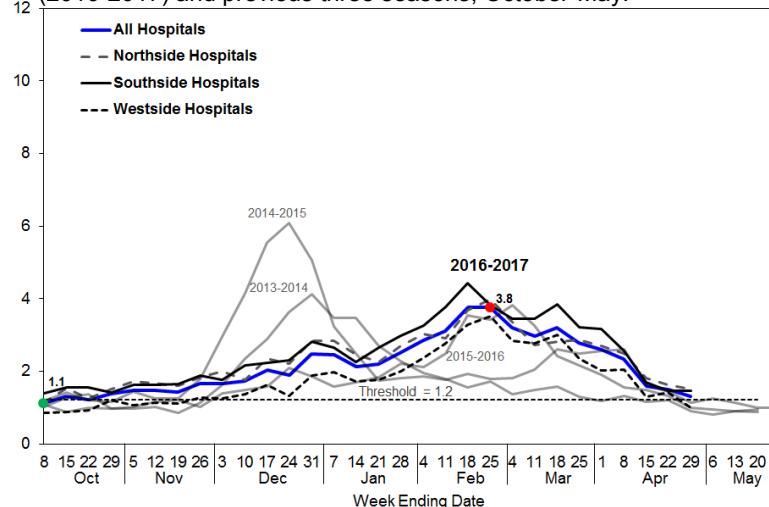


Figure 4. Percent of medically-attended outpatient visits attributed to influenza-like illness as reported by ILINet facilities, Chicago, by week, for the current season (2016-2017) and previous three seasons, October-May.

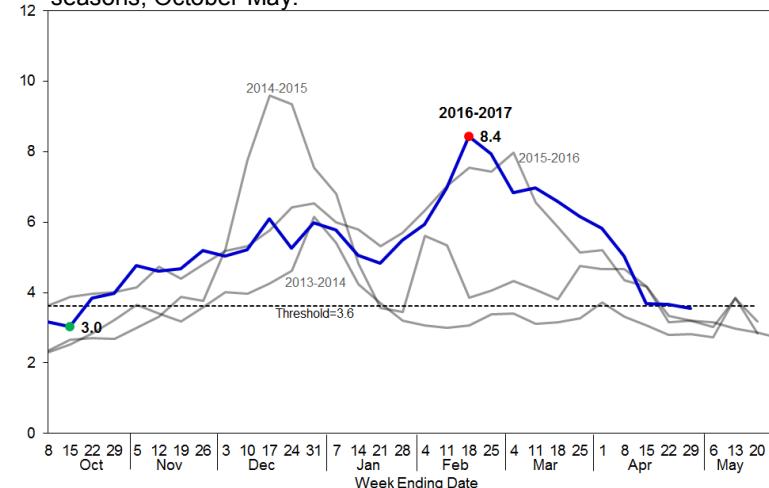
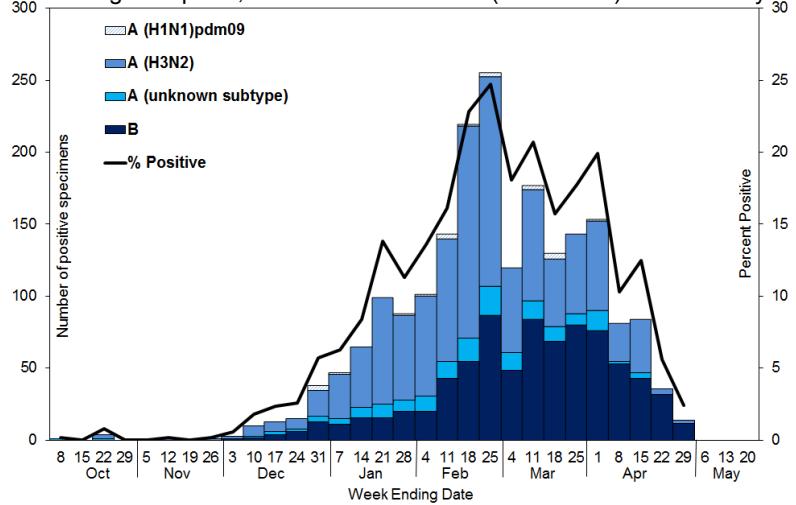


Figure 5. Percent of specimens testing positive (by RT-PCR) for influenza by subtype as reported by local laboratories serving Chicago hospitals, for the current season (2016-2017) October-May.



Where can I get more information?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **FluView**² report provides national updates and trends related to the intensity of influenza activity across the United States, as well as detailed information on anti-viral resistance, severity of illness, and other topics. Updates specific to **Illinois**³ and **Suburban Cook County**⁴ are also available online. Current and archived issues of the **Chicago Flu Update** can be found on the CDPH website section **Current Flu Situation in Chicago**⁵.

Reporting Information

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has issued **influenza testing and reporting recommendations**⁶; healthcare facilities can report cases to the Chicago Department of Public Health via the Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (**INEDSS**)⁷.

²<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>; ³<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/surveillance>; ⁴<http://cookcountypublichealth.org/data-reports/communicable-diseases>; ⁵http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/influenza/current_flu_situationinchicago2011.html; ⁶<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ohp-labs-influenzaannual-testing-and-reportingmemo-09222016.pdf>; ⁷<https://dph.partner.illinois.gov/>