



Chicago Flu Update



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

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Chicago Department of Public Health
Bechara Choucair, MD, Commissioner

What is the risk?

As of April 9, 2010, the risk of pandemic influenza A (H1N1) infection in Chicago remains low. Despite several months of minimal influenza activity, the [Board of Health's Emergency Reporting Requirement](#)¹ is still in effect for Chicago hospitals, as well as Chicago laboratories performing influenza tests based on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology. Figure 1 displays the number of doctor's offices and hospital emergency departments reporting influenza-like illness rates, and PCR-equipped laboratories reporting weekly test results from the time of regulation enactment. All Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to protect themselves from infection by getting vaccinated with the pandemic influenza vaccine. Vaccines are available at City of Chicago Fast Track Immunization clinics and neighborhood health centers; hours and locations are available by calling 311.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

Three hospitalizations associated with pandemic influenza A (H1N1) have been reported in Chicago residents for surveillance week 13 (March 28 – April 3, 2010) (figure 2). One pandemic influenza A (H1N1)-associated death in an adult Chicago resident was reported this week; this is the second reported pandemic-associated death occurring in 2010. Since the onset of the pandemic, 30 pandemic-associated deaths have been identified in Chicago residents.

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

With 18 of Chicago's 30 acute care hospitals reporting, 3.5% of emergency department visits were due to influenza-like illness (i.e. fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). This rate has remained below 4% for the past four weeks. Among five outpatient clinics reporting for the week of March 28 – April 3, 2010, 3.1% of doctor's office visits were due to influenza-like illness.

Which influenza strains are circulating?

For the week of March 28 – April 3, 2010, with six out of seven local laboratories reporting, two specimens were reported as positive for presumptive pandemic influenza A (H1N1). The overall influenza positivity rate was less than 1%. No seasonal influenza A or influenza B strains were reported.

Where can I get more information?

[The February edition of CDPH's CD Info newsletter](#)² provides supplemental information about the surveillance and investigation of the 2009 pandemic in Chicago. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [FluView](#)³ report provides national updates and trends related to the intensity of influenza activity across the United States, as well as detailed information on antiviral resistance, severity of illness, and other topics. Updates specific to [Illinois](#)⁴ and [Suburban Cook County](#)⁵ are also available online.

Figure 1. Number of emergency rooms, doctor's offices, and PCR-equipped laboratories submitting aggregate reports of influenza-like illness or influenza test results, Chicago, Aug. 2009—April 2010

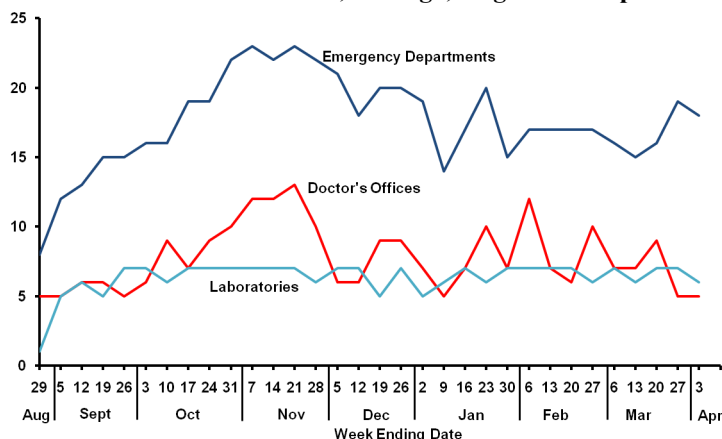
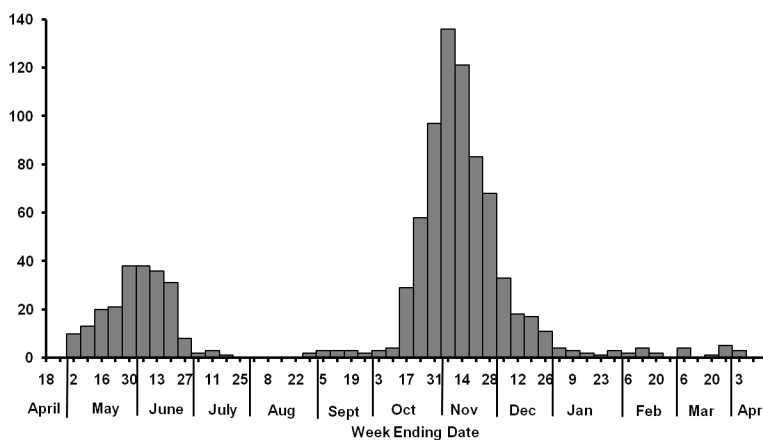


Figure 2. Reported number of hospitalizations associated with confirmed or presumptive pandemic influenza A (H1N1), Chicago, by week of specimen collection, April 2009—April 2010



¹ https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=28960&folderId=24345&name=DLE-95.pdf

² http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/infectious_disease/Communicable_Disease/IP_CDInfo_FEB2010_PandemicFlu.pdf

³ <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; ⁴ <http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate09-10.htm>; ⁵ http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation