



Chicago Flu Update



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

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Chicago Department of Public Health
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What is the risk?

In Chicago, the risk of influenza infection remains low, however influenza-like illness (ILI) appears to be increasing. Nationally, ILI activity is high in the Southeastern United States. [WHO data](#)¹ from the influenza season in the Southern hemisphere showed an increase in influenza A (H3N2), and a corresponding decrease in 2009 influenza A (H1N1). Local data suggest a similar pattern of activity, with a predominance of influenza A (H3N2) strains circulating. Influenza activity usually peaks in January or February and vaccination is the best way to protect against human influenza infection; all Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to get vaccinated. Vaccine is available in doctor's offices, retail pharmacies, CDPH Neighborhood Health Centers, and immunization walk-in clinics. A list of CDPH clinics is available on the [City of Chicago website](#)² and by calling 311.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

No influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations were reported for surveillance week 49 (December 5-11, 2010). Cases meeting the [current influenza reporting requirements](#)³ should be reported to CDPH via [INEDSS](#)⁴.

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

For the week of December 5-11, 2010, with 19 hospitals reporting, 4.8% of emergency room visits were due to ILI (i.e., fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). This is an increase from the 4.0% reported for the previous surveillance week; the greatest increases were seen in pediatric hospitals (Figure 1). From December 5-11, 2010, with 5 Chicago ILINet outpatient clinics reporting, 2.3% of doctor's office visits were due to ILI. CDC uses data collected in ILINet to produce a measure of ILI activity by state (Figure 2). Click on the map for more information on each state's activity levels.

Which influenza strains are circulating?

Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza subtyping. For the week of December 5-11, 2010, with 7 laboratories reporting, 7 of the 174 specimens tested were positive for influenza A. Two specimens were subtyped as influenza A (H3N2) and 5 were not subtyped.

Where can I get more information?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [FluView](#)⁵ 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](#)⁶ and [Suburban Cook County](#)⁷ are also available online.

Figure 1. Weekly reported percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness in pediatric hospitals, hospitals serving adults, and all hospitals overall, January 2– December 11, 2010

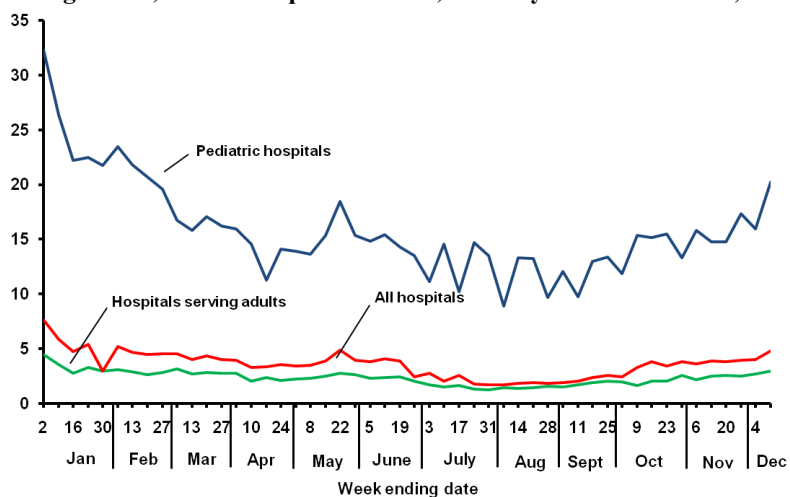
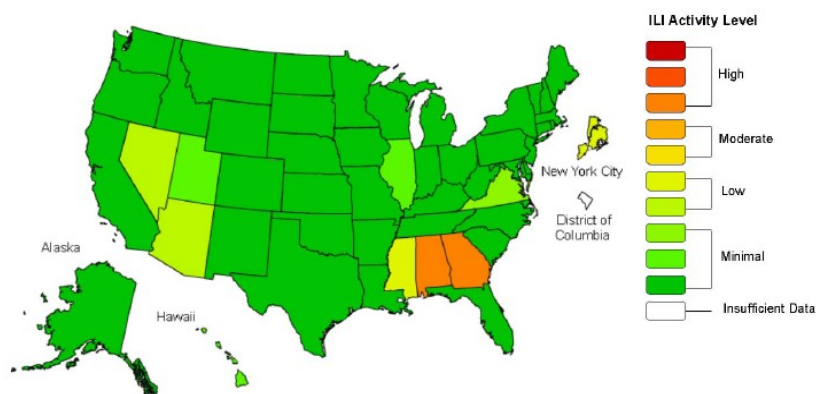


Figure 2. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity* level by state, determined using the proportion of doctor's office visits due to ILI as reported through ILINet, December 5-11, 2010.



* activity levels are compared to the average percent of ILI visits during the spring and fall weeks when little or no influenza virus circulation is occurring. Minimal activity corresponds to ILI activity below the average and high activity corresponds to ILI activity much higher than the average. Data is preliminary and may change as more data is received.

¹http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/southern_fluNet_graphs_week_01_to_44.pdf

²http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/clinic/svcs/find_a_clinic.html;

³https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=28960&folderId=24344&name=DLFE-144.pdf; ⁴<https://www.idphnet.com>;

⁵<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; ⁶<http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate10-11.htm>; ⁷http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation