



Chicago Flu Update



City of Chicago

Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Chicago Department of Public Health

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The 16th Annual CDPH Infection Control Conference will be held on June 2, 2011 at Malcolm X College. Register now at www.cdphlms.com

What is the risk?

The risk of influenza infection in Chicago is low. Locally, for the first time since November, no specimens tested for influenza were positive. This is the last *Chicago Flu Update* for the 2010-2011 surveillance season. The Chicago Department of Public Health will continue to monitor influenza activity throughout the summer months. The *Chicago Flu Update* will resume in the fall for the 2011-2012 season.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

No influenza-associated ICU admissions were reported for surveillance week 20 (May 15-21, 2011). A total of 98 influenza-associated ICU admissions of Chicago residents have been reported to CDPH for the 2010-2011 influenza surveillance season.¹ No deaths were reported for surveillance week 20. A total of fifteen deaths have been reported for this season (both ICU and non-ICU) including two in pediatric patients.

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

For the week of May 15-21, 2011, with 18 hospitals reporting, 3.9% of emergency room visits were due to ILI (i.e., fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). This season, influenza-like illness activity was lower during the first half of the season and higher during the second half of the season when compared to the 2009-2010 season. However, both seasons ended at a similar time (Figure 1).

Which influenza strains are circulating?

For the week of May 15-21, 2011, with 7 laboratories reporting, none of the 178 specimens tested for influenza were positive (Figure 2).

Where can I get more information?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [FluView](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/)² 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](http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate10-11.htm)³ and [Suburban Cook County](http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation)⁴ are also available online.

Figure 1. Weekly reported percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness, Chicago, by week, for current season (2010-2011) and previous season, October-May.

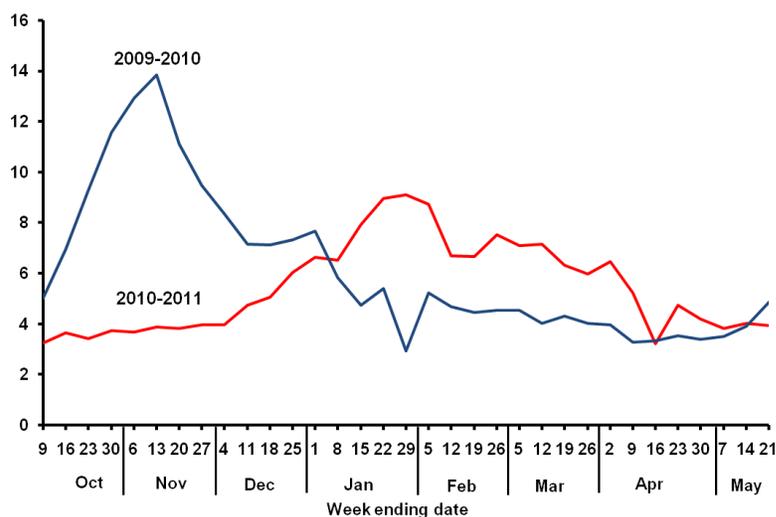
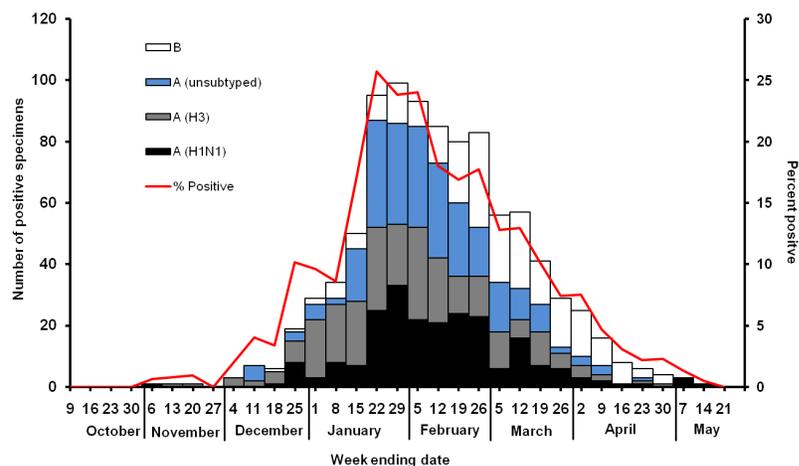


Figure 2. Influenza-positive tests reported by local laboratories serving Chicago hospitals that are equipped to identify influenza by types, by week, October 9, 2010-May 21, 2011



¹ https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_1_id=28960&folderId=24344&name=DLFE-144.pdf

² <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; ³ <http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate10-11.htm>

⁴ http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation