



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?

As of May 28, 2010, the risk of pandemic influenza A (H1N1) infection in Chicago remains low. Although this week's edition of **Chicago Flu Update** marks the end of the traditional influenza season and the last weekly update for the 2009-2010 season, influenza surveillance systems in Chicago will remain operational during the summer months. The [Board of Health's Emergency Reporting Requirement](#)¹ is still in effect for Chicago hospitals, as well as for Chicago laboratories performing influenza subtyping tests. Doctor's offices enrolled in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention influenza-like illness network may continue to voluntarily submit weekly data, and influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths continue to be reportable conditions.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

No hospitalizations associated with pandemic influenza A (H1N1) have been reported in Chicago residents for surveillance week 20 (May 15 – May 22, 2010) (figure 1).

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

With 12 Chicago hospitals reporting, 4.9% of emergency department visits were due to influenza-like illness (i.e. fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). In hospitals serving adults, levels of activity are comparable to what was reported in September 2009, but two pediatric hospitals have reported rate increases over the past two weeks (figure 2). Among four outpatient clinics reporting for the week of May 15 – May 22, 2010, less than 1% of doctor's office visits were due to influenza-like illness.

Which influenza strains are circulating?

For the week May 15 – May 22, 2010, with seven local laboratories reporting, 2 influenza A-positive specimen for which subtyping was performed was reported as presumptive pandemic influenza A (H1N1). No seasonal influenza A or influenza B strains were reported. The influenza positivity rate is below 1%.

Where can I get more information?

[The February and April editions of the CD Info newsletter](#)² provide supplemental information about CDPH's pandemic surveillance, investigation, and vaccine response. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Flu-View](#)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. Reported number of hospitalizations associated with confirmed or presumptive pandemic influenza A (H1N1), Chicago, by week of specimen collection, April 2009—May 2010

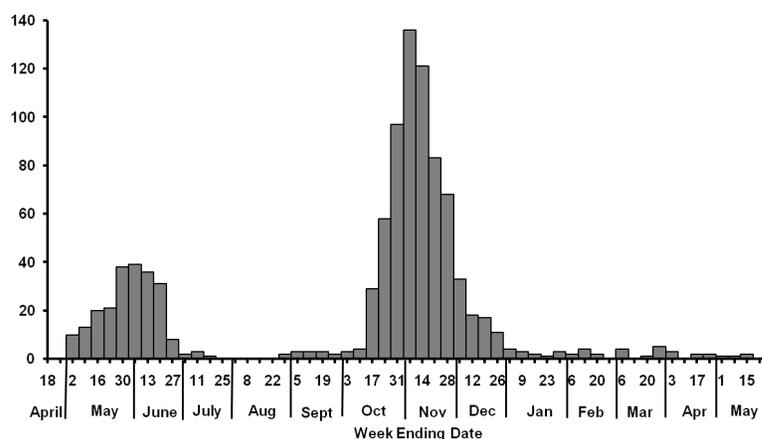
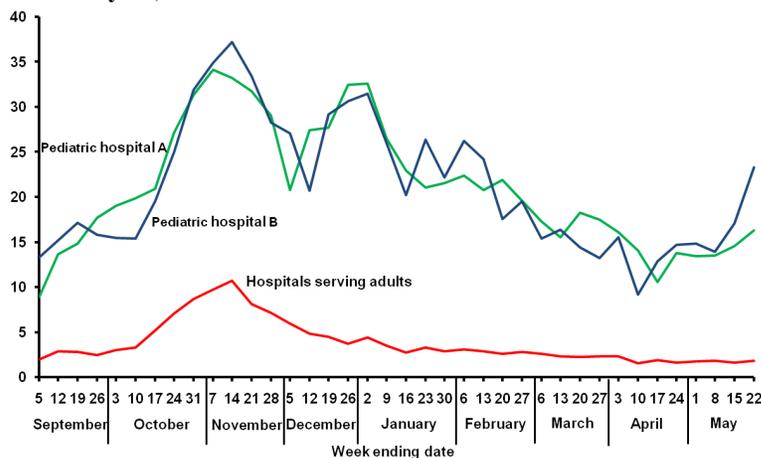


Figure 2. Weekly reported percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness in two Chicago pediatric hospitals, and all Chicago hospitals serving adults (combined), August 30, 2009—May 22, 2010.



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/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/cd_info/2010_cd_info_newsletters.html

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