



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?

Currently, the risk of influenza infection is low. Influenza activity usually peaks between January and February making now an optimal time to receive the vaccine. Vaccination is the best way to protect against influenza infection and all Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to get vaccinated. Chicagoans should ask their healthcare provider or pharmacist about vaccine availability. The Chicago Department of Public Health continues to hold influenza vaccination walk-in clinics throughout the city. For those without a healthcare provider or whose healthcare providers do not have the influenza vaccine, a schedule of [City of Chicago influenza vaccine clinics](#)¹ is available on the City website and by calling 311.

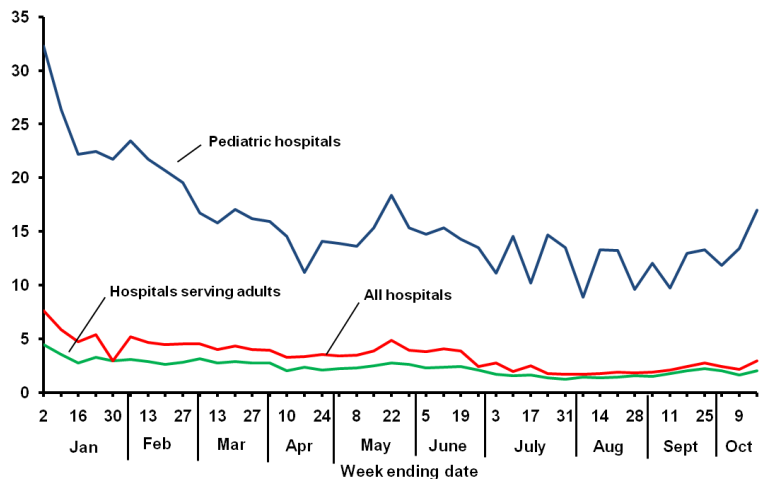
Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

No influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations or pediatric deaths have been reported for surveillance week 41 (October 10 - 16, 2010). Cases meeting the [new reporting requirements](#)² should all be reported to CDPH via [INEDSS](#)³.

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

For the week of October 10 - 16, 2010, with 8 hospitals reporting, 2.9% of emergency room visits were due to ILI (i.e., fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). Figure 1 shows Chicago emergency department ILI activity for 2010. Several outpatient clinics throughout Chicago also report on the number of ILI patients seen weekly. From October 10 - 16, 2010, with three outpatient clinics reporting, <1% of doctor's office visits were due to influenza-like illness.

Figure 1. Weekly reported percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness in two pediatric hospitals, hospitals serving adults, and all hospitals overall, January 2– October 16, 2010



Which influenza strains are circulating?

Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza subtyping. For the week of October 10 – 16, 2010, with five laboratories reporting, none of the 102 specimens tested for influenza were positive.

Where can I get more information?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [FluView](#)⁴ 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](#)⁵ and [Suburban Cook County](#)⁶ are also available online.

¹ http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/h1n1/cdph_flu_shot_sitesacrosschicago.html; ² https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=28960&folderId=24344&name=DLFE-144.pdf; ³ <https://www.idphnet.>; ⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; ⁵ <http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate09-10.htm>; ⁶ http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation