



Chicago Flu Update



City of Chicago
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

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Chicago Department of Public Health
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What is the risk?

Currently, the risk of influenza infection in the Chicago area is low. At the national level, CDC confirmed this week two human infections with novel influenza A viruses in individuals in Maine and Indiana. These viruses were characterized as swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) and both patients had close contact with pigs preceding their illness. There is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission of these viruses. Vaccination is the best way to protect against human seasonal 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 City of Chicago will be offering free flu shots on **Saturday, November 5th at Arturo Velasquez Institute, Wright and Daley Colleges**. A complete 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 were reported for week 43 (October 23-29, 2011). Suspected novel influenza, pediatric influenza-associated deaths, influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations and outbreaks of influenza-like illness in a congregate setting should all be reported to CDPH via [INEDSS](#)².

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

For the week of October 23-29, 2011, with 16 hospitals reporting, 2.8% of emergency room visits were due to ILI (i.e., fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). This is less than one percentage point lower than levels reported during the same surveillance week in 2010 (Figure 1). Several outpatient clinics throughout Chicago participate in the Influenza-like Illness Network (ILINet) by reporting the percentage of clinic visits due to ILI. From October 23-29, 2011, with 17 outpatient clinics reporting, 2.0% of outpatient clinic visits were due to ILI. This is the second consecutive week that an increase has been noted (Figure 2).

Which influenza strains are circulating?

Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza subtyping. For the week of October 23-29, 2011, with 4 laboratories reporting, none of the 108 specimens tested for influenza were positive.

Where can I get more information?

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. Weekly reported percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness, Chicago, by week, for current season (2011-2012) and previous two seasons, October-May.

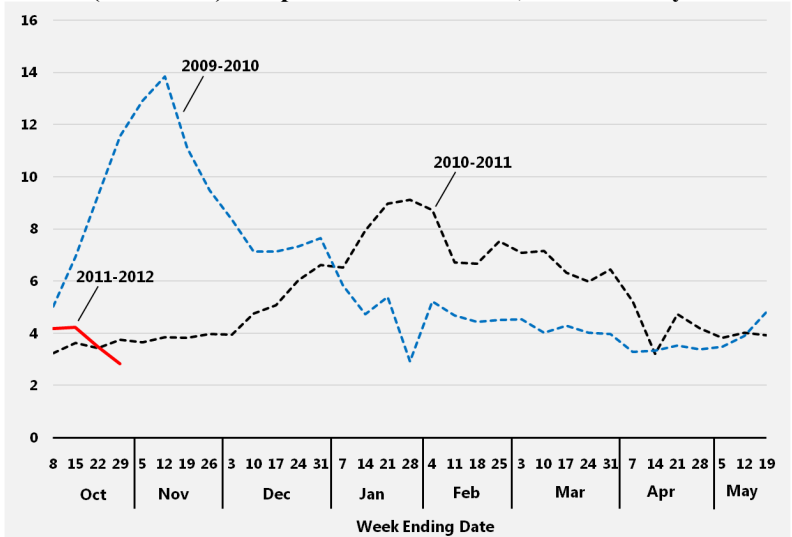
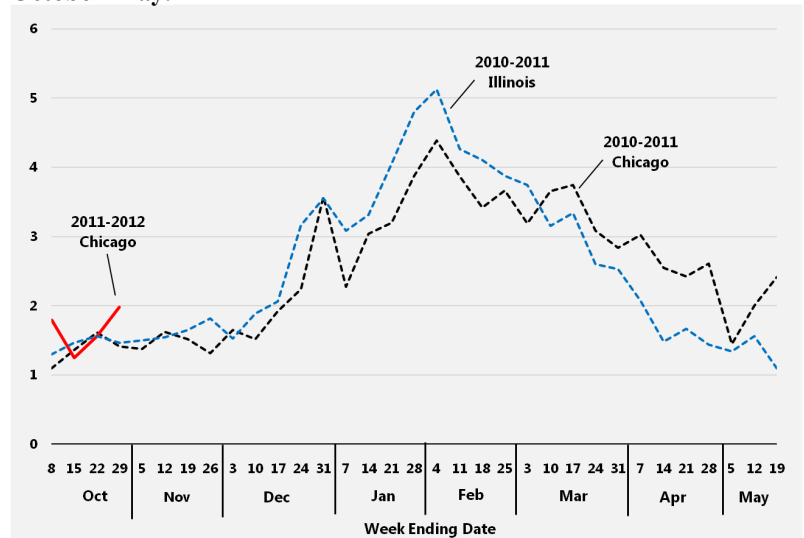


Figure 2. Weekly reported percent of outpatient clinic visits attributed to influenza-like illness, Chicago, by week, for current season (2011-2012) and previous season (Chicago and Illinois), October-May.



¹http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/influenza/cdph_flu_shot_sitesacrosschicago.html; ²<https://dph.partner.illinois.gov/>;

³<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>; ⁴<http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/surveillance.htm>; ⁵<http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/data-reports#Influenza>