



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?

The risk of influenza infection remains low. Two cases of human infection with a novel influenza A virus were reported in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Both cases were infected with a swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) virus. This virus was previously identified in 2009 and 2010; both cases have fully recovered and no human-to-human transmission has occurred. Vaccination is the best way to protect against human influenza infection and all Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to get vaccinated. The Chicago Department of Public Health continues to hold influenza vaccination walk-in clinics throughout the city. CDPH and the City Colleges of Chicago will be offering free influenza vaccines on **Saturday, November 13th**. 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 have been reported for surveillance week 44 (October 31-November 6, 2010). Cases meeting the [current influenza reporting requirements](#)² should be reported to CDPH via [INEDSS](#)³.

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

For the week of October 31-November 6, 2010, with 17 hospitals reporting, 2.7% 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. From October 31-November 6, 2010, with 5 Chicago ILINet outpatient clinics reporting, 1.3% 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 October 31-November 6, 2010, with six laboratories reporting, one of the 150 specimens tested for influenza was positive; identified as influenza A (H1N1).

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.

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, October 31– November 6, 2010

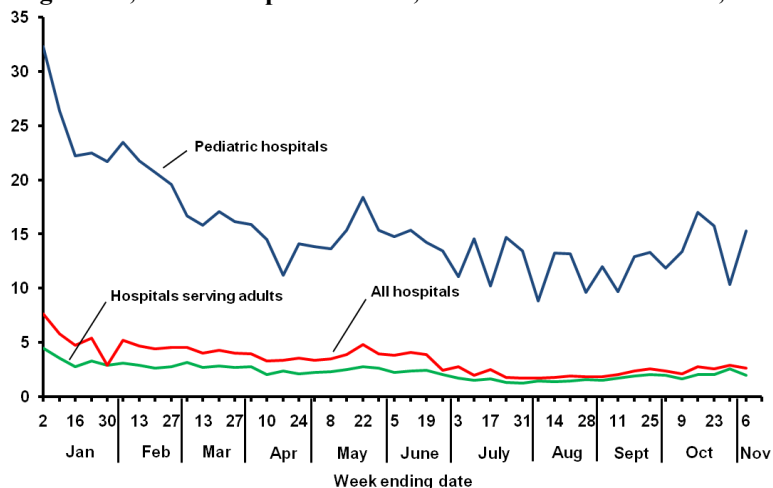
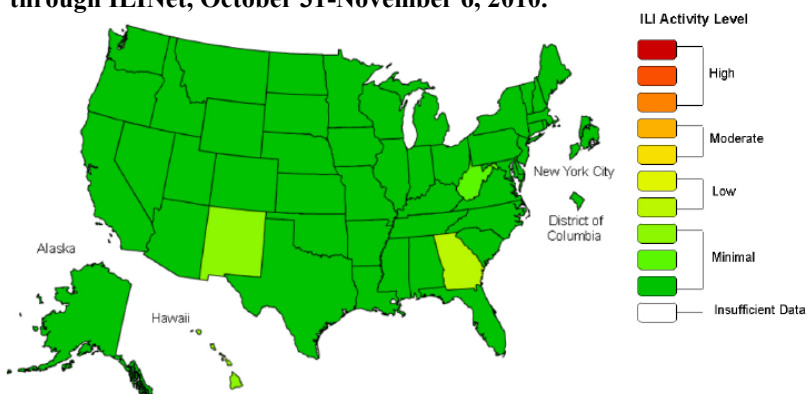


Figure 2. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity* level by state, determined using the proportion of doctor's office visits due to ILI as reported through ILINet, October 31-November 6, 2010.



* 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.

¹ http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/influenza/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.com>;

⁴ <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; ⁵ <http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate10-11.htm>; ⁶ http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation