



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?

In Chicago, the risk of influenza infection remains low. However, influenza activity has increased in the southeastern U.S. (Figure 2). December 5-11, 2010 is CDC's National Influenza Vaccination Week which highlights the importance of continuing flu vaccination during and after the holiday season. Influenza activity usually peaks in January or February and vaccination is the best way to protect against human influenza infection; all Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to get vaccinated. The Chicago Department of Public Health will hold its last scheduled influenza vaccination walk-in clinics on **Friday, Dec 3rd**. Vaccine will continue to be available in doctor's offices, retail pharmacies, CDPH Neighborhood Health Centers, and immunization walk-in clinics. A list of CDPH clinics is available on the [City of Chicago website](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/clinic/svcs/find_a_clinic.html)¹ and by calling 311.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

No influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations have been reported for surveillance week 47 (November 21-November 27, 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 November 21-November 27, 2010, with 19 hospitals reporting, 4.0% of emergency room visits were due to ILI (i.e., fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). This represents a 58% decrease from levels seen during the same surveillance week during the previous influenza season (Figure 1). From November 21-November 27, 2010, with 7 Chicago ILINet outpatient clinics reporting, 1.7% 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 November 21-November 27, 2010, with six laboratories reporting, none of the 128 specimens tested for influenza was positive for influenza.

Where can I get more information?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Flu-View](#)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, Chicago, by week, for current season (2010-2011) and previous season, October-May.

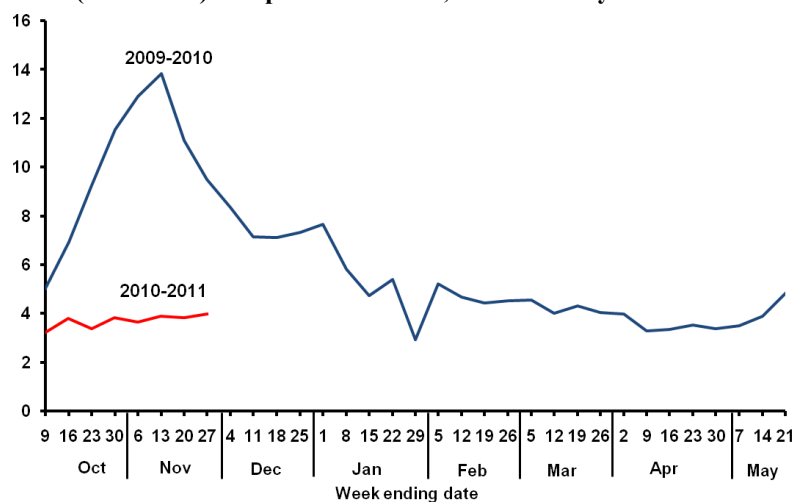
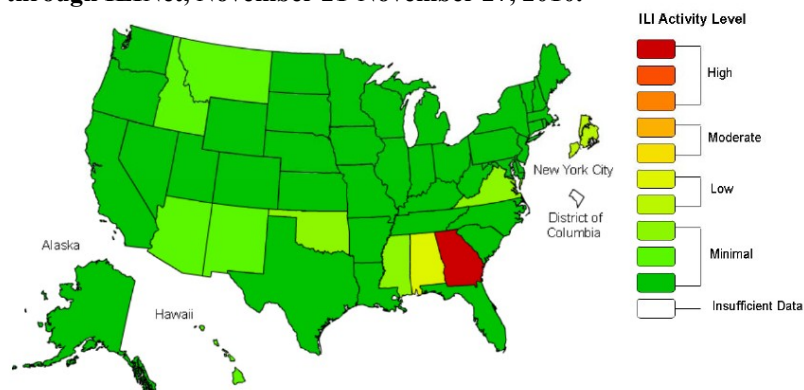


Figure 2. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity* level by state, determined using the proportion of doctor's office visits due to ILI as reported through ILINet, November 21-November 27, 2010.



* 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/provdrs/clinic/svcs/find_a_clinic.html;

² https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=28960&folderId=24344&name=DLE-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