



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, but during the past surveillance week (November 28-December 4, 2010), the Chicago Department of Public Health received the first report of the season of an influenza-associated intensive care unit (ICU) admission from a local hospital. In addition, surveillance data suggests that influenza A (H3N2) may have begun to circulate in Chicago. 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. Vaccine is 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)¹ and by calling 311.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

One influenza-associated ICU hospitalization was reported in surveillance week 48 (November 28-December 4, 2010). The patient tested positive for influenza A (H3N2). 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 28-December 4, 2010, with 21 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 percentage is less than half the proportion reported for the same surveillance week last year (Figure 1). From November 28-December 4, 2010, with 7 Chicago ILINet outpatient clinics reporting, 1.6% of doctor's office visits were due to ILI.

Which influenza strains are circulating?

Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza subtyping. For the week of November 28-December 4, 2010, with 7 laboratories reporting, 3 of the 150 specimens tested for influenza were positive. All 3 specimens were subtyped as influenza A (H3N2). CDC surveillance data show that influenza A and influenza B strains are circulating; of the influenza A specimens subtyped, 82.1% were H3N2 (Figure 2).

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, Chicago, by week, for current season (2010-2011) and previous season, October-May.

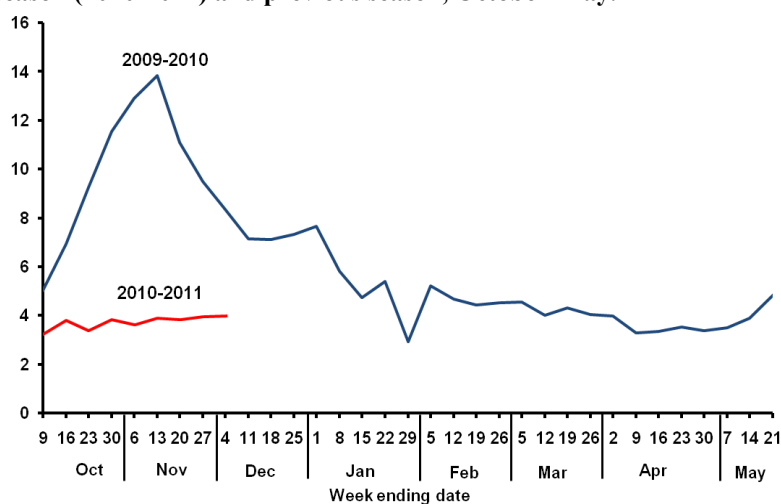
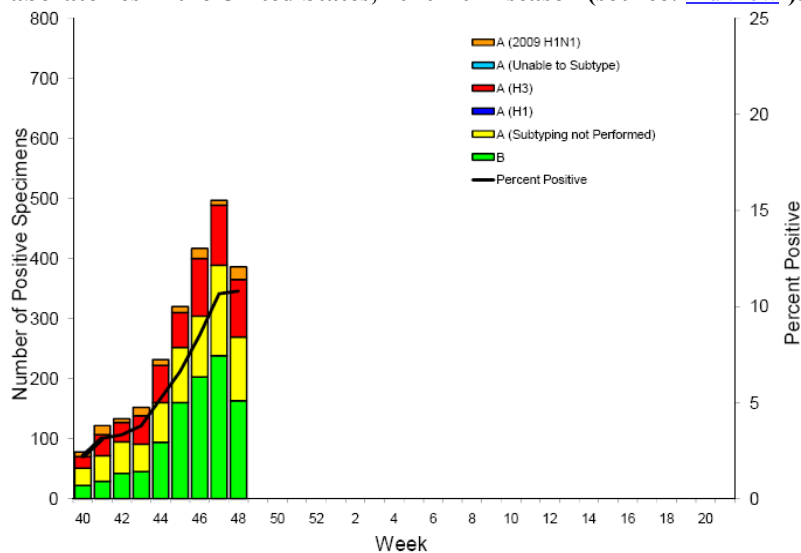


Figure 2. Positive influenza tests reported to CDC by participating laboratories in the United States, 2010-2011 season (source: [FluView](#)⁴).



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