



# 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?

The risk of influenza infection continues to be low. Although no influenza strains have been reported locally in recent weeks, the strains identified this fall nationally include 2009 H1N1, influenza A (H3), and influenza B viruses. These viruses are similar to the viruses chosen for the 2010-11 influenza vaccine. Vaccination is the best way to protect against 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. Chicagoans should ask their healthcare provider or pharmacist about vaccine availability. 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](#)<sup>1</sup> is available on the City website and by calling 311.

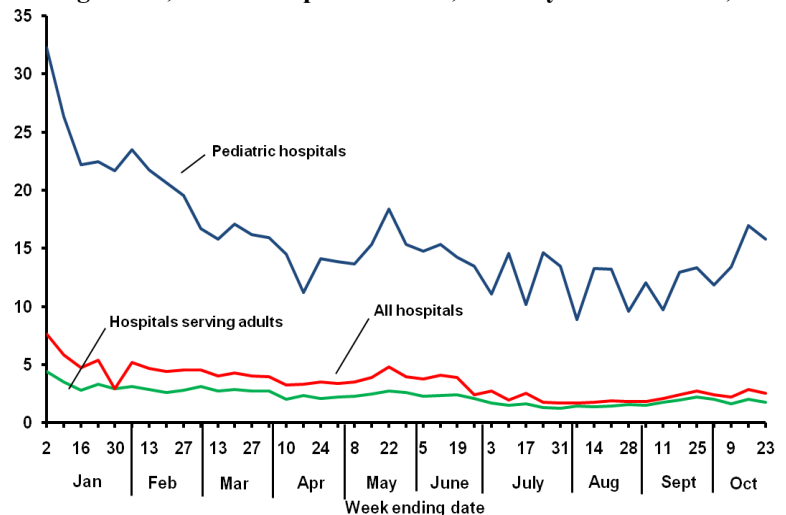
## Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

No influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations have been reported for surveillance week 42 (October 17-23, 2010). Cases meeting the [current influenza reporting requirements](#)<sup>2</sup> should be reported to CDPH via [INEDSS](#)<sup>3</sup>.

## How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

For the week of October 17-23, 2010, with 9 hospitals reporting, 2.6% 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 participate in the Influenza-like illness Network (ILINet) and also report on the number of ILI patients seen weekly. From October 17-23, 2010, with four outpatient clinics reporting, 3.4% of doctor's office visits were due to ILI.

**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 23, 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 17-23, 2010, with six laboratories reporting, none of the 125 specimens tested for influenza were positive.

## Where can I get more information?

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

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp\\_info/influenza/cdph\\_flu\\_shot\\_sitesacrosschicago.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/supp_info/influenza/cdph_flu_shot_sitesacrosschicago.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?p\\_l\\_id=28960&folderId=24344&name=DLE-144.pdf](https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=28960&folderId=24344&name=DLE-144.pdf); <sup>3</sup> <https://www.idphnet.>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; <sup>5</sup> <http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate09-10.htm>; <sup>6</sup> [http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu\\_current\\_situation](http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation)