**What is the risk?**
Currently, the risk of influenza infection is low.

**Are severe cases of influenza occurring?**
For the week of October 27-November 2, 2019, one influenza-associated ICU hospitalization was reported.

Since September 29, 2019, two influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations have been reported; both were positive for influenza A (H3N2) (**Figure 1**).

**Which influenza strains are circulating?**
Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza RT-PCR. For the week of October 27-November 2, 2019, 4 of the 756 (<1%) specimens tested for influenza were positive; 1 typed as influenza A unknown subtype [subtyping not performed or not all subtypes tested] and 3 typed as influenza B (**Figure 2**).

Since September 29, 2019, 16 of 3,790 (<1%) specimens tested for influenza have been positive; 8 typed as influenza A (6 H3N2, 0 H1N1pdm09, and 2 unknown subtype [subtyping not performed or not all subtypes tested]) and 8 typed as influenza B. The cumulative percent of specimens testing positive for influenza is similar to previous seasons for the same time period (**Figure 3**).
How much influenza-like illness is occurring?
Several outpatient clinics throughout Chicago participate in CDC’s Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILI-Net) by reporting on a weekly basis the total number of outpatient clinic visits, and of those visits, the number with influenza-like illness (ILI). For the week of October 27-November 2, 2019, 93 of the 5,407 (1.7%) reported outpatient clinic visits were due to influenza-like illness, which is slightly lower than Illinois at 1.9% (Figure 4).

In addition to ILI-Net, ESSENCE is an electronic syndromic surveillance system that utilizes the chief complaints of patients visiting emergency departments to monitor for influenza-like illness. Currently, ESSENCE captures nearly every emergency department visit in the city on a daily basis. For the week of October 27-November 2, 2019, 440 of the 22,015 (2.0%) total emergency department visits were due to influenza-like illness (Figure 5).

Figure 6 represents the percentage of emergency department visits due to influenza-like illness aggregated by patient zip code. For the week of October 27-November 2, 2019, 14 of 59 (24%) zip codes had ILI activity levels in the moderate to high; this is lower than last season where 32% of zip codes were at moderate to high levels for the same time period.

Where can I get more information?
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s FluView® 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 and Suburban Cook County are also available online. Current and archived issues of the Chicago Flu Update can be found on the CDPH website section Current Flu Situation in Chicago.

Reporting Information
Illinois Department of Public Health recently issued Influenza Testing and Reporting Guidance. The Chicago Department of Public Health has previously issued guidance on reporting influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations. Healthcare facilities can report cases to the Chicago Department of Public Health via the Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (INEDSS). For more information contact: SyndromicSurveillance@cityofchicago.org

All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

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