



Chicago Flu Update



City of Chicago

Richard M. Daley, Mayor

March 19, 2010

Chicago Department of Public Health

Bechara Choucair, MD, Commissioner

What is the risk?

As of March 19, 2010, the risk of pandemic influenza A (H1N1) influenza infection in Chicago is low. Despite several weeks of minimal influenza activity, the [Board of Health's Emergency Reporting Requirement](#)¹ is still in effect for Chicago hospitals, as well as Chicago laboratories performing influenza subtyping tests. All Chicagoans aged six months and older are encouraged to protect themselves from infection by getting vaccinated with the pandemic influenza vaccine. Chicagoans should ask their healthcare provider or pharmacist about vaccine availability. Vaccines are available at City of Chicago Fast Track Immunization clinics and neighborhood health centers; hours and locations are available by calling 311.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

No hospitalizations associated with pandemic influenza A (H1N1) have been reported in Chicago residents for surveillance week 10 (March 7 – March 13, 2010) (figure 1).

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?

With 15 Chicago hospitals reporting, 4.4% of emergency department visits were due to influenza-like illness (i.e. fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). Pediatric hospitals continue to experience higher rates, but a downward trend is evident (figure 2). Among seven outpatient clinics reporting for the week of March 7 – March 13, 2010, 2.7% of doctor's office visits were due to influenza-like illness. This level of activity is similar to levels seen during the same surveillance week during previous influenza seasons

Which influenza strains are circulating?

For the week of March 7– March 13, 2010, with six laboratories reporting, all four influenza A-positive specimens for which subtyping was performed were reported as either confirmed or presumptive pandemic influenza A (H1N1). No seasonal influenza A or influenza B strains were reported.

Where can I get more information?

[The February edition of CDPH's CD Info newsletter](#)² provides supplemental information about the surveillance and investigation of the 2009 pandemic in Chicago. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [FluView](#)³ 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](#)⁴ and [Suburban Cook County](#)⁵ are also available online.

Figure 1. Reported number of hospitalizations associated with confirmed or presumptive pandemic influenza A (H1N1), Chicago, by week of specimen collection, April 2009—March 13, 2010

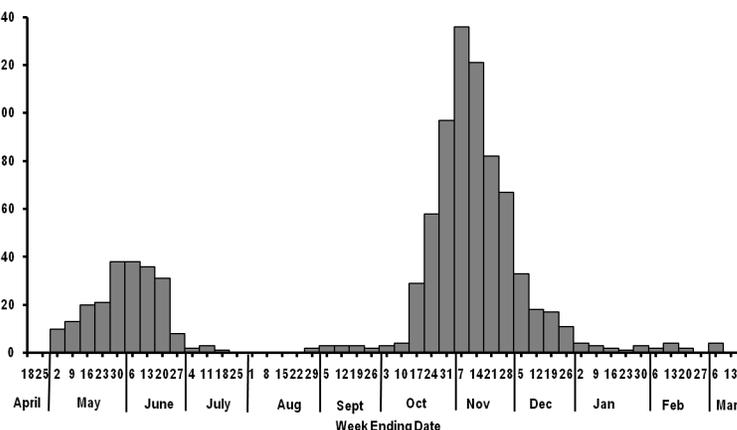
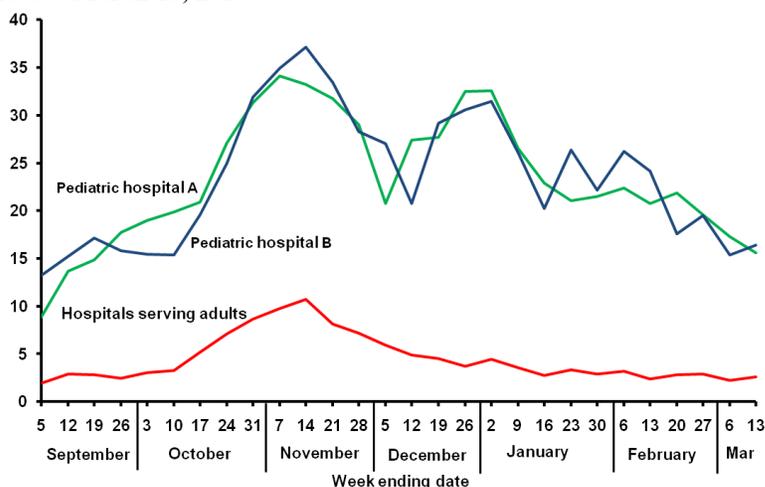


Figure 2. Weekly reported percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness in two Chicago pediatric hospitals, and all Chicago hospitals serving adults (combined), August 30, 2009—March 13, 2010.



¹ https://www.chicagohan.org/c/document_library/get_file?p_l_id=23942&folderId=24345&name=DLFE-95.pdf

² http://www.cityofchicago.org/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/infectious_disease/Communicable_Disease/IP_CDInfo_FEB2010_PandemicFlu.pdf

³ <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>; ⁴ <http://www.idph.state.il.us/flu/fluupdate09-10.htm>; ⁵ http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/flu_current_situation