News & Updates
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The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has issued influenza testing and reporting recommendations. Suspected novel and variant influenza, pediatric influenza-associated deaths, influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations and outbreaks of influenza-like illness in a congregate setting should all be reported to CDPH via INEDSS.

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

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?
During surveillance week 41, two influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations were reported (Figure 1).

Since October 2, 2016, 2 influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations have been reported; both were positive for influenza A (1 H3N2 and 1 unknown subtype [subtyping not attempted or not all subtypes tested]).

2015-2016 Quick Summary
During the 2015-2016 season, 275 influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations were reported with the majority (50%) being positive for influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and over half (59%) fifty years of age or older (Table 1).

How much influenza-like illness is occurring?
CDPH receives data from influenza surveillance sites across Chicago, which report the total number of patient visits seen weekly, and of those visits, the number with influenza-like illness (ILI) (i.e., fever of 100°F or greater, with cough or sore throat). Several hospitals in Chicago that provide emergent care report on a weekly basis the total number of emergency department visits, and of those visits, the number with ILI. For surveillance week 41, with 8 hospitals reporting, 1.4% of emergency department visits were due to ILI (Figure 2).

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

Figure 1. Number of influenza-associated intensive care unit hospitalizations reported for Chicago residents, for current season (2016-2017) by influenza type and last season (2015-2016), October-May.

Figure 2. Percent of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness based on manual reports by individual hospitals, Chicago, by week, for the current season (2016-2017) and previous three seasons, October-May.

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3 https://dph.partner.illinois.gov/

Table 1. Selected attributes of influenza-associated intensive care unit hospitalizations for Chicago residents for the 2015-2016 influenza season, October-May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected Attribute</th>
<th>Age group (yrs)</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>% Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NH-White</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>NH-Black</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-49</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Other/Unknown</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥65</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Medical Condition</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Lung Disease</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cardiac Disease</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Treatment/Vaccination</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Reported Vaccination</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Antiviral Treatment</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Chicago Influenza Surveillance Activity Report
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor
October 21, 2016
Julie Morita, MD, Commissioner
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ESSENCE is an electronic syndromic surveillance system that utilizes emergency department chief complaint data submitted daily by Chicago hospitals. ILI activity is determined solely based on the patient’s chief complaint and does not take into account the entire medical record, as the ILI activity reported in Figure 2 does.

Since July 2016, 27 out of the 28 acute care hospitals in Chicago began submitting data to the ESSENCE platform, covering nearly every emergency department visit in the city of Chicago. Figure 3 represents ILI by hospital location (Northside, Southside, Westside) encompassing approximately ten hospitals within each area. For surveillance week 41, 1.3% of all emergency department visits were due to ILI; Northside and Southside hospitals had slightly higher ILI at 1.6% and Westside hospitals had the lowest at <1.0%.

Several outpatient clinics throughout Chicago participate in CDC’s Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) by reporting on the number of patients with ILI seen weekly. For surveillance week 41, with 20 facilities reporting, 3.0% of visits were due to influenza-like illness (Figure 4).

Which influenza strains are circulating?
Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza subtyping. For surveillance week 41, with 4 laboratories reporting, 0 of the 404 specimens tested for influenza were positive.

Since October 2, 2016, 1 of 879 specimens tested for influenza was positive for influenza A (unknown subtype [subtyping not attempted or not all subtypes tested]) (Figure 5). The cumulative percent of specimens testing positive for influenza is similar to previous seasons during the same time period (Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative percent of specimens testing positive for influenza by subtype for the current season (2016-2017) and the previous three seasons, Chicago, Weeks 40-41.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>% Positive</th>
<th>% A (H3N2)</th>
<th>% A (H1N1pdm09)</th>
<th>% A Not Subtyped</th>
<th>% B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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