

This report covers flu surveillance activities for the 28 counties that comprise Health Service Region 8: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Calhoun, Comal, Dewitt, Dimmit, Edwards, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Jackson, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, La Salle, La Vaca, Maverick, Medina, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Wilson, and Zavala.

**Flu Activity:**

Compared to last week, flu activity in the region is on the rise. Twenty- three counties submitted reports this week. Of the counties that reported, 16 counties reported influenza-like-illness. Three counties reported flu A by rapid test, three counties reported flu B by rapid test, and four counties reported both flu A and flu B by rapid test.

**Pediatric Deaths:**

None during this reporting period.

**Institutional & School Outbreaks**

During week 46, one outbreak of Flu A in a nursing facility occurred. Appropriate infection control measures are in place and activity has slowed. To date, 5 employees and 4 residents have had rapid test positive results. All patients were unvaccinated and two patients have been hospitalized. Patients who are not immunized or are symptomatic are being given Tamiflu.

**Antiviral Resistance**

No antiviral resistant flu reported.

**Variant Influenza Viruses**

No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas.

**Flu Facts:**

According to Texas influenza laboratory data and influenza-like illness (ILI) indicators there has been an increase in influenza activity compared to last week. ILI activity is below the 2014-2015 state ILINet baselines of 5.42%. Overall, influenza activity around the state is increasing steadily.

Influenza vaccination is the primary method for preventing influenza and its severe complications. Vaccination is associated with reductions in influenza-related respiratory illness and physician visits among all age groups, hospitalizations and deaths among persons at high risk, otitis media among children, and work absenteeism among adults.

Highlighted areas indicate the highest level of influenza activity detected by county.

Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2011–2015 Seasons

**Health Service Region 8 Influenza Activity Map**

