

Health Service Region 8 Influenza Activity Report MMWR Week 11 Week Ending 03/18/16



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

Flu Activity:

Reports were received from 23 counties for this two-week period. Three counties reported no flu or ILI activity. Five counties reported ILI activity only. Fourteen counties reported flu by rapid test. One counties reported flu by PCR. In Region 8, activity in week 11 was about the same as week 10.

Antiviral Resistance- No antiviral resistant flu reported.

Variant Influenza Viruses- No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas.

Pediatric Influenza Mortality

The first Influenza-related pediatric mortality for the season occurred during week 11. PCR results indicate the patient was positive for Influenza A H1N1. Based on the immunization record, the 2-year-old patient did not appear to have received the influenza vaccine.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

During week 10, four ILI/influenza-associated outbreaks were reported in schools in different regions of the state. A reported influenza-associated outbreak occurred in a school located in HSR 8. There were 11 people (10 students and 1 staff) associated with this outbreak. Of the 11 patients, five were positive for influenza B and one person was positive for influenza A. In addition, there were three ILI/influenza-associated outbreaks reported in schools located in HSR 6/5S. During week 10, a school located in HSR 1 was closed for a couple of days due to high absentee rates that was attributed ILI or influenza.

Summary

Influenza activity remains elevated across the state. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens positive for influenza marginally increased and the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) somewhat decreased. It is too early to tell if influenza activity has peaked for the season. Five ILI/influenza-associated outbreaks and no influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. In addition to flu, other respiratory viruses were detected in Texas during week 10.

