

Texas Influenza Surveillance Report 2020-2021 Season/2021 MMWR Week 37

(September 12, 2021 – September 18, 2021)
Report produced on 9/24/2021

Summary

*Please note, some aspects of influenza surveillance may be affected by current COVID-19 response activities. For information about COVID-19 in Texas, please visit www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus.

Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by hospital laboratories has decreased. The percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) has decreased. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. No influenza-associated institutional outbreaks or school closures were reported.

Table 1: Summary of Texas Influenza (Flu) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity for the Current Week

Texas Surveillance Component	Change from Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week†	Page of Report
Statewide ILINet Activity Indicator assigned by CDC (intensity of influenza-like illness)	No change	Low	Low	--
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by hospital laboratories	▼ 0.16%	0.06%	0.22%	1
Percentage of visits due to ILI (ILINet)	▼ 0.41%	2.75%	3.16%	2
Number of regions reporting increased flu/ILI activity	▲ 1	2	1	5
Number of regions reporting decreased flu/ILI activity	No change	1	1	5
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	No cases reported	0	0	5
Number of ILI/influenza outbreaks	No change	0	0	5
Number of pediatric influenza deaths	No change	0	0	6

Laboratory Results

Influenza

*In response to the COVID-19, influenza testing at Texas Public Health Laboratories has significantly decreased to increase capacity for SARS-CoV-2 testing. Please note, this will affect data in Table 3 and Figure 2.

Hospital laboratories across Texas voluntarily report influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). Providers throughout Texas also submit specimens for influenza testing (PCR) to Texas public health laboratories, including the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) state laboratory in Austin and the nine Texas Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories. The results reported by Texas NREVSS participants and public health laboratories for the current week are summarized in the two tables below. Additional influenza test results (rapid tests, culture, PCR) and ILI activity were reported from providers and public health departments throughout the state (see county map at the end of this report).

Table 2: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Hospital Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 37	Season to Date Week Ending: September 18, 2021
Number of labs reporting flu tests	17	
Number of specimens tested	3393	154685
Number of positive specimens (%)†	2 (0.06%)	1004 (0.65%)
Percentage of total tests that were antigen detection tests	10.46%	
Positive specimens by type/subtype [n (%)]		
Influenza A	1 (50.00%)	275 (27.39%)
Subtyping performed	0 (0.00%)	21 (7.64%)
A (H1N1)	0 (0.00%)	5 (23.81%)
A (H3N2)	0 (0.00%)	16 (76.19%)
Subtyping not performed	1 (100.00%)	254 (92.36%)
Influenza B	1 (50.00%)	729 (72.61%)

Table 3: Influenza Testing Performed by Texas Public Health Laboratories for the Current Week

	Week 37	Season to Date Week Ending: September 18, 2021
Number of labs reporting flu tests	2	
Number of specimens tested	32	9311
Number of positive specimens (%) [†]	0 (0.00%)	8 (0.09%)
Positive specimens by type/subtype/lineage [n (%)]		
Influenza A	0 (0.00%)	3 (37.50%)
Subtyping performed	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)
A (H1N1)	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
A (H3N2)	0 (0.00%)	3 (100.00%)
Subtyping not performed	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Influenza B	0 (0.00%)	5 (62.50%)
Lineage testing performed	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)
B/Victoria	0 (0.00%)	5 (100.00%)
B/Yamagata	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Lineage testing not performed	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Other	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)

[†]Other denotes specimens with coinfections (i.e. one specimen was positive for both influenza A (H1N1) and influenza A (H3N2))

Other Respiratory Viruses

The NREVSS system collects information on a variety of respiratory viruses in addition to influenza including parainfluenza virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), rhinovirus, human metapneumovirus (HMPV), seasonal coronavirus, and respiratory adenovirus. The results for the current week are summarized below.

Table 4: Non-Influenza Respiratory Virus Testing Performed by Texas NREVSS Laboratories for the Current Week

Virus	Number of Laboratories Testing	Tests Performed	Positive Tests	Percentage of Tests Positive
Adenovirus (respiratory)	11	2315	68	2.94%
HMPV	11	2315	19	0.82%
Parainfluenza virus	11	2315	48	2.07%
Rhino/enterovirus	10	2246	733	32.64%
RSV ^{†^}	16	3200	350	10.94%
Seasonal coronavirus (does not include MERS-CoV or COVID-19)	11	2289	25	1.09%

[†]RSV tests displayed in the table are a combination of antigen detection, PCR, and culture tests. Some non-NREVSS reporters also contribute to the RSV data.

[^]Numbers and percentage may differ from the weekly RSV report. The weekly RSV report may be accessed at <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/RSV/disease/rsv-Data.aspx>.

U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

* Please note, the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting healthcare seeking behavior. The number of persons and their reasons for seeking care in the outpatient and ED settings is changing. These changes impact data from ILINet in ways that are difficult to differentiate from changes in illness levels, therefore ILINet data should be interpreted with caution.

Table 5: Texas ILINet Reporting and Patient Visit Summary for the Current Week

	Week 37
Number of providers reporting	55
Number of providers reporting patient visits	55
Number (%) of providers with at least one ILI case	47 (87.45%)
Percentage of all visits due to ILI	2.75%
Texas ILINet baseline [‡] , 2020-2021	5.26%

[‡]The baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations.

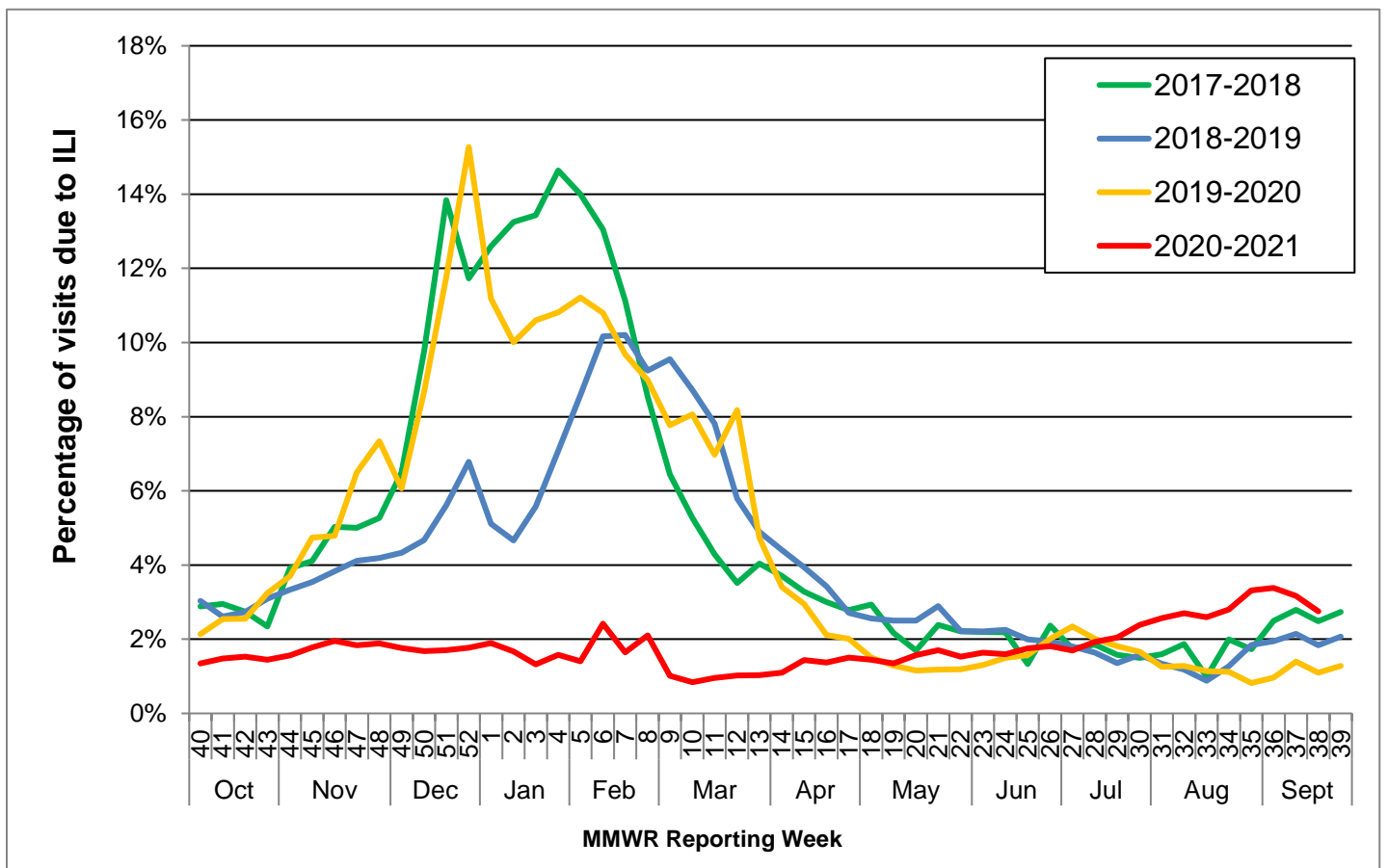
A "non-influenza week" is defined as a week that accounted for less than 2% of the season's total number of specimens that tested positive for influenza.

Table 6: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Providers (as of 9/23/2021 9:30 AM)

Week	Providers Reporting	Number of ILI Cases by Age Group (Years)					Total ILI (all ages)	Total Patients	ILI
		0-4	5-24	25-49	50-64	65+			
202040	65	97	203	158	69	38	565	41933	1.35%
202041	79	108	220	231	116	68	743	50142	1.48%
202042	74	138	218	227	104	58	745	48710	1.53%
202043	64	107	203	183	75	46	614	42505	1.44%
202044	76	120	204	244	99	53	720	46159	1.56%
202045	82	141	270	320	109	65	905	50804	1.78%
202046	80	154	286	353	146	99	1038	53186	1.95%
202047	78	140	256	328	130	82	936	50873	1.84%
202048	79	96	206	281	145	73	801	42465	1.89%
202049	71	127	208	284	108	67	794	45075	1.76%
202050	80	123	201	290	122	98	834	49791	1.68%
202051	65	122	166	204	87	59	638	37525	1.70%
202052	75	114	143	256	122	87	722	40748	1.77%
202053	65	116	146	258	115	104	739	39032	1.89%
202101	79	125	194	303	178	72	872	52244	1.67%
202102	66	111	124	159	82	63	539	40913	1.32%
202103	77	112	203	258	126	67	766	48554	1.58%
202104	75	87	175	199	86	47	594	42326	1.40%
202105	80	147	372	441	180	56	1196	49396	2.42%
202106	41	38	68	40	27	10	183	11117	1.65%
202107	40	11	6	14	6	7	44	2089	2.11%
202108	62	117	133	112	47	41	450	44452	1.01%
202109	78	89	129	100	45	28	391	46514	0.84%
202110	60	97	114	80	34	23	348	36336	0.96%
202111	73	130	137	114	52	26	459	45077	1.02%
202112	73	110	125	119	52	27	433	42008	1.03%
202113	76	153	222	106	46	19	546	49683	1.10%
202114	75	208	280	175	67	23	753	52335	1.44%
202115	74	192	251	212	56	24	735	53606	1.37%
202116	60	200	238	150	37	32	657	43772	1.50%
202117	73	238	252	195	64	27	776	53707	1.44%
202118	73	257	246	160	50	30	743	55093	1.35%
202119	73	302	247	171	72	21	813	51869	1.57%
202120	58	369	214	143	48	25	799	46812	1.71%
202121	60	276	196	163	52	31	718	46828	1.53%
202122	66	372	193	131	34	29	759	46460	1.63%

Week	Providers Reporting	Number of ILI Cases by Age Group (Years)					Total ILI (all ages)	Total Patients	ILI
		0-4	5-24	25-49	50-64	65+			
202123	50	374	152	104	30	25	685	42871	1.60%
202124	49	440	166	109	38	32	785	44780	1.75%
202125	49	428	171	138	38	31	806	44532	1.81%
202126	48	428	158	96	29	23	734	43378	1.69%
202127	61	432	222	200	49	32	935	48569	1.93%
202128	62	433	249	236	79	46	1043	51081	2.04%
202129	62	524	303	285	86	51	1249	52381	2.38%
202130	61	565	307	308	99	131	1410	54882	2.57%
202131	61	513	349	382	130	67	1441	53344	2.70%
202132	63	599	431	343	110	53	1536	59213	2.59%
202133	58	540	471	296	106	66	1479	52725	2.81%
202134	59	671	739	313	87	54	1864	56255	3.31%
202135	58	645	705	306	80	37	1773	52411	3.38%
202136	46	515	528	235	73	51	1402	44299	3.16%
202137	55	501	529	239	65	48	1382	50178	2.75%

Figure 1: Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2017–2021 Seasons



Reports from Health Service Regions

Reports were received from six Health Service Regions (HSRs) during week 37.

Table 7: Influenza Activity Compared to Week 36 by Health Service Region (HSR)

Influenza Activity Comparison	Health Service Region (HSR)
Increased	7 and 8
Same	2/3 and 11
Decreased	
Unsure	1 and 6/5S

Variant Influenza Viruses

No variant or novel influenza viruses have been detected in Texas during the 2020-2021 season.

Institutional Outbreaks and School Closures

No institutional outbreaks or school closures were reported in week 37 during the 2020-2021 season.

P&I Mortality Surveillance Data

***Deaths due to COVID-19 may be classified as pneumonia deaths or influenza deaths (deaths due to “flu” or “flu-like illness”) in the absence of positive SARS-CoV-2 test results.**

Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) death data are obtained from death certificates of Texas residents whose underlying or contributing cause(s) of death is reported as pneumonia or influenza. P&I deaths are identified based on ICD-10 multiple cause of death codes. P&I deaths are based on ICD-10 pneumonia and influenza mortality codes.

Nine thousand four hundred nine (9,409) P&I deaths have been reported in Texas during the 2020-2021 influenza season.

Table 8: Texas P&I Deaths Occurring Sept. 27, 2020 – September 18, 2021* by Age

Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths ⁺	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
0 - 4	21	0.96
5 - 17	17	0.30
18 - 49	627	4.64
50 - 64	1730	32.82
65 +	7014	174.73
Overall	9409	30.81

*NOTE: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

⁺ If the cell count is less than 10, the number of P&I deaths is suppressed and <10 is written in the cell.

Table 9: Texas P&I Deaths Occurring Sept. 27, 2020 – September 18, 2021* by Health Service Region (HSR)

HSR	Number of P&I Deaths	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
1	343	36.40
2/3	2680	30.31
4/5N	857	51.75
6/5S	2255	28.15
7	986	26.23
8	955	30.32
9/10	474	29.20
11	858	33.51
Unknown	1	0
Overall	9409	30.81

*NOTE: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported during week 37.

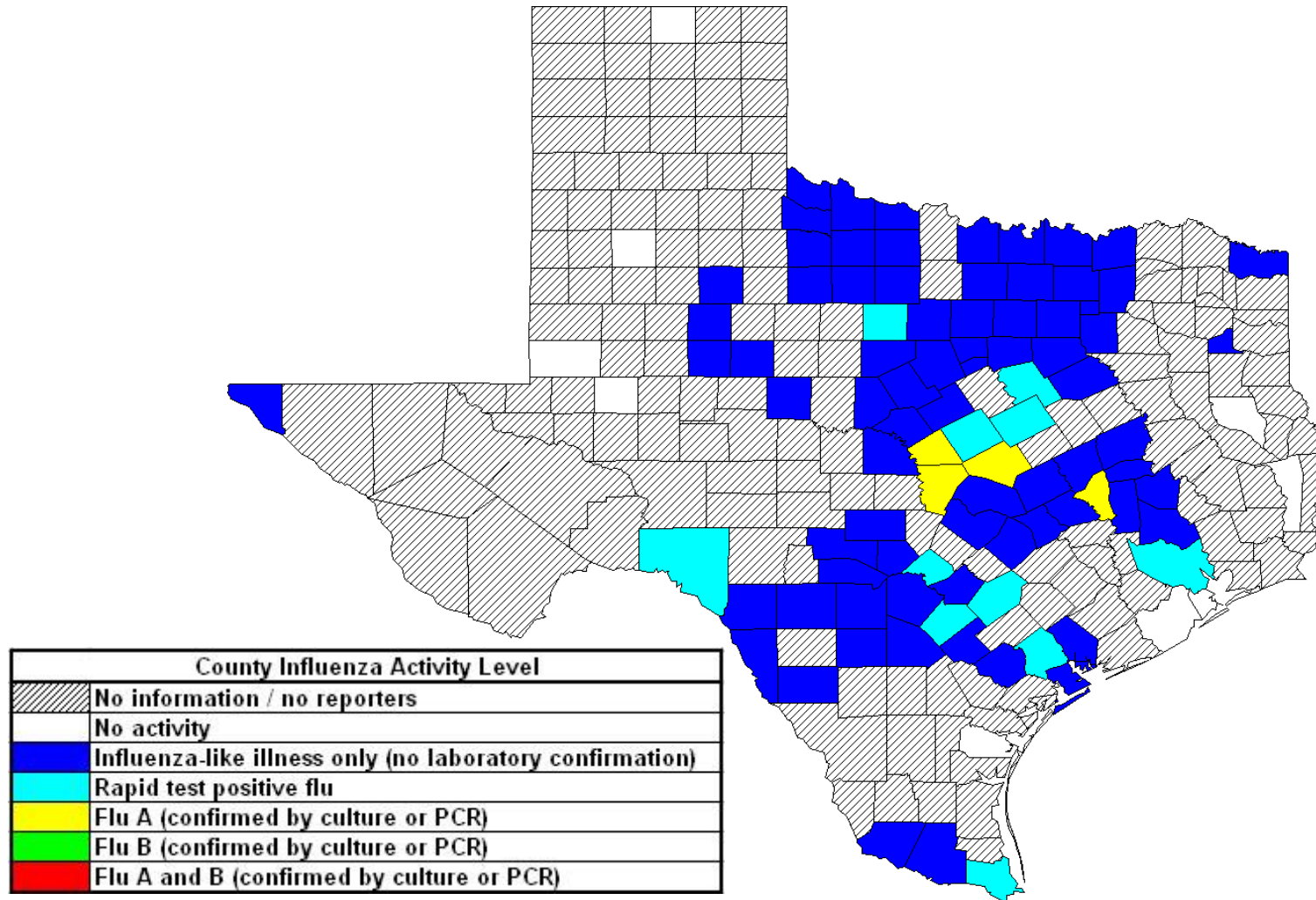
No influenza-associated pediatric mortalities have been reported in Texas during the 2020-2021 influenza season. Cases of influenza-associated pediatric mortality (children <18 years of age) are reportable year-round by law in Texas.

Table 10: Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths Reported in Texas during the 2020-2021 Season

Month of Pediatric Death	Influenza A (H1N1)	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza A (Not Subtyped)	Influenza B	Influenza, Not Typed / Not Differentiated	Influenza virus co-infection: A (not subtyped) and B	Total, All Influenza Types / Subtypes
2020							
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021							
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Statewide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 2: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending Sept.18, 2021 (MMWR Week 37)



Please note: The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law in Texas. This map contains data from sentinel sites and only displays influenza and ILI cases that were reported to public health. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date, or date received in the laboratory if the former is unknown.

Texas Influenza Surveillance Components and Measures

Activity codes (see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>)

Statewide influenza activity level

A code reported weekly by states and territories to CDC indicating the geographic spread of influenza in the state. Levels are no activity, sporadic, local, regional, and widespread.

ILINet Activity Indicator

A statewide level of influenza-like illness intensity (on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the lowest level) assigned to each state weekly by CDC based on data reported through ILINet.

Morbidity

Novel/variant influenza

Thorough investigations are performed on all cases of novel/variant influenza. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Texas ILINet

Providers voluntarily report weekly to CDC's ILINet system on the number of outpatient visits for ILI and total outpatient visits. Providers may submit up to 5 specimens per month for influenza testing. See <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/ILINet/> for information on how to become an ILINet provider.

ILI activity

Non-ILINet providers report ILI or influenza data weekly to local or regional health departments.

Outbreaks

Healthcare, schools, childcare, and correctional facilities report ILI and influenza outbreaks to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.*

Mortality

Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Mortality Surveillance

The DSHS Vital Statistics Unit collects death certificate information for all deaths on Texas residents from various partners such as funeral homes and local registrars around the state. The death certificates are then sent to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) where the cause of death and underlying causes of death on the death certificates are coded with ICD-10 mortality codes. Once death certificates are coded, the information is sent back to DSHS Center for Health Statistics (CHS). CHS produces a Weekly Pneumonia and Influenza (P&I) Death Report and sends it to the State Influenza Surveillance Coordinator for inclusion in the Texas Weekly Flu Report. P&I deaths are identified based on ICD-10 multiple cause of death codes, and in particular, pneumonia and influenza mortality codes. Delays inherent in death reporting and coding practices may cause the number of reported P&I deaths to vary considerably each week.

Influenza-associated pediatric deaths

Deaths that are associated with influenza in children < 18 years of age are reported to health departments in Texas. *This condition is reportable by law in Texas.* <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/IAPM/>

Laboratory

DSHS Austin laboratory

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to the DSHS Austin laboratory for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

Laboratory Response Network (LRN) laboratories

Providers voluntarily submit specimens to one of the 9 Texas LRNs for influenza PCR testing throughout the season. Providers sign up for this program through their local health departments.

NREVSS

Laboratories voluntarily report influenza and other respiratory virus data weekly through the CDC's online NREVSS reporting system. **Laboratories sign up for this program by contacting DSHS.** <http://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/>

Recommended Resources

Texas Department of State Health Services

DSHS influenza page: <http://www.texasflu.org/>

Influenza surveillance data and reports: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>

Map of Texas Health Service Regions: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/state.shtm>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National FluView weekly flu report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Variant influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/variant.htm>

Avian influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/index.htm>

Swine influenza viruses: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/index.htm>

Infection Control in Healthcare Facilities: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/>

Seasonal Flu Information for Schools and Childcare Providers: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm>

World Health Organization

Influenza page: <http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/>

Disease Outbreak News: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>