

Disclaimer

Most influenza cases are not reportable in the state of Texas. The information in this report contains data submitted from sentinel sites around the region along with emergency department data.

Definitions

Before reading through the report, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

ILI: Influenza-like Illness. A fever at or above 100°F, a cough or sore throat, and no other known cause of the illness.

PCR/Culture: These are lab tests used to confirm whether a patient truly has influenza.

Findings

The percentage of patient visits to the doctor and student visits to the school nurse due to ILI increased back to 2.79% from 2.63%. While there were no new confirmed cases of influenza, six counties reported at least one positive rapid flu test.

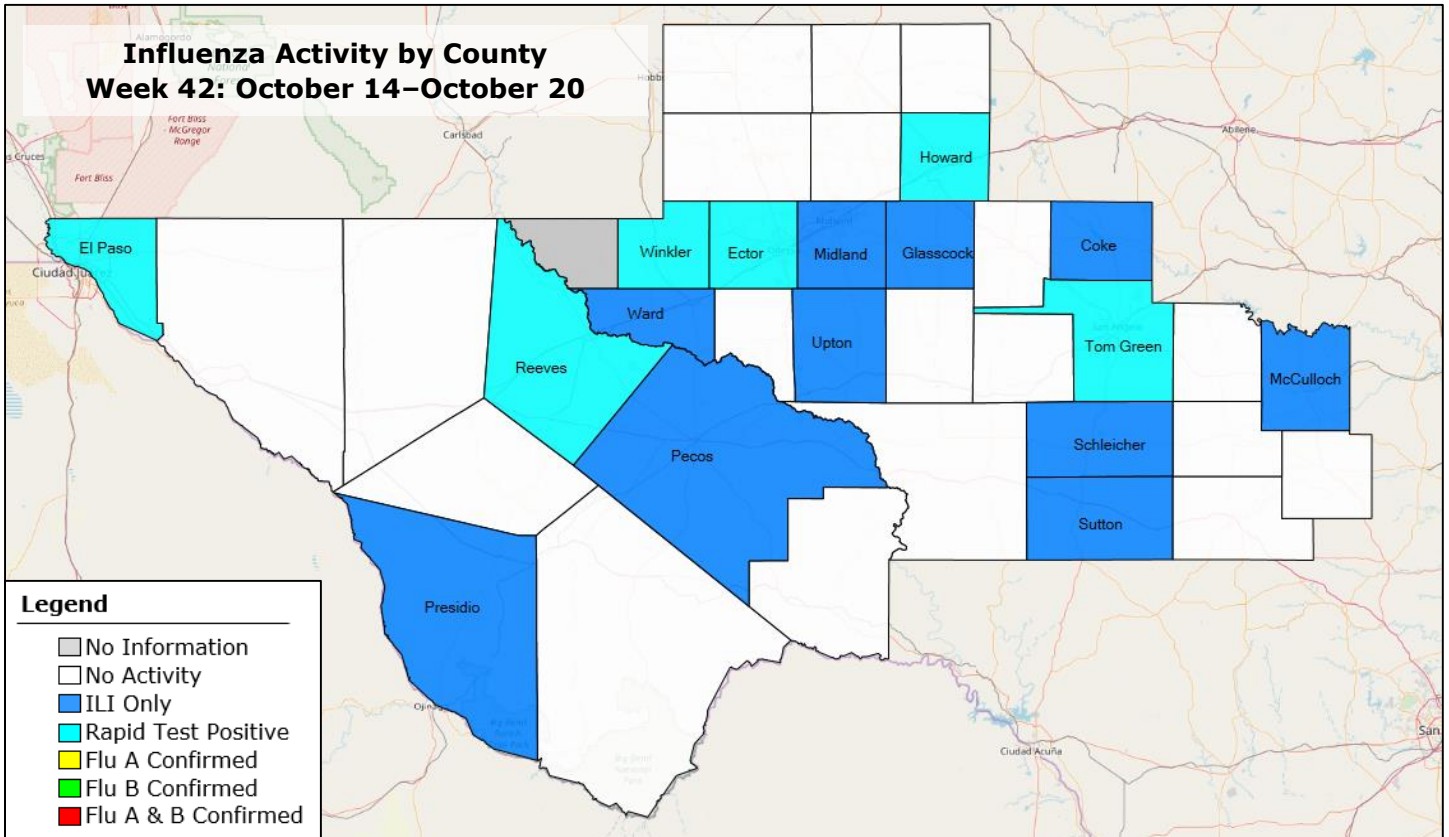
The Numbers

6 ↑3
counties reported
positive rapid flu
tests

10 ↓1
counties reported
ILI only

19 ↓1
counties reported
no activity

1 ↓1
county reported
no information



County-By-County

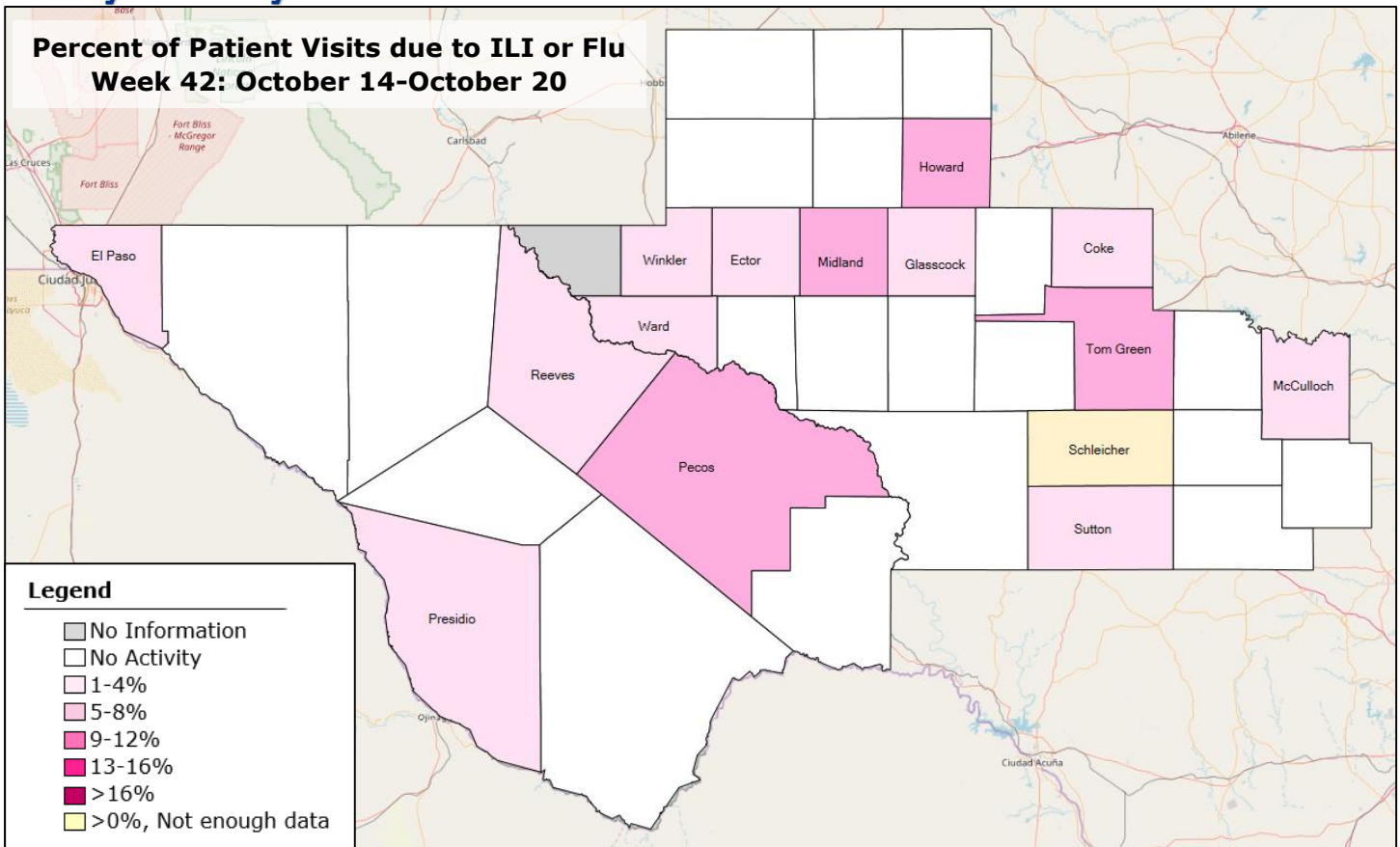
The information presented below aggregates all active and passive surveillance reports from the week of October 14-October 20 in Region 9/10.

County of Patient Residence	Total Patients or Students Seen for Any Reason	# with ILI	# Rapid Test Positive	# PCR or Culture A	# PCR or Culture B	% of Visits due to ILI (Week 42)	% of Visits due to ILI (Week 41)
Andrews	435	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Borden	2	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Brewster	6	0	0	0	0	0%	2%
Coke	33	1	0	0	0	3%	5%
Concho	65	0	0	0	0	0%	8%
Crane	9	0	0	0	0	0%	>0%*
Crockett	6	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Culberson	8	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Dawson	108	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Ector	3,603	133	14	0	0	4%	4%
El Paso	11,713	214	3	0	0	2%	2%
Gaines	24	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Glasscock	50	2	0	0	0	4%	0%
Howard	242	13	2	0	0	6%	3%
Hudspeth	16	0	0	0	0	0%	>0%
Irion	45	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Jeff Davis	1	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Kimble	3	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Loving	No Information Reported						N/A
McCulloch	595	4	0	0	0	1%	1%
Martin	4	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Mason	38	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Menard	26	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Midland	1,378	77	0	0	0	6%	5%
Pecos	17	1	0	0	0	6%	0%
Presidio	81	2	0	0	0	2%	0%
Reagan	25	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Reeves	166	3	1	0	0	2%	0%
Schleicher	13	2	0	0	0	>0%*	0%
Sterling	14	0	0	0	0	0%	>0%*
Sutton	136	2	0	0	0	1%	0%
Terrell	1	0	0	0	0	0%	N/A
Tom Green	2,990	129	9	0	0	5%	5%
Upton	64	1	0	0	0	2%	7%
Ward	209	2	0	0	0	1%	1%
Winkler	279	10	1	0	0	4%	0%
Total	22,405	596	28	0	0	2.79%	2.63%

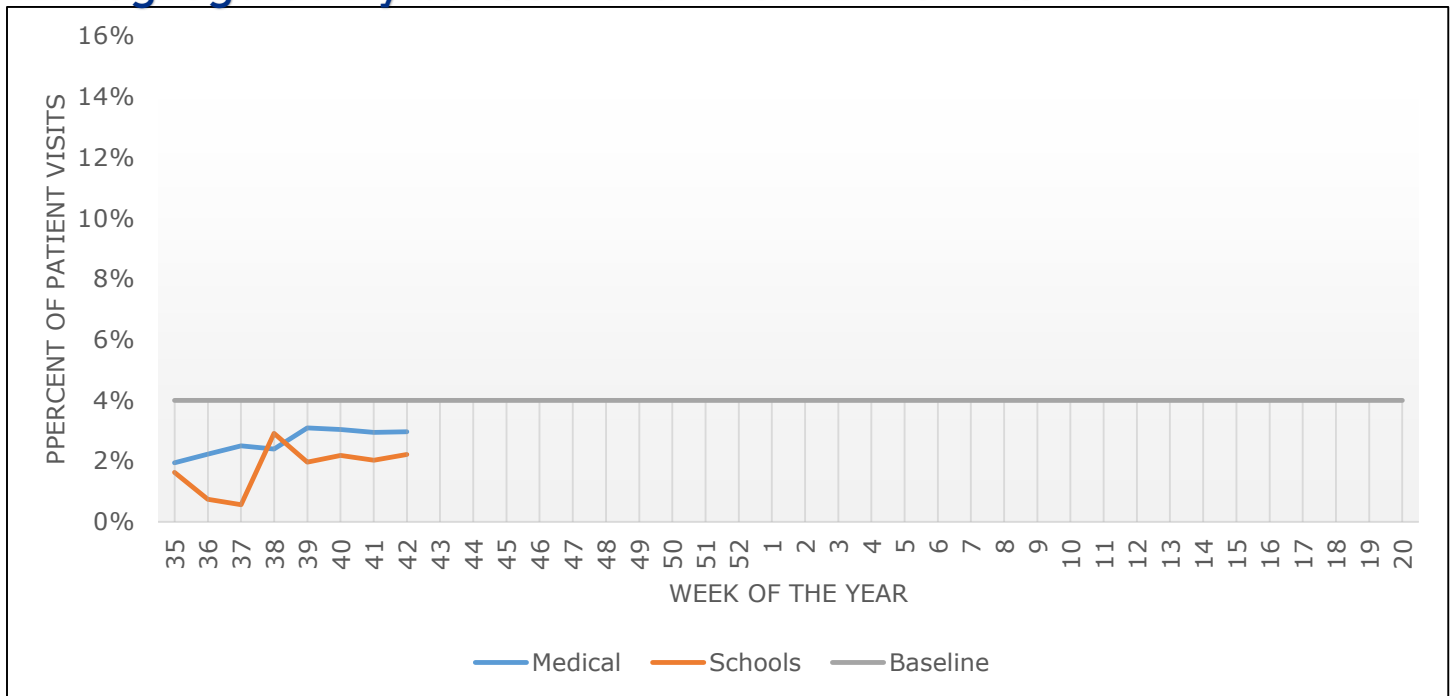
*There were not enough patient visits reported to determine an accurate representation of the percent of visits due to ILI.

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.

ILI by County

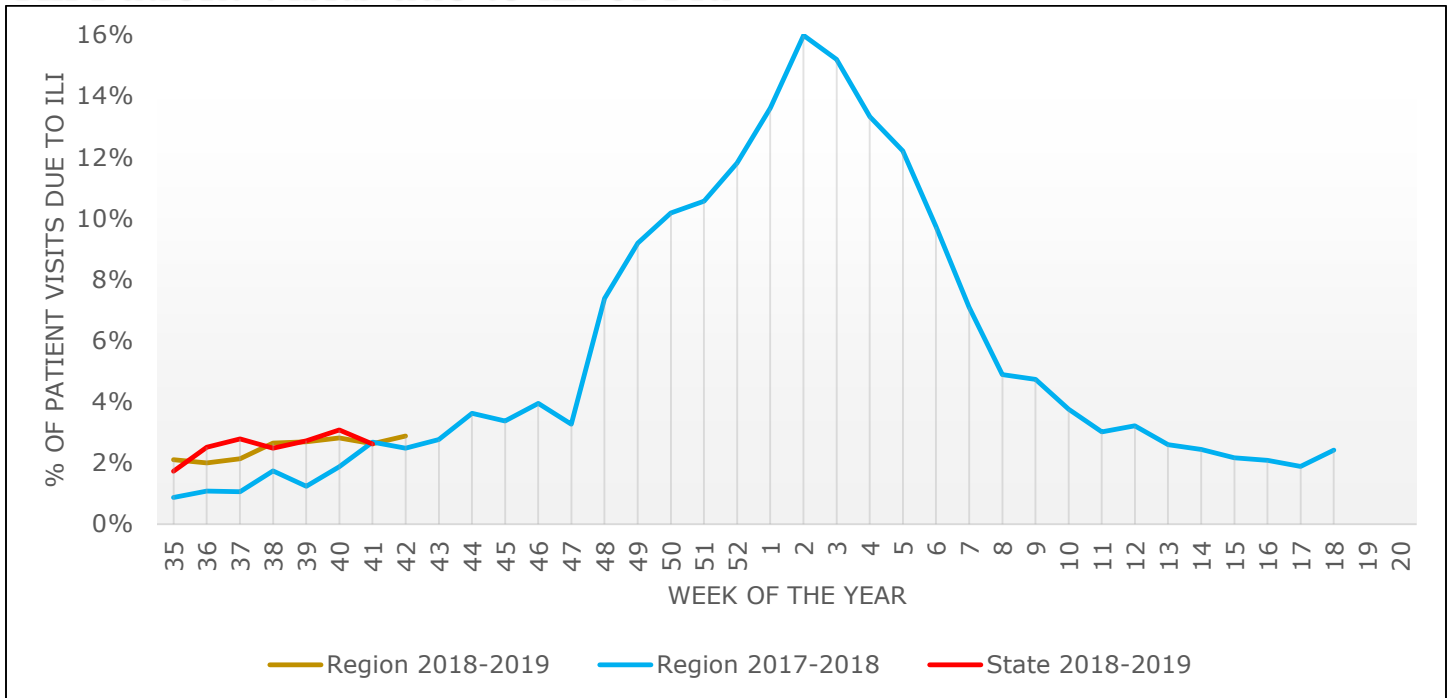


ILI Segregated by Schools & Clinics in West Texas



The **blue** line shows the percent of all patient visits at a medical facility due to ILI in Region 9/10 while the **orange** line shows the percent of all nurse visits at a school due to ILI per week in Region 9/10. The **grey** line shows the percent of visits to the doctor that we expect to see when it is not flu season.

All Patient Visits due to ILI or Flu



The **gold** line shows the percent of all hospital or school nurse visits due to ILI during the current season in our region (West Texas). The **blue** line shows the percent of all hospital visits due to ILI last season in our region (West Texas). The **red** line shows the percent of all hospital visits due to ILI during the current season statewide.

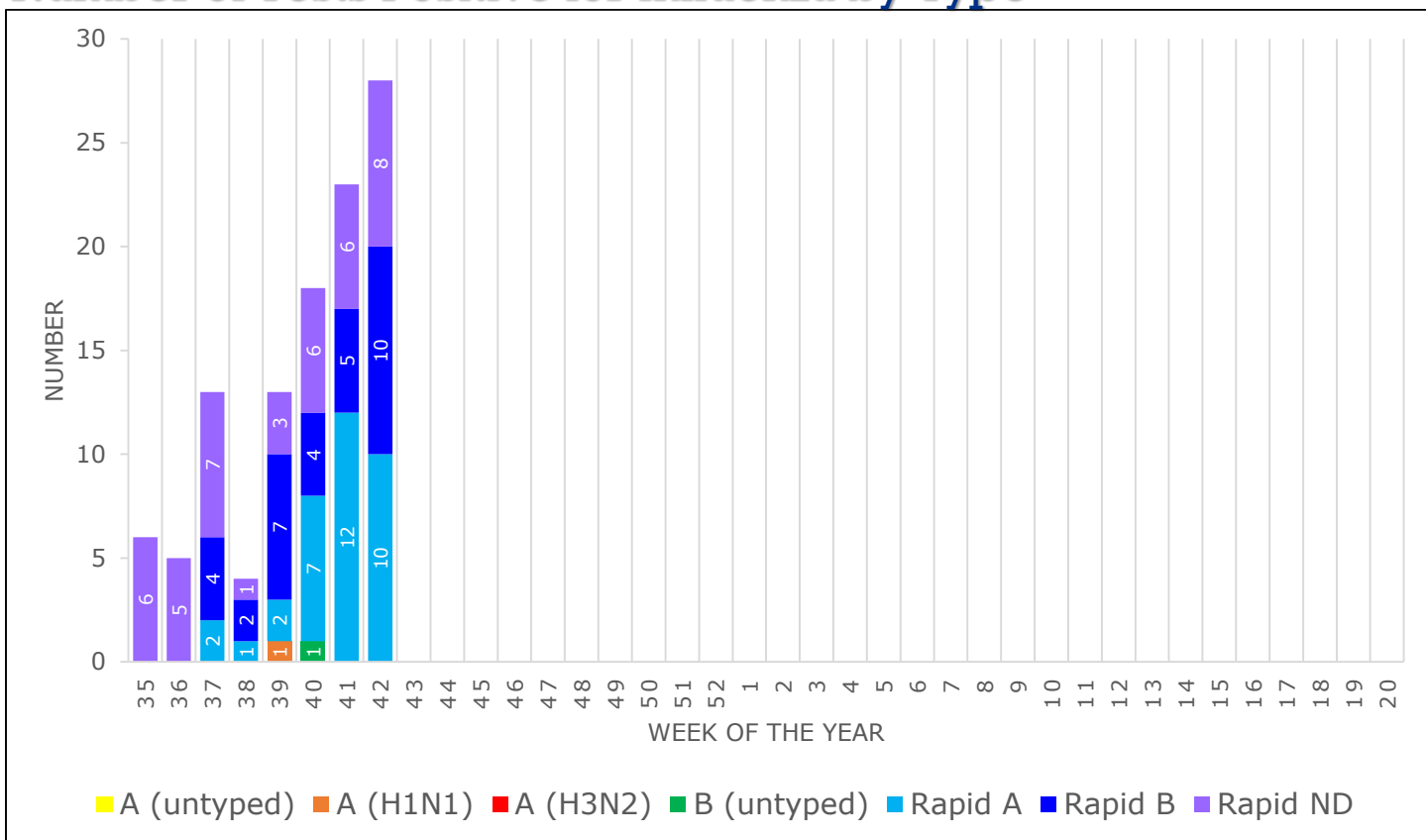
Week-by-Week Info

Week	Dates	Total Visits	Total ILI	Total Flu	%ILI 18-19	%ILI 17-18
35	08/25-09/01	11,089	217	6	2.11	1.0
36	09/02-09/08	16,274	263	5	↓ 2.05	↑ 1.6
37	09/09-09/15	16,031	289	13	↑ 2.16	↓ 0.9
38	09/16-09/22	27,466	670	4	↑ 2.63	↑ 1.1
39	09/23-09/29	22,271	592	13	↑ 2.70	≡ 1.1
40	09/30-10/06	18,777	580	17	↑ 2.82	↑ 1.7
41	10/07-10/13	26,009	692	15	↓ 2.63	↓ 1.2
42	10/14-10/20	22,405	596	28	↑ 2.79	↑ 1.9
43						↑ 2.7
44						↓ 2.5
45						↑ 2.8
46						↑ 3.6
47						↓ 3.4
48						↑ 4.0
49						↓ 3.3
50						↑ 7.4
51						↑ 9.2
52						↑ 10.2

Outbreaks and Pediatric Deaths

No outbreaks were reported in our region during Week 42.
 No pediatric deaths were reported in our region during Week 42.

Number of Tests Positive for Influenza by Type



In the News & Other Information

NEW INFLUENZA ANTIVIRAL APPROVED BY THE FDA

Xofluza, an antiviral medication similar to Tamiflu, has been [approved by the FDA](#) for use in patients older than 12 years old who have had flu-like symptoms for less than 48 hours. Unlike Tamiflu though, Xofluza only requires one dose. In one randomized controlled trial for the drug, Xofluza was shown to improve patient symptoms in less time than other antivirals. Doctors and researchers tout the fact that Xofluza offers an additional option for flu treatment. However, officials caution the public that while a new treatment has arrived, it does not replace vaccination. The main side effects of the drug are diarrhea and bronchitis.



DIALYSIS PATIENTS BENEFIT FROM HIGH DOSE VACCINE

A new study suggests that when high doses of influenza vaccine are administered to dialysis patients, hospitalization rates decrease. While the researchers note that the difference is not huge, high dose flu vaccines did not demonstrate a negative effect and should be considered for patients with kidney failure. High dose vaccines are already recommended for most patients over the age of 65.