

Florida Influenza Surveillance for the Week Ending October 11, 2003 (Week 41)  
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### Florida Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Summary

As of October 20, fifty-seven sentinels from 48 public clinics and private offices submitted reports for the week ending October 11, 2003. Counties with the highest percentage of patients seen with ILI were Orange County (10.36%, 5 of 8 sentinels reporting), Indian River County (3.71%, 7 of 8 sentinels reporting) and Hillsborough County (3.71%, 3 of 6 sentinels reporting). Seven counties reported a low percentage of patients with ILI, and 13 counties reported no cases of ILI. A breakdown of ILI% reported for Week 41 by county is listed in Table 1.

<b>Table 1: Influenza-Like Illness Percent</b>						
<i>Please refer to corresponding table in the Influenza Recruiting Article for counts of enrolled and reporting sentinels.</i>						
County	Week 41	Week 40		County	Week 41	Week 40
Alachua	0.00%	-		Monroe	0.00%	0.00%
Brevard	-	0.00%		Okaloosa	0.47%	0.00%
Broward	0.00%	0.00%		Orange	10.36%	4.06%
Charlotte	-	-		Osceola	0.00%	0.00%
Citrus	0.00%	0.00%		Palm Beach	0.00%	0.00%
Collier	0.00%	0.00%		Pasco	-	-
Duval	1.17%	3.15%		Pinellas	0.00%	0.00%
Hillsborough	2.96%	0.30%		Polk	1.42%	1.23%
Indian River	3.71%	1.95%		Santa Rosa	0.00%	0.00%
Lake	0.56%	2.61%		Sarasota	-	-
Lee	0.00%	0.52%		Seminole	-	-
Leon	0.26%	0.40%		St. Johns	0.00%	0.00%
Marion	0.22%	0.45%		St. Lucie	0.00%	0.00%
Martin	-	-		Volusia	0.00%	0.00%
Miami-Dade	1.03%	0.17%				

### Florida Specimen Testing for Week 41

The Jacksonville Central Laboratory received 13 specimens for influenza isolate testing during the week ending October 11, 2003 (Week 41). All 13 specimens were found negative for influenza. There were no specimens sent to the Tampa Branch Laboratory.

### Florida Rapid Testing Performed by Private Laboratories

Two cases of unsubtyped influenza were reported during late August in Sarasota County. An unsubtyped influenza A virus was found in Broward County during week 40.

### National Influenza Surveillance

*This section summarizes the weekly influenza report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

#### Week 41:

#### Influenza-Like Illness Report.

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.2% nationwide. This is less than the national baseline of 2.5%. On a regional level, the percentage of visits for ILI ranged from 0.4% to 5.8%. Florida is located in the South Atlantic Region. Due

to wide variability in regional level data, it is not appropriate to apply the national baseline to regional level data. National percentage and regional percentages of patient visits for ILI are weighted on the basis of state population.

U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) Laboratories Report. None of the 502 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. *Please note: data from the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) laboratories for week 41 were not available at the time this report was written; therefore, numbers may change substantially.*

Since September 28, 2003, 2 of the 1030 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. One influenza A(H3N2) isolate and one influenza B isolate were found.

State and Territorial Epidemiologists Report. Texas reported regional influenza activity, and Colorado, Florida, and Louisiana and New York City reported sporadic influenza activity. Forty-three states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity.

#### 2003-04 Summary By US Region

Region	Specimen Testing					Ratio Pos.	ILI Reporting: Weighted ILI%
	Total Specimens	A(H1N1)	A(H3N2)	A(Unk)	B		
New England Region	8	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.803
Mid-Atlantic Region	116	0	0	0	0	0.000	1.460
East North Central Region	19	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.918
West North Central Region	229	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.443
South Atlantic Region	271	0	0	0	0	0.000	1.036
East South Central Region	40	0	0	0	0	0.000	1.252
West South Central Region	71	0	1	0	0	0.014	<b>3.410</b>
Mountain Region	182	0	0	0	0	0.000	0.908
Pacific Region	94	0	0	0	1	0.011	0.773

\* Weekly ratios rather than proportions are presented because specimens reported positive for influenza virus each week may include specimens submitted for testing during an earlier week.

122 US Cities Vital Statistics Mortality Report. The percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza was 6.3%. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for week 41.

National Laboratory Surveillance:

*Laboratories other than those participating as U.S WHO or NREVSS collaborating laboratories may submit influenza isolates to CDC for further testing.*

August: Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were reported from Alaska, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin. An unsubtype influenza A virus was reported from Louisiana.

September: Influenza A(H3N2) viruses were identified in Alaska, Connecticut, Hawaii, and Texas, and unsubtype influenza A viruses were identified in Louisiana, Texas, and Washington.

October: Influenza A(H3N2) viruses collected in Texas have been submitted to CDC for further testing.

## Summary

Overall Florida is experiencing low activity of influenza-like illness (ILI) as the influenza season begins. Orange, Hillsborough and Indian River Counties had the highest percent ILI reported during week 41. This data should be interpreted with caution since it cannot be compared to the national baseline and reporting practices have a large impact on the percentages.

Although there have been a few positive rapid influenza A tests done by private or hospital laboratories, there have been no positive specimens for those submitted to the state laboratories through the Florida Sentinel Physician Network in week 41. Florida reported an activity code of Sporadic in weeks 40 and 41, but will update to No Activity for week 41 based on the lack of influenza laboratory evidence in the state. There have been a few states in the US where influenza A (H3N2) has been isolated but overall, the only region of the US experiencing a percent ILI above the national baseline is the West South Central region, which includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

With activity low, this is the time to think about getting a flu shot. October and November are the best months to get your flu shot if you are in a high-risk group. You should avoid getting a flu shot too early, because protection from flu can begin to decline within a few months after getting the shot. For more information about flu vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or your local county health department.