



Summary

Weeks 23-24: June 5-18, 2016

State influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI)¹ activity²:

- In recent weeks, emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) ILI visits reported into ESSENCE-FL² (Florida's syndromic surveillance system) remained low, which is typical for this time in the influenza season.
- One outbreak of influenza A (H3) was reported in a Sarasota County office setting in week 24.
- In recent weeks, the preliminary estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza in Florida remained similar to levels seen in previous seasons at this time.
- **No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported in weeks 23-24.**
 - Eight influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported since the start of the 2015-2016 influenza season. While rare, Florida receives reports of influenza-associated pediatric deaths each season. **Annual vaccination remains the best way to protect children against influenza.**
- In weeks 23 and 24, 14 of 34 (29%) specimens submitted to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) for influenza testing were PCR positive for seasonal strains of influenza: three influenza A (H3), three influenza B Yamagata lineage, five influenza B Victoria lineage, and three influenza B (not yet subtyped).

Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) activity:

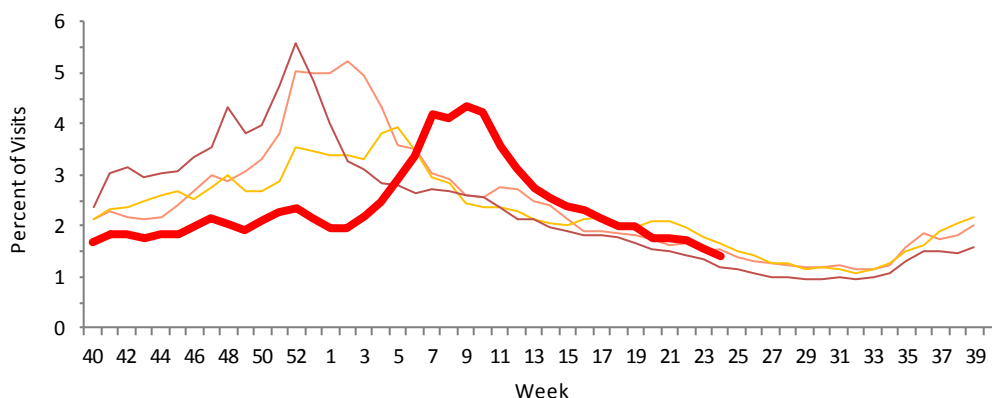
- **Four cases of EV-D68 have been identified in Florida since February 2016.** The four cases were identified in different regions of the state and represent the full spectrum of disease.
 - These represent the first identifications of EV-D68 in the United States since the fall of 2014.
 - To learn more about EV-D68, please visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/d68>.

National influenza activity:

- Influenza virus continues to circulate at low levels nationally.
- While highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 virus identification in birds are expected later this year, that risk is lower in the summer months. Influenza (HPAI) H5 has not been identified in Florida birds yet, but identifications are anticipated. No human HPAI infections have been identified in Florida or other states. To learn more about HPAI, please visit: www.floridahealth.gov/novelflu.

ED and UCC Visits for ILI³ by Flu Season

ED = emergency department, UCC = urgent care center, ILI = influenza-like illness



The figure to the left shows the percent of visits for ILI from ED and UCC chief complaint data for ESSENCE-FL participating facilities (n=265) from week 40, 2012 through week 24, 2016.

The percent of ILI visits to ESSENCE-FL participating facilities decreased in recent weeks and is similar to levels seen in previous seasons at this time.

— 2015-2016 — 2013-2014
— 2014-2015 — 2012-2013

¹ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as a fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ AND sore throat and/or cough *in the absence* of another known cause.

² The Florida Department of Health (DOH) uses many different surveillance systems to measure influenza activity. A summary of all these systems can be found on our website at: www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu

³ As of April 30, 2015, "FLS" was added to the list of abbreviations in ESSENCE-FL and is now expanded to "flu like symptoms." As a result of this change, any visit with a chief complaint containing FLS will now code into the ILI syndrome and the influenza subsyndrome queries. Historical records have been reprocessed to reflect this change.

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Produced by the BOE, Florida Department of Health

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P&I Deaths from Vital Statistics by Age Group

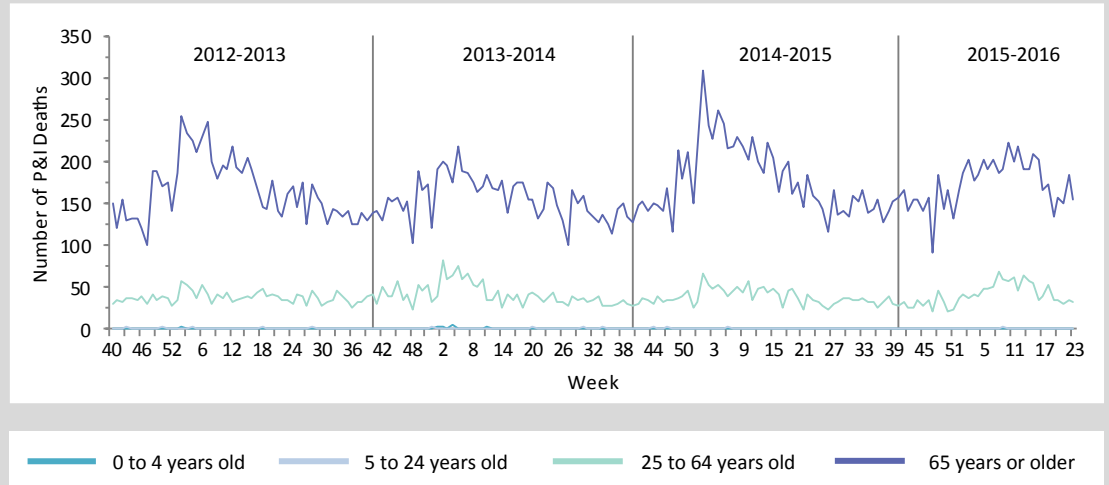
P&I = pneumonia and influenza

The figure below shows the number of preliminary P&I deaths by age group from week 40, 2012 through week 23, 2016, as reported into ESSENCE-FL. *Vital statistics death records data are currently considered to be complete through week 23, 2016.*

The total number of P&I deaths reported in week 23 for all age groups is similar to levels seen in previous seasons at this time.

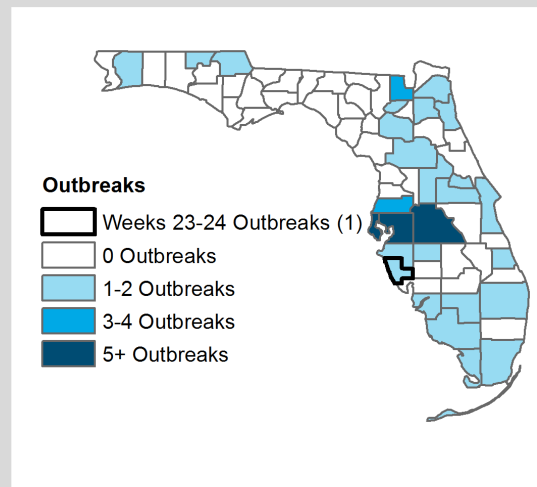
159 preliminary estimated P&I deaths were reported for week 23, 2016.

Based on a multi-year regression model to predict P&I death counts in the Florida population, no excess deaths were reported for week 23, 2016. The upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for prediction is 180 deaths.



Influenza and ILI Outbreaks

ILI = influenza-like illness



One outbreak of influenza was reported in week 24; 61 outbreaks of influenza and ILI have been reported into EpiCom² so far in the 2015-2016 season.

Sarasota County:

A local office reported 24 employees with ILI. Four ill employees sought medical care at a local health care provider where three were diagnosed with bronchitis. Four specimens were collected from ill employees at the time of visit and three were positive for influenza A by rapid antigen testing. Three specimens were forwarded to BPHL where all three tested positive for influenza A (H3) by PCR. It is unknown if the ill employees received the 2015-2016 influenza vaccine. Infection control measures were reviewed with facility leadership. This investigation is ongoing.

Laboratory Viral Respiratory Surveillance

The figure below shows the percentage of laboratory specimens testing positive for eight common respiratory viruses reported by the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS²) and participating validated laboratories reporting results via electronic laboratory reporting (ELR²) to DOH. Currently, 10 facilities are reporting data for the 2015-2016 season.

In recent weeks, the percent of specimens testing positive for rhinovirus, parainfluenza, and adenovirus increased. These viruses circulate annually in Florida and fluctuate regularly between weeks.

