

Summary

Weeks 33-34: August 16 to August 29, 2015

National influenza activity:

- In Iowa, the second case of human infection with influenza A (H1N1) variant virus (“H1N1v”) in the United States in 2015 (week 34) occurred after direct exposure to swine. No evidence of human-to-human transmission of H1N1v or any influenza-like illness among the case’s contacts was reported. Swine influenza viruses do not normally infect humans, although sporadic human infections with swine influenza viruses (e.g. H3N2v, H1N1v, H1N2v) have occurred in people with direct contact with swine. More information can be found here: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/>.
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 viruses have been identified in U.S. backyard and commercial flocks of birds during the spring and summer of 2015. HPAI H5 has not been identified in Florida birds, but identifications are anticipated. No humans have been identified with HPAI infection in Florida or the rest of the nation.
 - To learn more about HPAI, please visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-from-animals/novel-influenza-viruses.html>.

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

- Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) ILI visits reported into ESSENCE-FL (Florida’s syndromic surveillance system) have increased slightly in recent weeks, which is typical for this time of year.
- One outbreak of influenza A (H3) was reported in week 34 in a Hillsborough County hospital.
- In week 33, the preliminary estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza in Florida is similar to levels seen in previous years at this time.
- In weeks 33 and 34, 14 of 30 (47%) specimens submitted to BPHL for influenza testing were PCR positive for seasonal strains of influenza: eight were positive for influenza A (H3), four were positive for influenza B Yamagata lineage, and two were positive for influenza A (H1N1).

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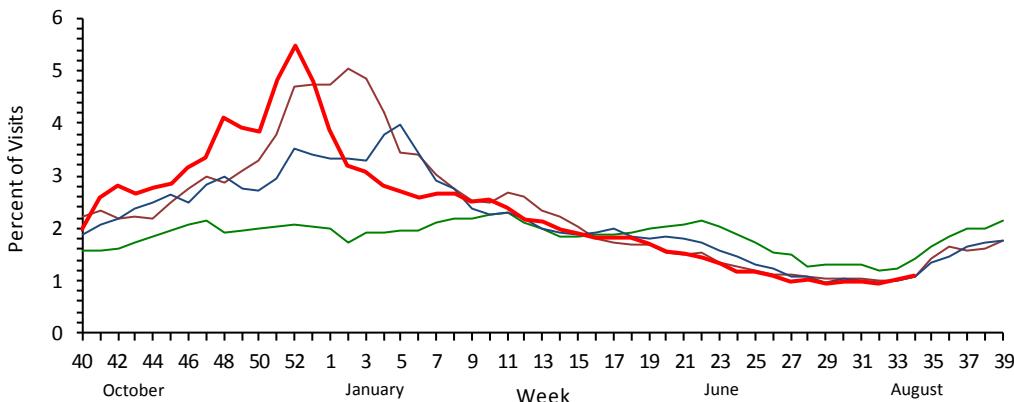
Table 1. Summary of Florida ILI Activity, Weeks 33 through 34, 2015

Measure	Difference From Previous Week	Current Week 34	Previous Week 33	Data Source ²
Percent of ED and UCC visits due to ILI	▲ 0.1%	1.1%	1.0%	ESSENCE-FL
Percent of laboratory specimens positive for influenza	▼ 14.4%	38.5%	52.9%	Laboratory Surveillance
Number of reported ILI outbreaks	▲ 1	1	0	EpiCom

ED and UCC Visits for ILI³ by Flu Season

ED = emergency department, UCC = urgent care center

The percent of ILI visits to ESSENCE-FL participating facilities has increased slightly in recent weeks and is at or near levels seen in previous years at this time.



The figure to the left shows the percent of visits to EDs and UCCs with chief complaints of ILI, as reported by participating ESSENCE-FL facilities (N=243) from week 40, 2011 through week 34, 2015, accessed September 2, 2015.

— 2014-2015 — 2012-2013
— 2013-2014 — 2011-2012

¹ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is considered to be a fever >100°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: floridahealth.gov/floridaflu

³ As of April 30, 2015, FLS was added to 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. Historical records have been reprocessed to reflect this change.

P&I Mortality

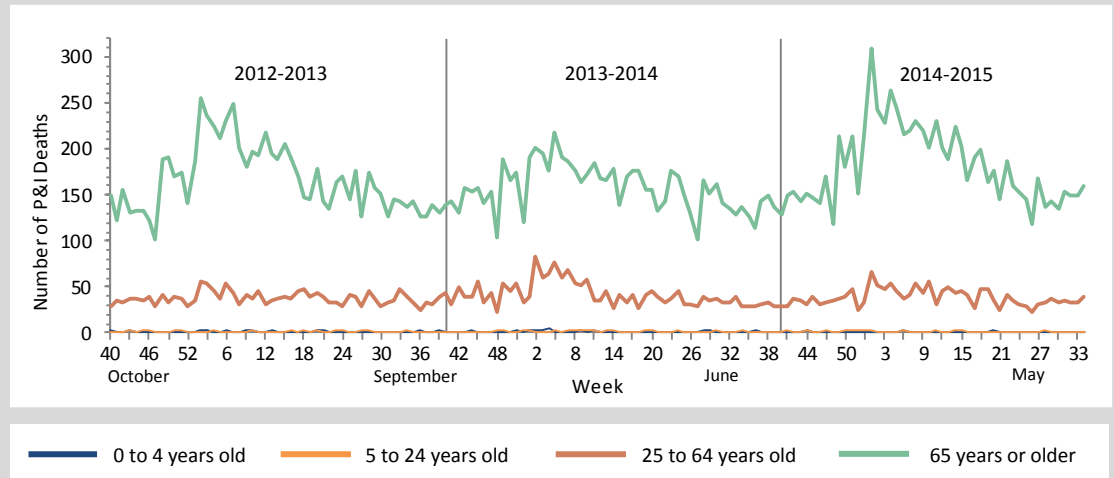
P&I = Pneumonia and Influenza

The figure below shows P&I deaths for all Florida counties by age group from week 40, 2012 through week 34, 2015, as reported into ESSENCE-FL. *Vital statistics death records data are currently considered to be complete through week 33, 2015.*

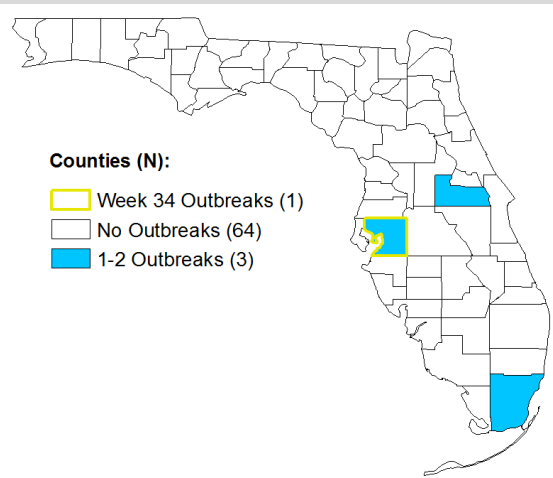
The total number of P&I deaths reported in week 33 is similar to levels seen in previous years at this time.

173 preliminary estimated P&I deaths have been reported for week 33, 2015.

Based on a multi-year regression model to predict P&I mortality in the Florida population, no excess deaths were reported for week 33, 2015. The upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for prediction is 200 deaths.



Influenza and ILI Outbreaks



One influenza outbreak was reported in week 34 in Hillsborough County.

The map to the left shows the number of outbreaks reported in each Florida county since week 20, 2015, as reported by 11 a.m. September 2, 2015. In the last 15 weeks, four outbreaks have been reported into EpiCom.

A hospital in Hillsborough reported eight patients with ILI. Specimens were collected on four ill patients. Specimens were collected from an additional 19 staff and one visitor exposed to the ill patients. Of the 24 specimens collected, eight specimens tested positive for influenza A (H3) by PCR at BPHL; four from the ill patients and four from exposed staff members. Hospital infection prevention staff established a chain of transmission for seven of the eight cases; patients were exposed from symptomatic roommates, and staff were exposed through contact with symptomatic patients. Of the eight confirmed cases, only one was able to be verified as having received the 2014-15 influenza vaccine. This investigation is closed.

Laboratory Viral Surveillance

The figure below shows the percentage of positive tests for respiratory viruses reported by the National Respiratory and Enteric Viral Surveillance System (NREVSS) and participating and validated laboratories using electronic lab reporting (ELR) with FDOH. Currently, 11 facilities are reporting data for the 2014-2015 season; nine reporting through NREVSS and two reporting through ELR.

Rhinovirus and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are circulating at this time. Rhinovirus and RSV activity have increased in the last week, similar to trends seen in previous years at this time. These viruses circulate annually in Florida and also regularly fluctuate between weeks.

