



Summary

Weeks 27-28: July 5 to July 18, 2015

National influenza activity:

- **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been identified in U.S. backyard and commercial flocks of birds. HPAI has not been identified in Florida birds, but identifications are anticipated. No people have been identified with HPAI in Florida or the rest of the nation.** To learn more about HPAI, please visit: 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) influenza-like illness (ILI) reported into ESSENCE-FL (Florida's syndromic surveillance system) visits have remained low, which is typical for this time of year.
- One influenza outbreak was reported in week 28 in Hillsborough County.
- In week 27, the preliminary estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza in Florida is higher than levels seen in previous years at this time.
- In weeks 27 and 28, ten specimens were submitted to Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) for influenza testing. Two specimens (20%) tested PCR positive: one for influenza B Yamagata lineage and one for influenza A (2009 H1N1).

Summertime surveillance for influenza and ILI:

- FDOH continues to conduct surveillance for influenza and ILI during the summer months. While activity is traditionally lower during the summer months, some regions of Florida can see year-round activity and elevated out of season activity can suggest important changes in the virus or the introduction of a novel strain of influenza or respiratory illness. Continuing surveillance efforts supports quick response to those events.

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Produced by the Bureau of Epidemiology (BOE), Florida Department of Health (FDOH)

Posted on the BOE website: floridahealth.gov/floridaflu

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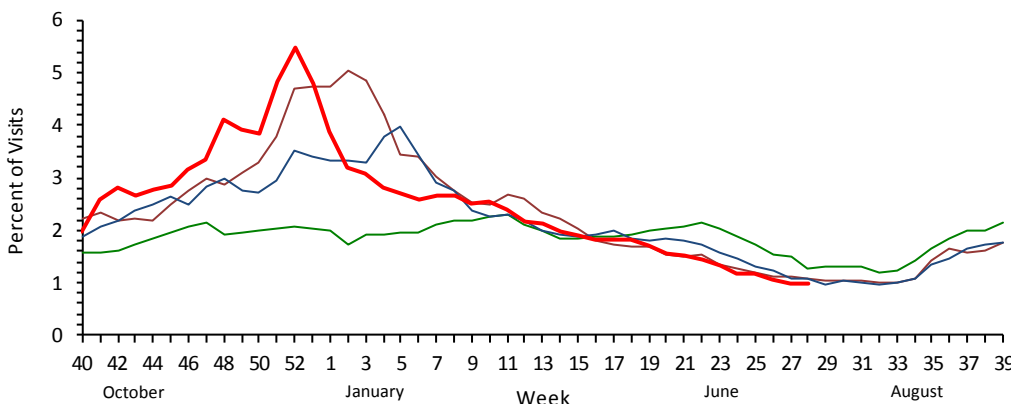
Table 1. Summary of Florida ILI Activity, Weeks 27 through 28, 2015

Measure	Difference from Previous Week	Current Week 28	Previous Week 27	Data Source ²
Percent of emergency department & urgent care center visits due to ILI	N/A 0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	ESSENCE-FL
Percent of laboratory specimens positive for influenza	▼ 24.0%	0.0%	17.0%	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 continued to decrease overall with a slight increase in activity during week 28 compared to week 27. The percent of ILI visits in weeks 27 and 28 are slightly below levels seen in previous years at this time.



The figure to the left shows the percent of influenza like-illness visits from ED and UCC chief complaints out of all visits as reported by participating ESSENCE-FL facilities (N=240) for Week 40, 2011 through Week 28, 2015, accessed July 22, 2015.

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

¹Influenza-like illness (ILI) is considered to be a fever >100°F AND sore throat and/or cough in the absence of another known cause.

²The 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

³As 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. The historical records have been reprocessed to reflect this change.

P&I Mortality

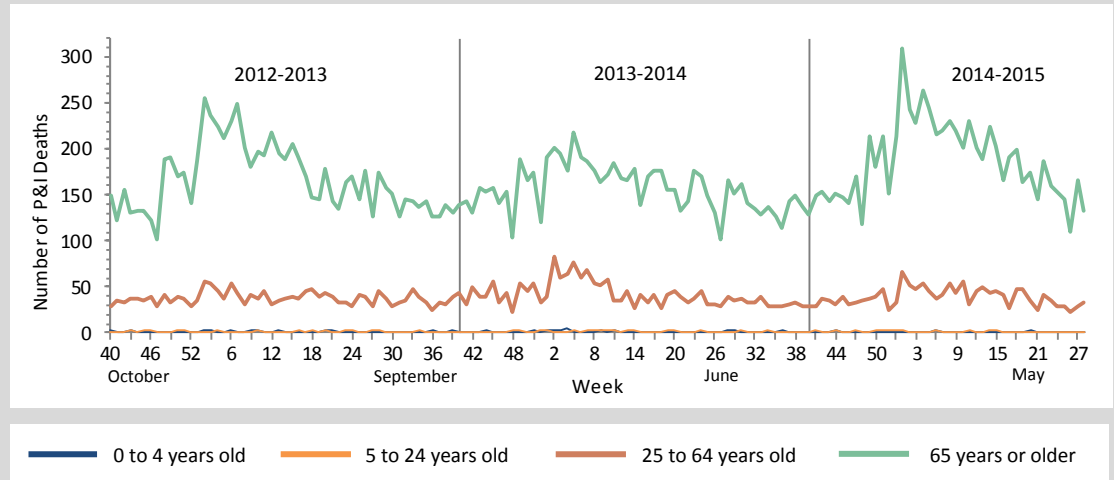
P&I = Pneumonia and Influenza

The figure below shows P&I deaths for all Florida counties by age group, week 40, 2012 through week 28, 2015, as reported into ESSENCE-FL. *Vital statistics death records data are currently considered to be complete through week 27, 2015.*

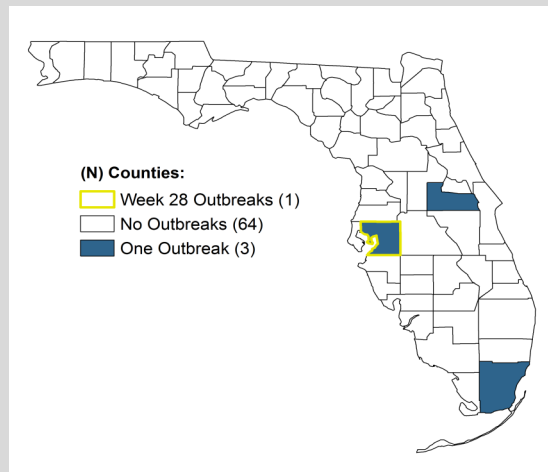
The total number of P&I deaths reported in week 27 is similar to levels seen in previous years at this time.

160 preliminary estimated P&I deaths have been reported for week 28, 2015.

Based on a multi-year regression model to predict P&I mortality in the Florida population, no excess deaths were reported for week 27, 2015. The upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for prediction is 209 deaths.



Influenza and ILI Outbreaks



One outbreak of influenza was reported in week 28, 2015.

The map to the left shows the number of outbreaks reported in Florida by county, from week 27, 2015 through week 28, 2015, as reported by 11 a.m. July 22, 2015.

Hillsborough: A hospital reported 15 patients and seven staff with ILI. Fourteen specimens were collected and tested positive for influenza A by rapid antigen test at local healthcare providers. Three of the 14 specimens were subtyped as influenza A(H3). No specimens were available for testing at BPHL. Exposed roommates of the original case were started on chemoprophylaxis and all symptomatic staff members were treated with antiviral medication. Forty three percent of the symptomatic staff and 47% of the symptomatic patients had received the 2014-15 influenza vaccine prior to illness. The remaining 57% of symptomatic staff had not received the 2014-15 influenza vaccine. Infection control measures were reviewed with facility leadership. 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.

In recent weeks, there has been a slight increase in the percent of specimens testing positive for RSV while other respiratory viruses have declined. RSV circulates annually in Florida and fluctuates regularly, thus this trend is expected.

