

Influenza Surveillance Report

Division of Epidemiology - Disease Surveillance and Investigation
District of Columbia Department of Health

2014-2015 Influenza Season Week 11 (March 15, 2015 – March 21, 2015)

(All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received)

SUMMARY

- 16 cases of Influenza were reported by hospitals during this reporting period
- Zero pediatric-deaths associated with Influenza were recorded during this reporting period
- 3 additional cases were reported for week 9
- For the 2014-2015 Influenza Season to-date, 854 positive Influenza cases have been reported
- DC PHL tested two specimens for week 11, both negative, for a total of 146 out of 198 (73.74%) specimens testing positive for influenza
- Week 11 of the current 2014-2015 season has been more severe than previous seasons, and has increased since last week.

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE FROM HOSPITALS & AMBULATORY CARE FACILITIES

District of Columbia hospitals and laboratories report detailed information on cases of Influenza on a daily basis. However, in accordance with CDC guidelines, only Influenza-associated deaths in cases <18 years of age and Novel Influenza A infections are reportable.

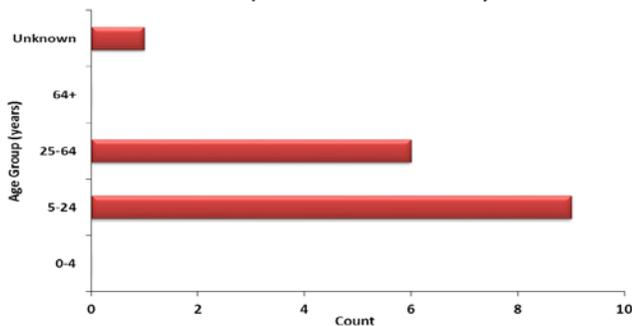
The table below summarizes weekly and cumulative cases of Influenza for the 2014-2015 Season. Data are also presented by age group and by number of cases reported weekly. During week 11 (March 15, 2015– March 21, 2015), there were 16 new cases of Influenza reported. To date, the District has received 854 positive Influenza cases reported by hospitals.

Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Type

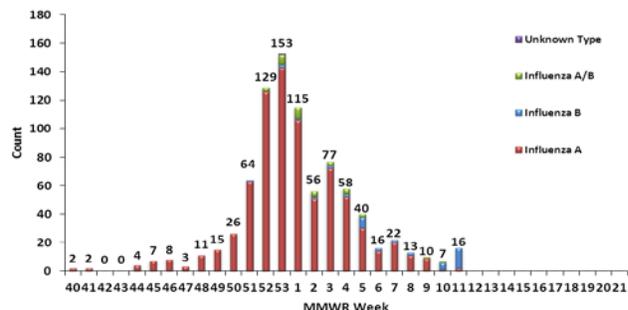
	Week 11 (March 15, 2015– March 21, 2015)		Cumulative Cases for Weeks 40 – 20 (September 28, 2014 – May 23, 2015)	
Influenza A	2	(12.50%)	778	(91.10%)
Influenza B	14	(87.50%)	42	(4.92%)
Influenza A/B	0	(0%)	33	(3.86%)
Influenza (not typed)	0	(0%)	1	(0.12%)
Total	16*	(100%)	854*	(100.0%)

*Includes results from Rapid Diagnostic Testing, Viral Culture, RT-PCR, Serology, and Immunofluorescence.

Positive Influenza Tests, by Age Group
Week 11 (15Mar2015 - 21Mar2015)



Positive Influenza Tests by Week
September 28 2014 - May 23, 2015



RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Rapid Diagnostic Tests are screening tests used to detect the Influenza virus in a short period of time. While initially less accurate than PCR and viral culture, rapid diagnostics are more accurate as the Influenza season progresses. During week 11, 119 out of a total of 145 tests were performed using rapid diagnostic testing in clinical laboratories. Of these, 15 (12.61%) positive Influenza specimens were identified during week 11 using rapid diagnostics.

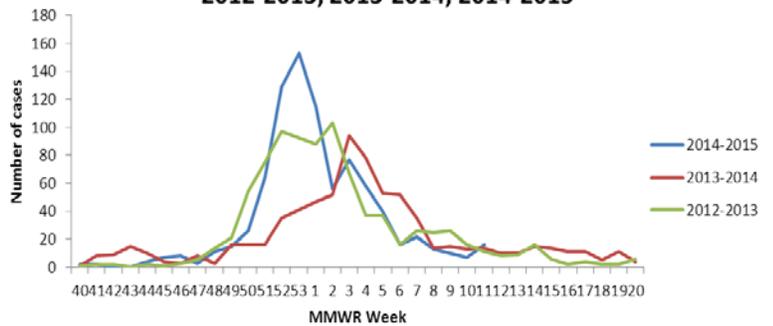
Week: 11 (March 15, 2015 – March 21, 2015)	
No. of specimens tested Rapid Diagnostics	119
No. of positive specimens (%)	15 (12.61%)
Positive specimens by type/subtype	
Influenza A	1 (6.67%)
Influenza B	14 (93.33%)
Influenza A/B	0 (0%)
Influenza – unknown type	0 (0%)

WEEK 11 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SEASONS

For week 11, there were 7 cases in the current 2014-2015 season, 14 cases in last year’s week 11, 2013-2014 season, and 11 cases during week 11 in the 2012-2013 season.

As there are 53 weeks in the current season compared to other years, the counts for weeks 53 and 1 of this year have been averaged into week 1. Using this method, cumulatively, there are a total of 720 cases of influenza in the district up to week 11 for the current 2014-2015 season, 611 for last year’s 2013-2014 season, and 729 for the 2012-2013.

Number of Cases as of Week 11 for 2012-2013, 2013-2014, 2014-2015



INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE

Sentinel surveillance for ILI consists of three outpatient reporting sites for the District of Columbia. The sentinel surveillance sites report the total number of ILI cases encountered per week and the total number of patients seen at the clinic during that same week. For this system, ILI is defined as the existence of fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than Influenza.

For week 11, sentinel providers reported 82 of 1537 (5.34%) visits that met the criteria for ILI.

Sentinel Surveillance ILI Activity for Washington, DC

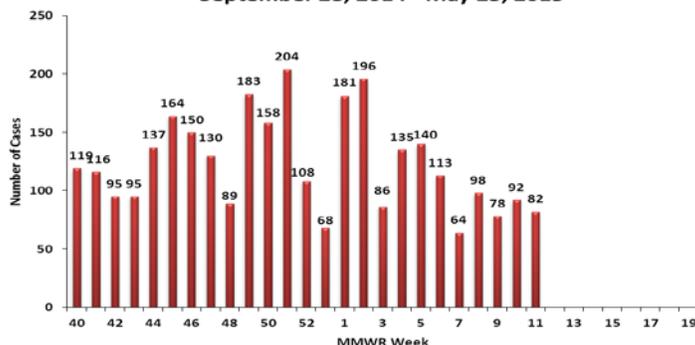
Week of	Activity *
Mar 15 – Mar 21	Local

***No Activity** – overall clinical activity remains low and there are no lab confirmed Influenza cases;

Sporadic – isolated lab confirmed Influenza cases reported and ILI activity is not increased;

Local – increased ILI activity and recent lab confirmed Influenza cases. As the District of Columbia is not a state, this is the highest level of ILI activity it can report.

Influenza-Like Illness Reported by MMWR Weekly September 28, 2014 - May 23, 2015



INFLUENZA TESTING BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (DC PHL)

The DC PHL subtypes human isolates to monitor the circulating strains of Influenza. The isolates are submitted to the DC PHL by hospitals and commercial laboratories. There were two specimens tested with no positives for week 11, for a total of 146 positive specimens of 198 tested (73.74%), all of which have been influenza A H3.

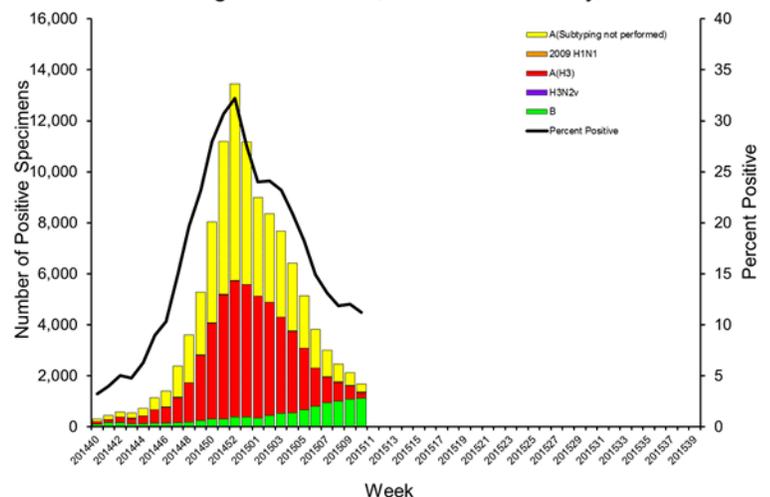
DC PHL Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Subtype

DC PHL Influenza Testing	March 15, 2015 – March 21, 2015	Total Cases September 28, 2014 – May 23, 2015
Number of specimens tested	2	198
◆ Number of specimens positive for Influenza:	0 (0%)	146 (73.74%)
● Influenza A	0 (0%)	146 (100%)
▪ H1 2009 H1N1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
▪ H1 seasonal	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
▪ H3	0 (0%)	146 (100%)
● Influenza B	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

NATIONAL INFLUENZA ASSESSMENT

The CDC's weekly seasonal Influenza surveillance report for week 11 noted that Influenza activity decreased, but continued at elevated levels in the United States. The proportion of deaths due to Influenza and pneumonia in the US was above the epidemic threshold. Nine Influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to the CDC during week 11, of which three were associated with an A(H3) virus, two associated with an un-typed A virus, and four associated with an influenza B virus. For the 2014-2015 season, a total of 116 pediatric deaths associated with Influenza has been reported in the US. During week 11, 12,824 specimens were tested, of which 1,358 (10.6%) were positive. Of the 1,358 respiratory specimens that tested positive during week 11, 334 (24.6%) were Influenza A and 1,024 (75.4%) were Influenza B. Of the Influenza A samples, 1 (0.3%) were 2009 H1N1, 101 (30.2%) were H3, and 232 (69.5%) were not subtyped.

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. WHO/NREVSS Collaborating Laboratories, National Summary, 2014-15



Get Vaccinated!

To find an Influenza vaccine provider, visit the District of Columbia Immunization Resource Center at <http://doh.dc.gov/node/190532>



For additional information about Influenza and Influenza activity in the United States, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>. Questions about Influenza in the District of Columbia or this report should be directed to the Division of Epidemiology - Disease Surveillance and Investigation at (202) 442-9150 or email keith.li@dc.gov.