

# Influenza Surveillance Report

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

## 2014-2015 Influenza Season Week 5 (February 1, 2015 – February 7, 2015)

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

### SUMMARY

- 34 cases of Influenza were reported by hospitals during this reporting period.
- Four additional cases were reported for week 4.
- Zero pediatric-deaths associated with Influenza were recorded during this reporting period.
- For the 2014-2015 Influenza Season to-date, 764 positive Influenza cases have been reported.
- The DC PHL reported no specimens tested this week, but reported additional data were reported for week 2 and 3 for a total of 142 out of 185 (76.76%) specimens testing positive for influenza
- Week 5 of the current 2014-2015 season has been slightly less severe than the last two seasons and has decreased 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.

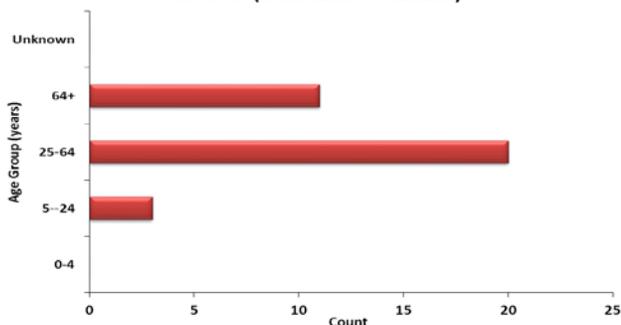
The table below summarizes weekly and cumulative cases of Influenza for the 2014-2015 Season. Data are also presented by age group and by number of cases reported weekly. During week 5 (February 1, 2015– February 7, 2015), there were 34 new cases of Influenza reported. Four additional cases for week 4 were reported as well. To date, the District has received 764 positive Influenza cases reported by hospitals.

### Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Type

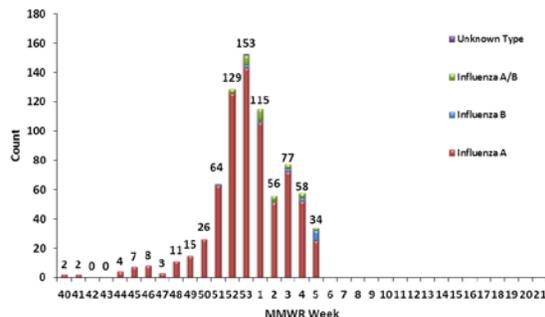
	Week 5 (February 1, 2015– February 7, 2015)		Cumulative Cases for Weeks 40 – 20 (September 28, 2014 – May 23, 2015)	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Influenza A	25	(87.88%)	716	(95.20%)
Influenza B	7	(0%)	16	(0.71%)
Influenza A/B	2	(12.12%)	31	(3.91%)
Influenza (not typed)	0	(0%)	1	(0.18%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>34*</b>	<b>(100%)</b>	<b>764*</b>	<b>(100.0%)</b>

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

Positive Influenza Tests, by Age Group  
Week 5 (1Feb 2015 - 7Feb2015)



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 5, 257 out of a total of 284 tests were performed using rapid diagnostic testing in clinical laboratories. Of these, 34 (13.23%) positive Influenza specimens were identified during week 5 using rapid diagnostics.

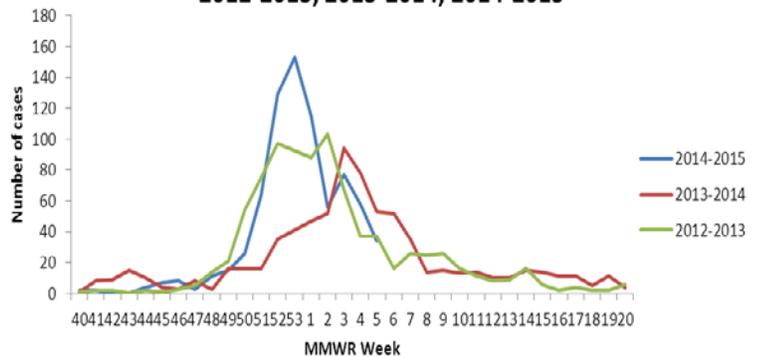
Week: 5 (February 1, 2015 – February 7, 2015)	
No. of specimens tested Rapid Diagnostics	257
No. of positive specimens (%)	34 (13.23%)
<b>Positive specimens by type/subtype</b>	
Influenza A	25 (73.53%)
Influenza B	7 (20.59%)
Influenza A/B	2 (5.88%)
Influenza – unknown type	0 (0%)

**WEEK 53 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SEASONS**

For week 5, there were 34 cases in the current 2014-2015 season, 53 cases in last year’s week 5, 2013-2014 season, and 37 cases during week 5 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 630 cases of influenza in the district up to week 5 for the current 2014-2015 season, 468 for last year’s 2013-2014 season, and 609 for the 2012-2013.

**Number of Cases as of Week 1 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 5, sentinel providers reported 140 of 1366 (10.25%) visits that met the criteria for ILI.

**Sentinel Surveillance ILI Activity for Washington, DC**

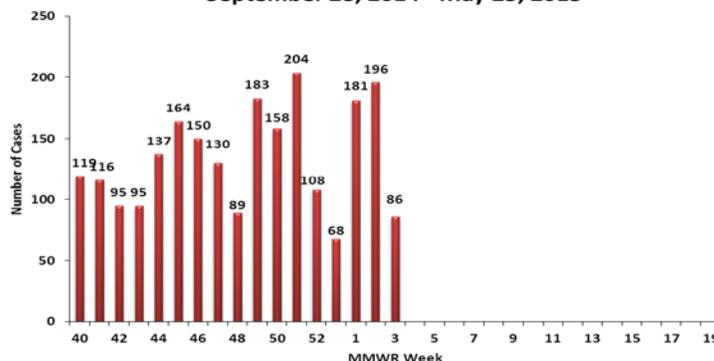
Week of	Activity *
Feb 1 – Feb 7	Local

**\*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. No specimens were tested by the PHL for week 5, but additional data were reported for week 2 and 3, for a total of 142 positive specimens of 185 tested (76.76%), all of which have been influenza A H3.

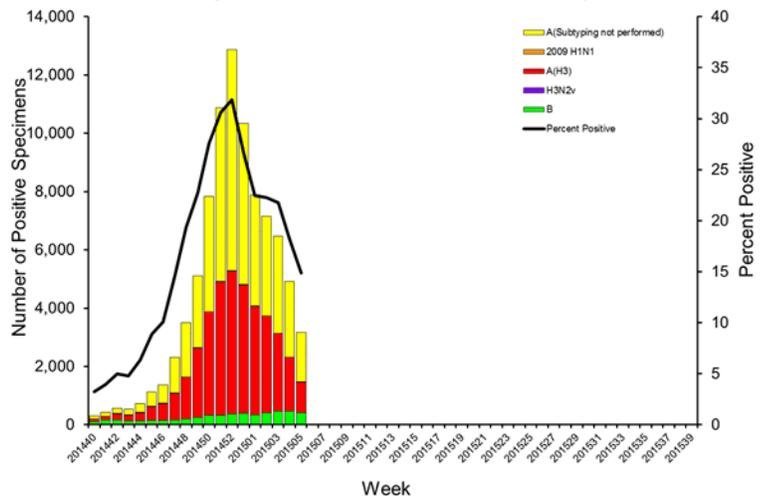
**DC PHL Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Subtype**

DC PHL Influenza Testing	February 1, 2015 – February 7, 2015	Total Cases September 28, 2014 – May 23, 2015
<b>Number of specimens tested</b>	0	185
◆ <b>Number of specimens positive for Influenza:</b>	0 (0%)	142 (76.76%)
● <b>Influenza A</b>	0 (0%)	142 (100%)
▪ <b>H1 2009 H1N1</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
▪ <b>H1 seasonal</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
▪ <b>H3</b>	0 (0%)	142 (100%)
● <b>Influenza B</b>	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

### NATIONAL INFLUENZA ASSESSMENT

The CDC's weekly seasonal Influenza surveillance report for week 5 noted that Influenza activity 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. 11 Influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to the CDC during week 5, of which four were associated with an A(H3) virus, and five were associated with an un-typed A virus, one associated with an AB virus, and one associated with a B virus. For the 2014-2015 season, a total of 80 pediatric deaths associated with Influenza has been reported in the US. During week 5, 21,340 specimens were tested, of which 3,174 (14.9 %) were positive. Of the 3,174 respiratory specimens that tested positive during week 5, 2,768 (87.2%) were Influenza A and 406 (12.8%) were Influenza B. Of the Influenza A samples, 6 (0.2%) were 2009 H1N1, 1,058 (38.2%) were H3, and 1,704 (61.6%) 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](mailto:keith.li@dc.gov).