



TEXAS  
Health and Human  
Services

---

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Welcome

---

**Dr. Paul Grunenwald**



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

---

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# **Influenza In Texas: A Review and Preview**

---

**Emilio Gonzales**

# Overview



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



Flu Surveillance



Reporting Requirements



22-23 Season in Review



Looking Forward



How to Participate

# Texas Flu Surveillance



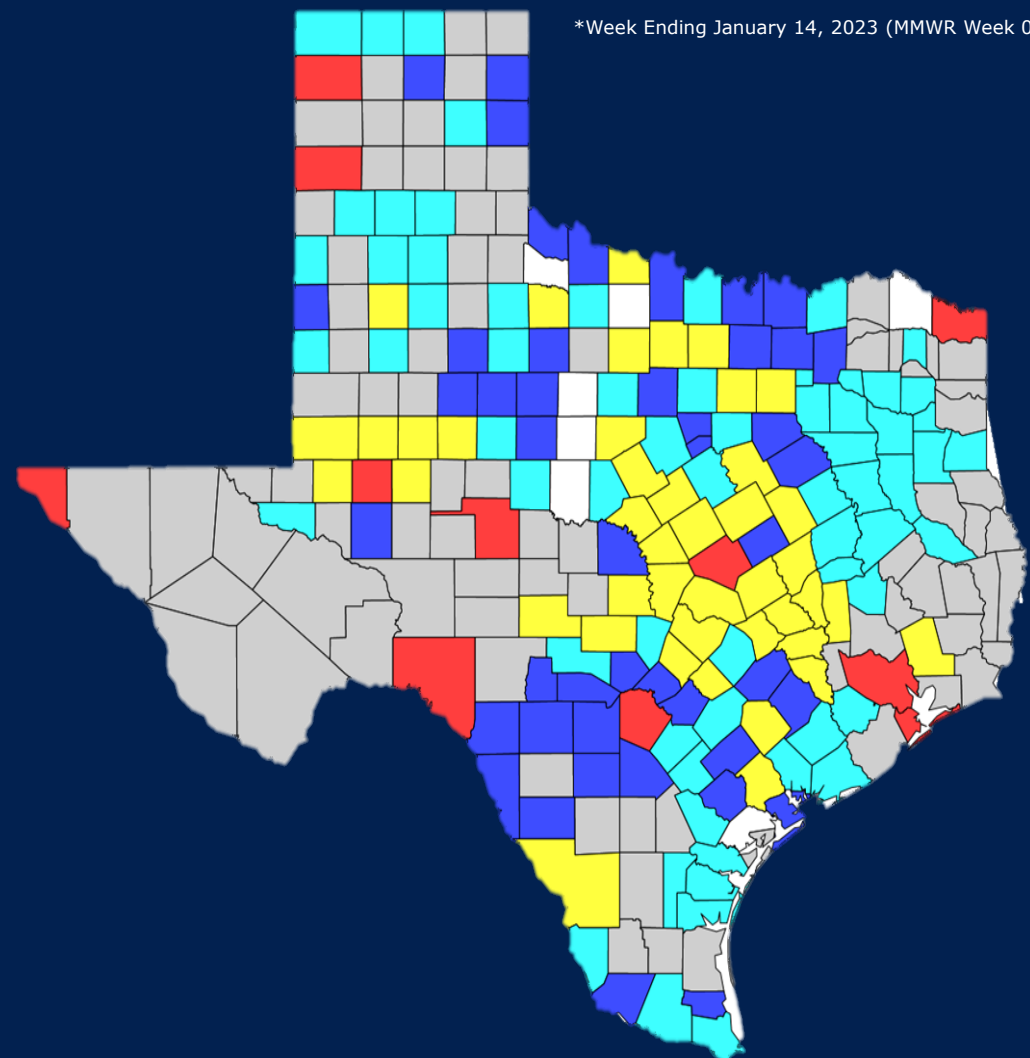
TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



- Flu surveillance structure
  - Voluntary reporting from providers
    - Syndromic Surveillance (Essence/TxS2)
    - ILINet (influenza-like illness network)
    - NREVSS
    - Qualtrics Regional Reporting
- Data is aggregated on a weekly basis and published online through a static pdf report.
- 3 Conditions that are REQUIRED to be reported
  - Influenza Associated Deaths
  - Novel Influenza
  - Respiratory Disease Outbreaks



# Texas Flu Surveillance



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



- Flu Testing
  - NREVSS
  - PHL's/LRN's
  - Aggregate regional reporting (Qualtrics)
- Vital Part of Flu Surveillance
  - Situational Awareness
  - Preparedness and Response
- Samples are submitted to LRN's using G2V
  - Facility labs likely already have these forms

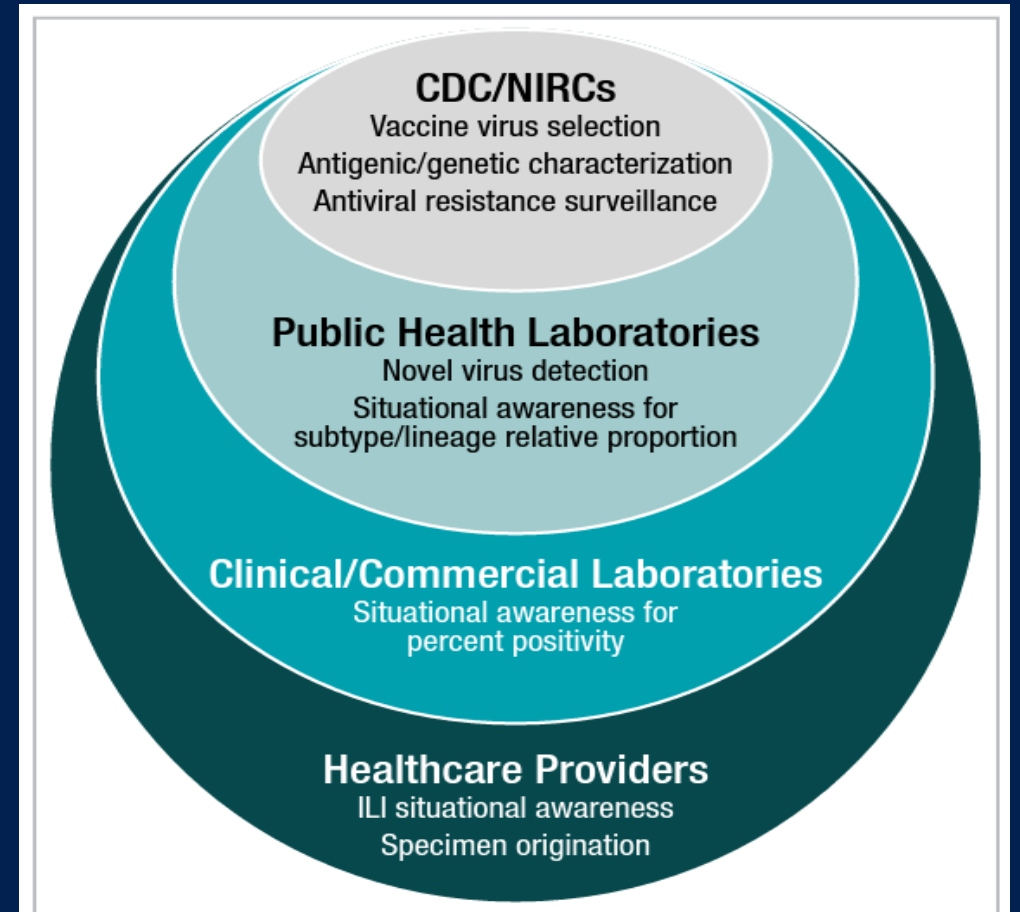


Figure 1. The US influenza virologic surveillance system is a tiered system. The same specimens answer various clinical and surveillance questions throughout the system with only a subset of specimens advancing to each subsequent level.

# Texas Notifiable Conditions: Influenza



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



- Influenza Associated Pediatric Mortalities

- Case Criteria:

- 18yr and younger
    - Positive influenza testing results
      - Rapid, PCR, Culture
    - No period of recovery from influenza illness onset to death

- Novel Influenza

- Determined through testing
    - Contact your LHD
  - Consideration of Novel Influenza
    - Unexpected or unusually severe illness
    - Illness with current vaccination
    - Exposure to animals/livestock (poultry, birds, swine)
    - Recent travel out of the country

- Outbreaks

- Any outbreak is reportable, including outbreaks of flu and/or respiratory diseases
  - Outbreaks are determined by the facility
  - Reported to LHD

# 2022 – 2023 Flu Season in Review

- Weekly Flu Report
  - <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/2022-2023-texas-influenza-surveillance-activity>
  - Aggregated using multiple flu data sources
  - Produced every Friday
  - Provides situational awareness for statewide activity

## Summary

\*This report excludes COVID-19 data. For information about COVID-19 in Texas visit <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/covid-19-home>.

Compared to the previous week, the percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza reported by hospital laboratories has decreased. The percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) has increased. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. No influenza-associated outbreaks were reported in a long-term care or school facility.

Table 1: Summary of Texas Influenza (Flu) and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity for the Current Week†

Texas Surveillance Component	Change from Previous Week	Current Week	Previous Week†	Page of Report
Statewide ILINet Activity Indicator assigned by CDC (intensity of influenza-like illness)	No Change	Minimal	Minimal	-
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by hospital laboratories	▼0.28%	1.31%	1.59%	1
Percentage of visits due to ILI (ILINet)	▲0.31%	1.64%	1.33%	2
Number of regions reporting increased flu/ILI activity	No change	1	1	4
Number of regions reporting decreased flu/ILI activity	▲1	6	5	4
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	No change	0	0	4
Number of ILI/influenza outbreaks	No change	0	0	4
Number of pediatric influenza-associated deaths	No change	0	0	5

†Data displayed have been updated since last week's flu report with any new reports received.



TEXAS

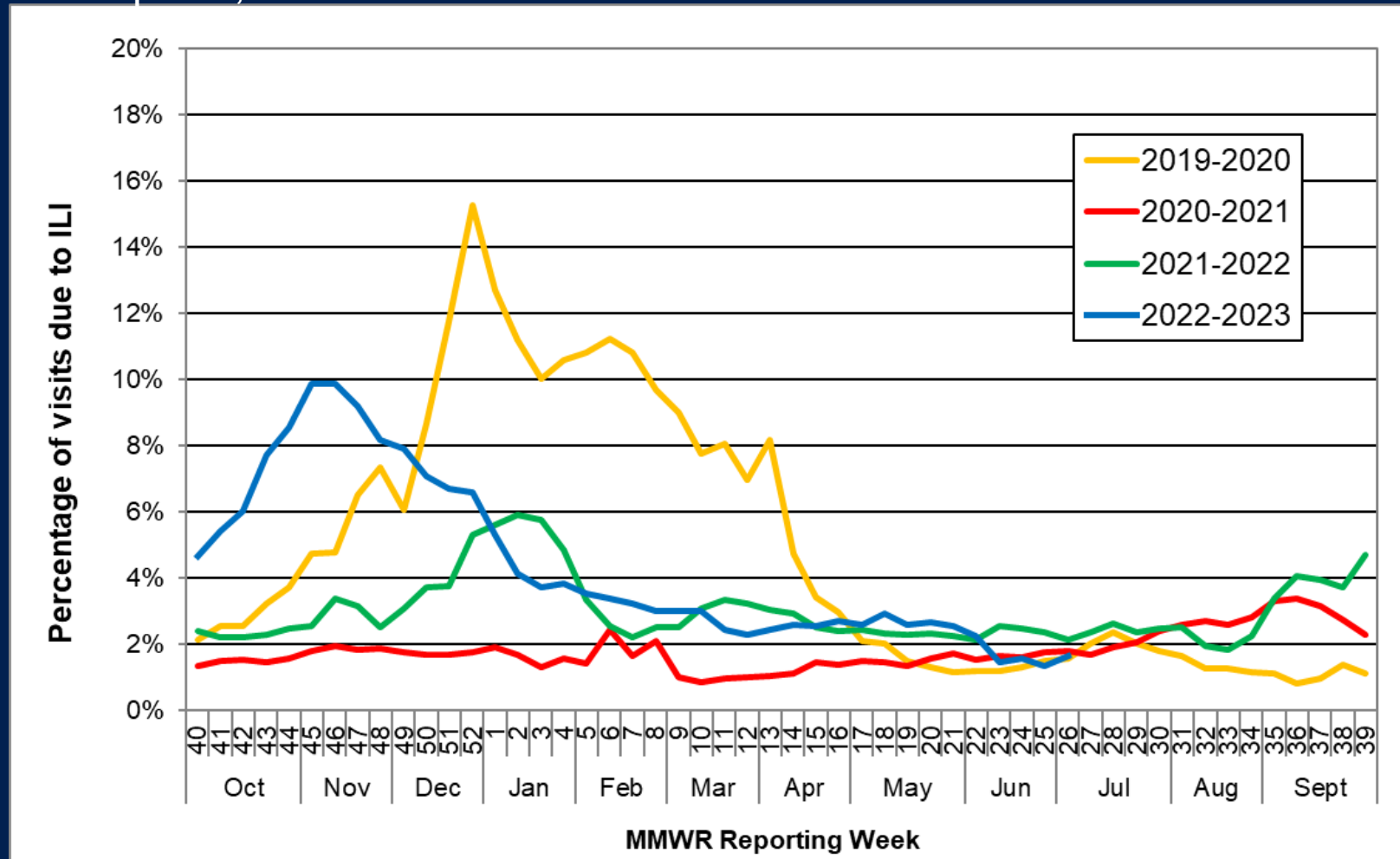
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services



# 2022 – 2023 Flu Season in Review

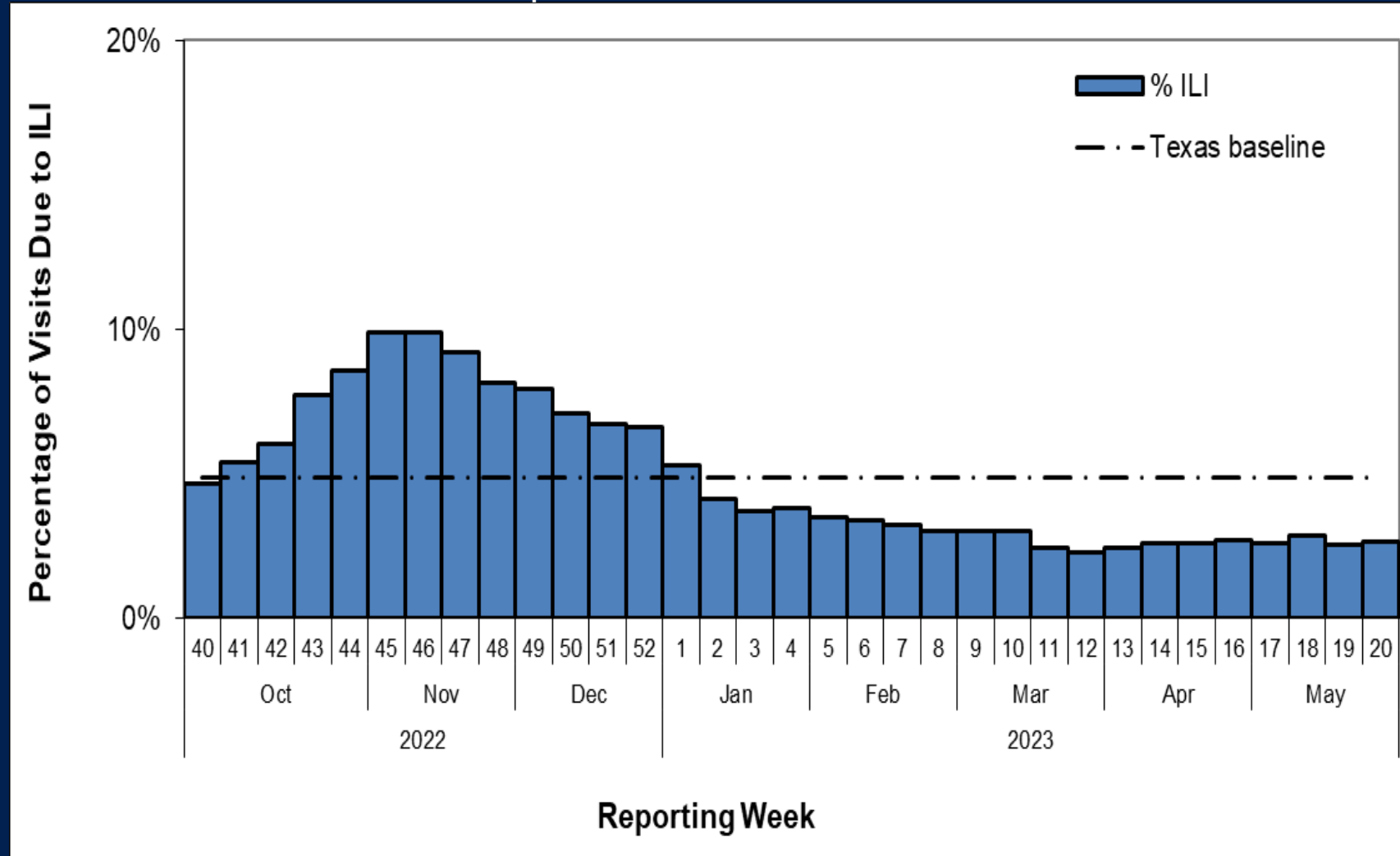
Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2019–2023 Seasons





# 2022 – 2023 Flu Season in Review

Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness Reported by Texas ILINet Participants, 2022-2023 Season



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services



# 2022 – 2023 Flu Season in Review

- P&I (Pneumonia and Influenza) Death Data
  - Data presented is Season to Date (October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 – Present)
  - Identified by ICD-10 code
- Large catchment area of analysis to include all influenza deaths and possibly related causes of death as influenza deaths are not considered reportable conditions.

Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths <sup>+</sup>	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
0 - 4	45	2.04
5 - 17	28	0.50
18 - 49	579	4.21
50 - 64	1428	27.14
65 +	5979	135.56
Overall	8059	25.85

HSR	Number of P&I Deaths <sup>+</sup>	Mortality Rate (per 100,000)
1	301	31.34
2/3	2232	25.31
4/5N	654	42.06
6/5S	1955	22.57
7	898	25.4
8	865	20.49
9/10	423	40.48
11	729	30.68
Unknown	2	-
Overall	8059	25.85



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services



# 2022 – 2023 Season in Review

## Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths Reported in Texas during the 2022-2023 Season

Month of Pediatric Death	Influenza A (H1N1)	Influenza A (H3N2)	Influenza A (Not Subtyped)	Influenza B	Influenza, Not Typed / Not Differentiated	Influenza virus co-infection: A (not subtyped) and B	Total, All Influenza Types / Subtypes
<b>2022</b>							
October	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
November	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
December	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
<b>2023</b>							
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
March	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>

- Pediatric deaths are reported directly to HD



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services



# Looking Forward: Influenza Surveillance



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- Regional Influenza Activity Baselines
- Streamlined Respiratory Outbreak Reporting System
  - Qualtrics Survey System
- Influenza Sequencing Center
  - Novel flu response and awareness
  - Better response and treatment options
- Influenza Dashboard
  - Dashboard preview in next slides



# Looking Forward: Other Possible Changes



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

- Items to be aware of:
  - Pan-Respiratory Disease Surveillance
    - Flu
    - RSV
    - Other Resp. Diseases
  - An Expansion of RSV surveillance
    - Prevention products
    - Death reporting?
    - Available data?
    - Case definitions?



# Looking Forward: Other Possible Changes

- Items to be aware of:
  - COVID surveillance
    - Aggregate reporting?
    - Lab testing data?
    - ILI case definition?



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



# How to Engage



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



- Recognize facilities/providers that may be able to participate in influenza surveillance
  - Syndromic Surveillance – hospital outpatient/ER
  - ILINet – outpatient facilities
  - NREVSS – lab facilities
  - Qualtrics – automated survey participation

# How to Engage



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



- Determine which program/method best suite the providers capabilities
- Ensure and encourage continued participation
  - Sending samples to LRN for testing
  - Reporting flu and ILI
- Review weekly flu and respiratory data to better understand activity statewide





TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services



# Thank you!

# Questions?

**Contact:**

[emilio.gonzales@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:emilio.gonzales@dshs.texas.gov)

[flutexas@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:flutexas@dshs.texas.gov)