

Surveillance

En Español

Influenza
(Flu)

ICD-9 487; ICD-10 J10,11

Related Topics: [Protecting Yourself During the Cold and Flu Season](#), [Avian Flu](#), [Vaccine Preventable Diseases and SARS](#)**2008 - 2009 Texas Influenza Surveillance Information****Influenza Surveillance Report for MMWR Week 3**

The influenza (flu) activity level for Texas for the week ending January 24, 2009 was "widespread." (Texas had previously reported "regional" activity to CDC for week 3, but this was amended to "widespread" based on new information.) Widespread activity indicates that at least half of the regions in the state are experiencing an increase in influenza-like illness (ILI) and have recent culture-confirmed influenza. During week 3, 333 (25.4%) specimens tested by NREVSS laboratories in Texas were positive for influenza. The percentage of visits for influenza-like illness as reported by ILINet providers in Texas was below the regional baseline.

Reports from Health Service Regions

Reports were received from all Health Service Regions (HSRs) for week 3. HSRs 8 and 11 reported the same level of flu activity compared to week 2. All other HSRs reported an increase in flu activity compared to week 2. For a map of Health Service Regions, please visit the following website:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/regions/state.shtm>

Laboratory Results

During week 3, eight hospital laboratories and public health agencies across Texas reported conducting a total of 1,312 influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS[®]) sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Of the 1,289 antigen detection tests that were performed, 269 were positive for influenza A/not subtyped and 55 were positive for influenza B. The positive results were reported from Bexar, Harris, Lubbock, Nueces, and Tarrant counties. Twenty-seven PCR tests positive for influenza A/H1, one PCR test positive for influenza A/H3, eight PCR tests positive for influenza A/not subtyped, and sixteen PCR tests positive for influenza B were reported from Bell, Bexar, Harris, Tarrant, and Williamson counties. [There may be some overlap in the PCR and culture positive results described in this report (i.e., some of the PCR results may be from some of the same patients as the culture results).] A total of 245 reports of culture-confirmed influenza were received from public health laboratories in Austin, Dallas, and Houston; Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple; Texas Children's Hospital in Houston; the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine; and other sources for the following counties:

Influenza A/H1	Influenza A/H3	Influenza A/not subtyped	Influenza B
Anderson County	Dallas County (4)	Bell County (2)	Angelina County (7)
Angelina County (10)	Taylor County	Bexar County (31)	Bell County
Bandera County		Brazos County (2)	Bexar County (7)
Bexar County (18)		Burleson County	Brazos County (8)
Dallas County (2)		Coryell County	Dallas County (9)
El Paso County		Dallas County (50)	El Paso County
Gregg County		Harris County (30)	Harris County (28)
Jasper County (2)		McLennan County (2)	Limestone County (2)
Kleberg County		Williamson County (3)	McLennan County (3)
Medina County (2)			Smith County
Montgomery County			Travis County
Smith County			Wichita County
Travis County (4)			
Val Verde County			
Wichita County (3)			

Additional positive results from point-of-care rapid flu tests were reported by providers throughout the state (see Texas map below).

Antigenic Characterization

CDC has reported antigenic characterization results from 25 influenza isolates [14 influenza A/H1, 0 influenza A/H3, and 11 influenza B viruses] received from the DSHS Laboratory since the beginning of the 2008-09 flu season.

Influenza A/H1 [14]

- Fourteen (100%) of the fourteen viruses were characterized as A/Brisbane/59/2007, the influenza A/H1 component of the 2008-09 influenza vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere.

Influenza A/H3 [0]

- No influenza A/H3 viruses from Texas have been characterized yet this season.

Influenza B (B/Victoria/02/87 and B/Yamagata/16/88 lineages) [11]**Victoria lineage [10]**

- Two (20%) of the ten viruses were characterized as B/Ohio/01/2005-like viruses.
- Eight (80%) of the ten viruses showed somewhat reduced titers with antisera produced against B/Malaysia/2506/2004 and B/Ohio/01/2005.

Yamagata lineage [1]

- One virus was characterized as B/Florida/4/2006, the influenza B component for the 2008-09 influenza vaccine.

The national antigenic characterization results may be found in the CDC weekly flu report at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>. The DSHS Laboratory sends a representative sample of influenza viruses to the CDC throughout the flu season.

Influenza–Associated Pediatric Mortality

No influenza-associated pediatric fatalities occurred during week 3. Texas has reported one influenza-associated pediatric fatality during the 2008-09 influenza season.

School Closures and Institutional Outbreaks

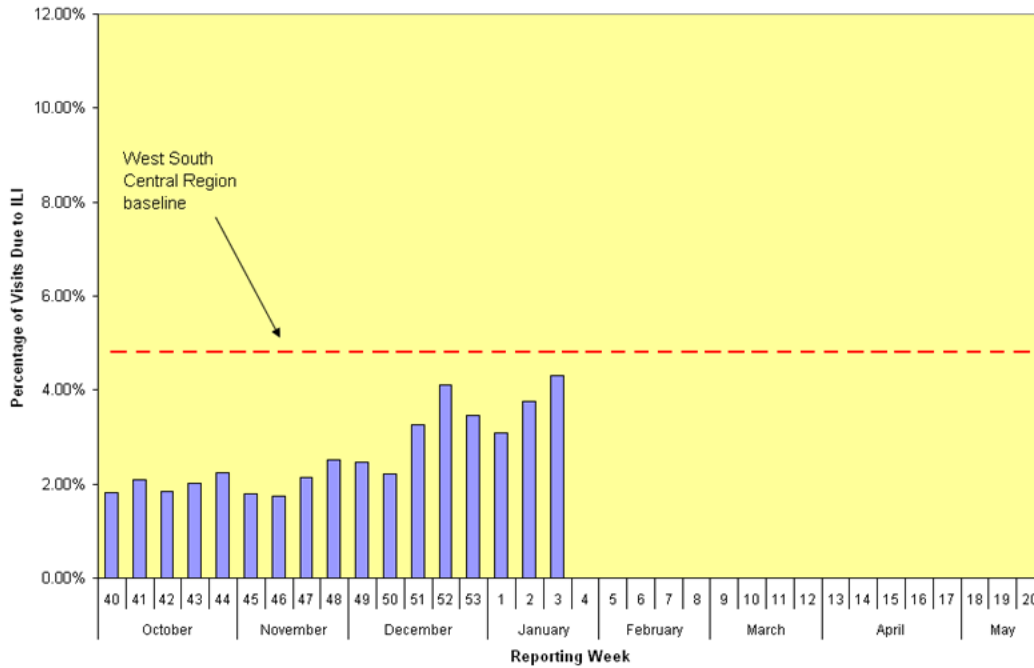
Institutional outbreaks due to influenza and influenza-like illnesses were reported in multiple schools during week 3. One school in Dallas County reported multiple tests positive for influenza; the majority of these tests were positive for influenza A/H3. A school in Hood County reported increased absenteeism due to influenza-like illness. One Henderson County school reported several rapid tests positive for influenza B, including some in persons who had been vaccinated for influenza during the current season. A school in Caldwell County reported several students absent due to influenza-like illness. None of the schools closed due to the illnesses.

U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network

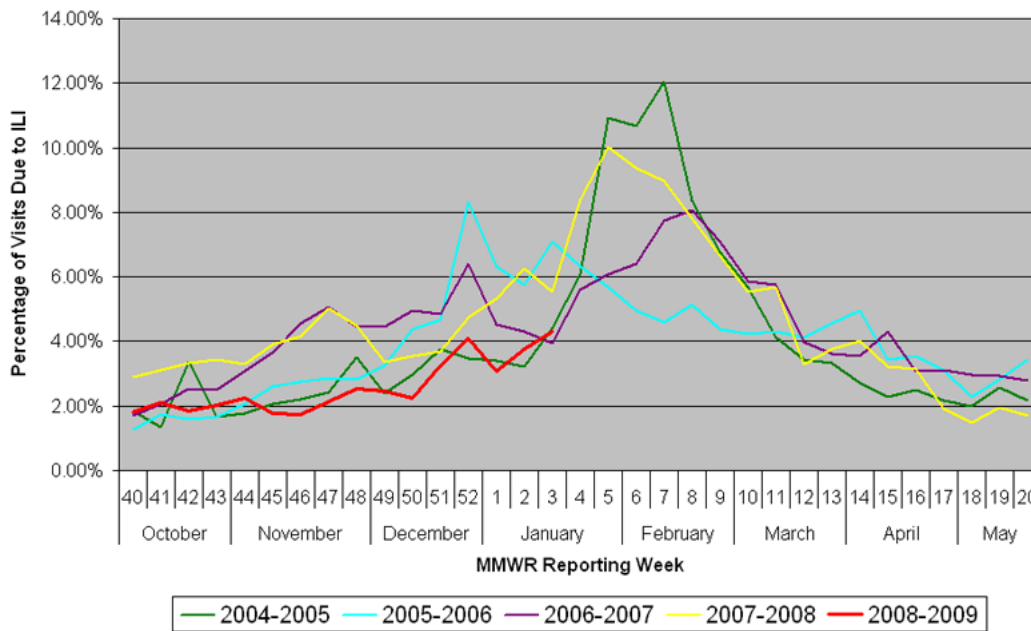
Fifty-nine sentinel providers in Texas reported data to the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) (formerly known as the U.S. Influenza Sentinel Provider Surveillance System) on patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) and total patients seen for any reason during week 3. Forty (68%) of these providers saw at least one patient with ILI. Of all patient visits during this week, 4.31% were due to ILI. The ILI baseline for the West South Central Region (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas) of the United States is 4.8% for the 2008-2009 season. The baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations.

Percentage of Visits for Influenza–Like Illness Reported by the US Outpatient Influenza–Like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) in Texas as of 1/30/2009 2:41:29 PM								
Week	# Reporting	Age 0-4	Age 5-24	Age 25-64	Age over 64	Total ILI	Total Patients	% ILI
2008-40	77	84	133	127	22	366	20231	1.81
2008-41	77	114	163	124	19	420	20000	2.10
2008-42	78	107	156	90	7	360	19658	1.83
2008-43	78	120	152	106	20	398	19654	2.03
2008-44	79	136	199	103	26	464	20653	2.25
2008-45	77	110	111	122	27	370	20737	1.78
2008-46	72	110	106	103	23	342	19684	1.74
2008-47	74	137	143	122	19	421	19722	2.13
2008-48	78	131	132	125	37	425	16835	2.52
2008-49	74	143	159	153	24	479	19487	2.46
2008-50	72	133	146	107	28	414	18587	2.23
2008-51	66	172	177	173	24	546	16766	3.26
2008-52	73	194	153	154	34	535	13035	4.10
2008-53	74	167	137	165	46	515	14831	3.47
2009-01	75	156	177	188	38	559	18091	3.09
2009-02	71	172	279	225	39	715	19056	3.75
2009-03	59	104	388	300	25	817	18973	4.31

Percentage of Visits Due to Influenza-Like Illness (ILI),
Texas Providers in the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network,
2008–2009

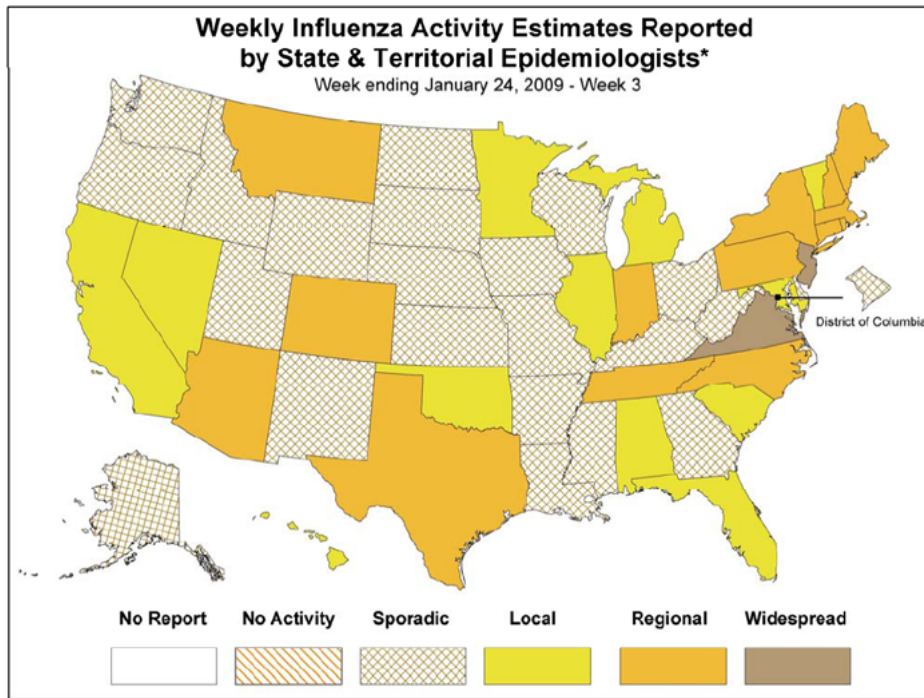


Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Data
Texas Providers in the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network
Flu Seasons 2004–2009



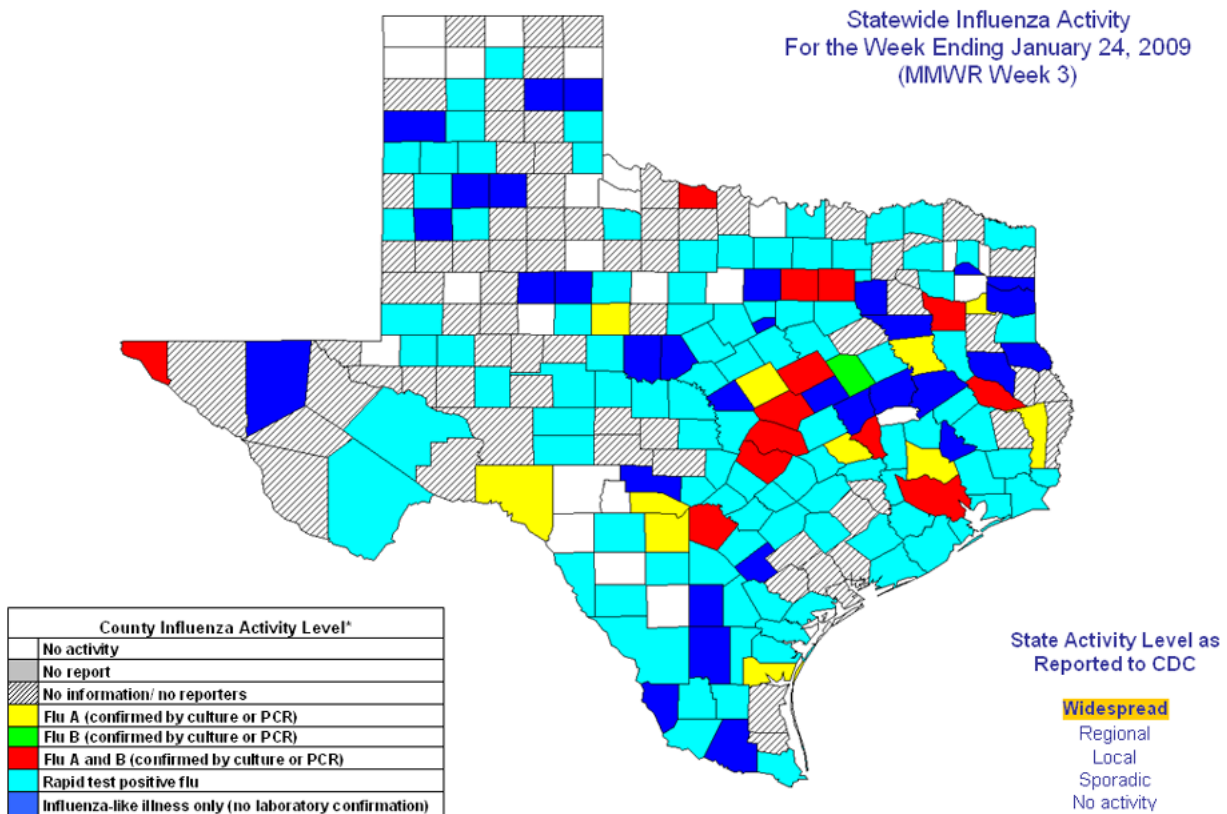
National Influenza Activity Map

The map showing influenza activity in the United States for MMWR week 3 is displayed below. The current U.S. flu weekly report may be found at: [here](#).



*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.

For more information on flu surveillance activities in the State of Texas, please visit our main surveillance page.



*Influenza activity level corresponds to current MMWR week only and does not reflect previous weeks' activity.

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