Summary: The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) has recently received an increasing number of reports of influenza cases in Boston residents. As of 11/23/13, 19 cases were reported to BPHC with three cases requiring hospitalization. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) are increasing, comprising 0.90% of all ED visits, compared to just 0.6% in early October. BPHC reminds everyone that influenza vaccine is still widely available, and there is still time to get vaccinated before the influenza season gets more severe.

Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC.