Summary: The week ending 1/18/14 showed a continuation of high levels of reported influenza cases in Boston residents. 97 cases were reported between 1/12/14 and 1/18/14, with a total of 353 cases reported since October 1st. 89 cases (25%) have been hospitalized. There have been three deaths, all in individuals over 65 years of age with underlying medical conditions. Emergency department (ED) visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.59% of all ED visits this week.

Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC.
Influenza like illness (ILI) is defined as ("flu" OR "fever and a cough or sore throat") in the ED chief complaint as captured by the BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.