Summary: The week ending 2/8/14 showed an increase in reported influenza cases in Boston residents. 100 cases were reported between 2/2/14 and 2/8/14, with a total of 628 cases reported since October 1st. 153 cases (24%) have been hospitalized. There have been four deaths, all in individuals over 50 years of age with underlying medical conditions.

Emergency department (ED) visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.58% of all ED visits this week. BPHC reminds providers that it is not too late to vaccinate.

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