Summary: As of 1/14/2017, 261 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 10/1/2016, with fifty-seven (22%) cases requiring hospitalization. One influenza-associated death has been reported in an elderly person with multiple underlying health conditions. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.50% of all ED visits this week.

Antigenic characterization of predominant nationally circulating influenza viruses indicates that the components of 2016-7 seasonal vaccine are very well matched to circulating strains. Providers should continue to offer vaccine through the remainder of the season.

Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC by calling (617) 534-5611 or faxing reports to (617) 534-5905.
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.
Geographic Distribution

Rate of Confirmed Influenza Cases by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population
October 1, 2016 - January 14, 2017

Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population
October 1, 2016 - January 14, 2017

Comparison of Flu Near You (FNY)* ILI Data and ED Visits for ILI, 2013-2017

*Flu Near You (FNY) compiles weekly data of ILI activity in the United States. The data come from short, weekly internet-based surveys completed by voluntary participants who indicate whether they are healthy or have experienced any of a short list of symptoms.

The public may participate by enrolling in FNY at: https://flunearyou.org/