Summary: As of 1/21/2017, 363 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 10/1/2016, with eighty-two (23%) cases requiring hospitalization. Two influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.51% 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.
Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2016 - 1/21/2017, Boston Residents

- White: 44%
- Black / African American: 23%
- Latino / Hispanic: 18%
- Asian: 5%
- Other: 4%
- Unknown: 6%

Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2016 - 1/21/2017, Boston Residents

- 18-44 yrs: 39%
- 45-64 yrs: 19%
- <5 yrs: 8%
- 5-17 yrs: 11%
- 65+ yrs: 23%

Weekly % ILI ED Visits, 2013-2017

- 2014-2015
- 2015-2016
- 2016-2017

*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 21, 2017

**Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population**
October 1, 2016 - January 21, 2017

**Neighborhood Legend**

- A/B = Allston/Brighton
- BB = Back Bay
- CH = Charlestown
- EB = East Boston
- FW = Fenway
- HP = Hyde Park
- JP = Jamaica Plain
- MT = Mattapan
- ND = North Dorchester
- RS = Roslindale
- RX = Roxbury
- SB = South Boston
- SD = South Dorchester
- SE = South End
- WR = West Roxbury

**Comparison of ILI Using 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/](https://flunearyou.org/)