**Summary:** As of 2/4/2017, 788 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 10/1/2016, with one hundred and thirty-one (17%) cases requiring hospitalization. One influenza-associated death has been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.80% 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 - 2/4/2017, Boston Residents

- White: 33%
- Black/African American: 32%
- Latino/Hispanic: 17%
- Asian: 5%
- Other: 3%
- Unknown: 10%

Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2016 - 2/4/2017, Boston Residents

- 5-17 yrs: 18%
- 18-44 yrs: 33%
- 45-64 yrs: 21%
- <5 yrs: 9%
- 65+ yrs: 19%

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.
**Geostrategic Distribution**

**Rate of Confirmed Influenza Cases by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population October 1, 2016 - February 4, 2017**

**Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population October 1, 2016 - February 4, 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.*