Summary: As of 2/11/2017, 1138 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 10/1/2016, with two hundred twenty (19%) cases requiring hospitalization. Two influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 2.07% 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.
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.