Summary: As of 2/18/2017, 1512 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 10/1/2016, with two hundred ninety-eight (20%) cases requiring hospitalization. Two influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 2.48% 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.

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**Weekly Reported Influenza Cases and % ILI ED Visits, 2016-17 Season**

![Graph showing the weekly reported influenza cases and % ILI ED visits from 10/1/2016 to 2/18/2017.](image-url)
Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2016 - 2/18/2017, Boston Residents

- White: 32%
- Latino / Hispanic: 20%
- Black / African American: 32%
- Asian: 5%
- Unknown: 6%
- Other: 5%

Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2016 - 2/18/2017, Boston Residents

- 18-44 yrs: 32%
- 45-64 yrs: 22%
- 5-17 yrs: 17%
- <5 yrs: 10%
- 65+ yrs: 19%

Weekly % ILI ED Visits, 2014-2017

- 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 - February 18, 2017

Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population
October 1, 2016 - February 18, 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.