Influenza Report - For the week ending 1/20/2018

10/1/2017 - 1/20/2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported Cases (Boston Residents)</th>
<th># (% of total)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A</td>
<td>650 (83%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B</td>
<td>129 (17%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A and B</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza (type unspecified)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL (season-to-date)</td>
<td>780</td>
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**Boston ED ILI Surveillance**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2.61%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This Week ILI%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Week ILI%</td>
<td>2.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average ILI% (since 10/1/2017)</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
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**State/National ILI Surveillance**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This Week Massachusetts ILI%</td>
<td>3.61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>This Week National ILI%</td>
<td>6.60%</td>
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Summary: As of 1/20/2018, 780 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza among Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC); 179 (23%) have required hospitalization [down 2% from prior week]. Two influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date; both persons were of advanced age and had multiple underlying medical conditions. Emergency Department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 2.61% of all ED visits this week [up 0.52% from the prior week].

Boston City data may not parallel aggregate statewide data as other areas of Massachusetts are experiencing different trends.

Providers should continue to offer vaccine to all persons ≥6 months of age through the remainder of the season. Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and its complications.

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.

On December 27, 2017, a Health Advisory was released by CDC providing: 1) notice of increased influenza A(H3N2) activity and its clinical implications; 2) summary of influenza antiviral drug treatment recommendations; 3) update on approved antiviral medications and current supply; and 4) background information for patients about influenza treatment. For more information, see: [https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00409.asp](https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00409.asp)

Among circulating wild-type influenza viruses tested, including influenza A(H3N2), no significant antigenic drift has been identified. The majority of H3N2 viruses tested by CDC since October 1, 2017 remain similar to the egg-grown reference virus in use for Northern Hemisphere vaccines.

While possible for individuals who have been vaccinated to get the flu (though NOT from the vaccine itself), studies have shown that prior vaccination during the season can attenuate the severity of illness, reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalization, and result in fewer flu-associated deaths particularly for children, pregnant women, and persons with chronic health conditions.

Getting vaccinated yourself also protects people around you, including those more vulnerable to serious flu illness.
Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as "flu" OR "fever AND (cough OR sore throat)" in the ED chief complaint as captured by the BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.
Race/Ethnicity and Age Distribution

Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2017 - 1/20/2018, Boston Residents

- White: 40%
- Black / African American: 30%
- Latino / Hispanic: 16%
- Asian: 4%
- Other: 5%
- Unknown: 5%

Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2017 - 1/20/2018, Boston Residents

- 18-44 yrs: 35%
- 5-17 yrs: 8%
- <5 yrs: 7%
- 45-64 yrs: 25%
- 65+ yrs: 25%

Geographic Distribution

Rate of Confirmed Influenza Cases by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population October 1, 2017 - January 20, 2018

Rate of ILL Syndrome ED Visits by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population October 1, 2017 - January 20, 2018

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
**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/)