Summary: As of 12/2/2017, 60 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), with 18 (30%) requiring hospitalization. No influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 0.77% of all ED visits this week.

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

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, 10/1/2017 - 12/2/2017, Boston Residents**

- **White**: 45%
- **Black / African American**: 27%
- **Latino / Hispanic**: 17%
- **Asian**: 3%
- **Other**: 7%
- **Unknown**: 1%

**Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2017 - 12/2/2017, Boston Residents**

- **65+ yrs**: 35%
- **18-44 yrs**: 32%
- **45-64 yrs**: 20%
- **<5 yrs**: 8%
- **5-17 yrs**: 5%

**Weekly % ILI ED Visits, 2015-2017**

*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.*
Comparison of ILI Using Flu Near You (FNY)* ILI Data and ED Visits for ILI, 2015-2018

Comparison of Flu Near You (FNY) ILI Data and ED Visits for ILI (2015-2018)

*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/