Summary: As of 11/17/2018, 41 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/30/2018, with six (15%) cases requiring hospitalization. No influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 0.90% of all ED visits this week.

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 (cough OR sore throat)” in ED chief complaint captured by BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System

**Massachusetts and CDC use a different methodology than the City of Boston to calculate ILI%. State and National ILI data are calculated using ILInet outpatient surveillance data from sentinel sites (see: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm for more information).
Weekly % ILI ED Visits, 2016-2019

Weekly ILI ED visits are shown from 2016-2017 season to present. For the week ending 11/17/2018, ILI accounted for 0.90% of ED visits, an increase of 0.23% from the prior week.

Race/Ethnicity and Age Distribution

Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases, Boston Residents
September 30, 2018 - November 17, 2018

Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, Boston Residents
September 30, 2018 - November 17, 2018

N=41

**Comparison of Flu Near You (FNY) ILI Data and ED Visits for ILI (2016-2018)**

- **Metro Boston FNY % ILI**
- **% ILI ED Visits (Boston Hospitals)**

*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/)