Summary: As of 12/8/2018, 127 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza were reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/30/2018, with sixteen (13%) cases requiring hospitalization. One influenza-associated death has been reported to date. The death occurred in an elderly person with underlying medical conditions. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 0.94% 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.
Race/Ethnicity and Age Distribution

Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases,
Boston Residents
September 30, 2018 - December 8, 2018

- Asian: 6%
- Black/African American: 36%
- Latino/Hispanic: 22%
- White: 28%
- Unknown: 8%

Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases,
Boston Residents
September 30, 2018 - December 8, 2018

- <5 yrs: 10%
- 5-17 yrs: 17%
- 18-44 yrs: 42%
- 45-64 yrs: 19%
- 65+ yrs: 12%

N=127

The overall distribution of reported laboratory-confirmed influenza cases by patient age was statistically significant (p=0.0013). As of 12/8/2018, children less than 18 years of age are more likely to be reported with laboratory-confirmed influenza in the 2018-2019 influenza season compared to the 2017-2018 influenza season (P=0.0348).

CDC reports that H1N1 has been the predominant circulating influenza A subtype for the past several weeks. During the week ending December 1, 2018, 170 (94.4%) of the 180 influenza-positive tests reported to CDC by public health laboratories were influenza A viruses and 10 (5.6%) were influenza B viruses. Of the 152 influenza A viruses that were subtyped, the majority (82.2%) were (H1N1)pdm09. The remaining 17.8% were subtyped as H3N2.

These findings underscore the need for ongoing vaccination in all age groups, particularly children.
**BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)**
Communicable Disease Control Division
1010 Massachusetts Ave - Boston, MA 02118
Phone: (617) 534-5611 - Fax: (617) 534-5905

**Geographic Distribution**

Rate of Confirmed Influenza Cases by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population
September 30, 2018 - December 8, 2018

Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population
September 30, 2018 - December 8, 2018

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

*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/](https://flunearyou.org/)