Summary: As of 12/28/2019, a total of 356 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/29/2019. Thirty-eight cases (11%) have been hospitalized. No influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 2.14% of all Emergency Department (ED) visits this week. Geographic distribution of influenza activity in Massachusetts is widespread. Intensity of ILI in the State is high.

Providers should continue to offer vaccine to all persons ≥6 months of age until May.

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. For case report forms Click Here.

*Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as "flu" OR "fever AND (cough OR sore throat)" in ED chief complaint data captured by BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.

**Massachusetts and CDC employ a different methodology than the City of Boston to calculate %ILI. Both Massachusetts and National ILI data are calculated using ILInet outpatient surveillance data from sentinel sites. For more information Click Here.

⁺All state & national ILI data obtained through CDC’s FluView Report. Click Here to view FluView.

For the week ending 12/28/2019, ILI accounted for 2.14% of ED visits, an increase of 0.54% from the prior week.