Summary: As of 1/25/2020, a total of 1,746 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/29/2019. One hundred and seventy-two cases (10%) have been hospitalized. No influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 4.00% 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.

⁺State & national ILI data obtained from CDC’s FluView Report. Click Here for FluView.

Figure 1. Weekly Reported Influenza Cases (in Boston Residents) and % ILI ED Visits, 2019-2020 Season

For the week ending 1/25/2020, ILI accounted for 4.00% of ED visits, an increase of 0.84% from the prior week.
Weekly ILI ED visits are shown from the 2017-2018 season to present. For the week ending 1/25/2020, ILI accounted for 4.00% of ED visits, an increase of 0.84% from the prior week.