Summary: As of 2/8/2020, a total of 3,179 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/29/2019. Three hundred and five cases (10%) have been hospitalized. Since the beginning of the season, two influenza-associated deaths in older Boston residents with multiple medical conditions have been reported. Nationally and statewide, only pediatric flu-related deaths are reportable. No flu-related pediatric deaths have been identified in Boston residents. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 5.16% 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.

For the week ending 2/8/2020, ILI accounted for 5.16% of ED visits, an increase of 0.40% from the prior week.

Figure 1. Weekly Reported Influenza Cases (in Boston Residents) and % ILI ED Visits, 2019-2020 Season
Weekly ILI ED visits are shown from the 2017-2018 season to present. **For the week ending 2/8/2020, ILI accounted for 5.16% of ED visits, an increase of 0.40% from the prior week.**