Summary: As of 2/22/2020, a total of 4,102 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 eighty-six (9%) have been hospitalized. Since the beginning of the season, three 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 (ED) visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 3.77% of all ED visits this week, a drop of 0.44% from the prior 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.

For the week ending 2/22/2020, ILI accounted for 4.21% of ED visits, a decrease of 0.44% from the prior week.
Weekly ILI ED visits are shown from the 2017-2018 season to present. For the week ending 2/22/2020, ILI accounted for 3.77% of ED visits, a decrease of 0.44% from the prior week.