

Florida Influenza Surveillance for the Week Ending November 8, 2003 (Week 45)

Summary

Florida influenza-like illness (ILI) activity this week has been relatively quiet. Although 7 counties are reported below as having the highest ILI% last week, only Indian River, Palm Beach and Polk Counties had increased percentages from the previous week. Significance testing is not done for these percentages but Palm Beach was the only county with more than a full point change in their ILI%. Specimen submissions and positive laboratory results are increasing and two specimens submitted by Okaloosa County providers were positive for influenza A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2). The Okaloosa County Health Department is currently investigating whether these two patients represent a cluster. This new influenza A drift variant has potential to cause more widespread infection in Florida as it has done in Texas and Colorado. The Bureau of Epidemiology is encouraging the county influenza coordinators to contact their sentinel providers to promote submission of laboratory specimens. With a new variant circulating it is increasingly more important to subtype any influenza A isolates. While the current vaccine is expected to provide some cross-protection against this drift variant, the level of protection is not known. The CDC encourages vaccination because the current vaccine continues to protect against other types of influenza.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Florida Summary

Sixty-five sentinels from 59 public clinics and private offices submitted reports for 28 counties during the week ending November 8, 2003 (Week 45). Counties with the highest percentage of patients with ILI were Broward, Indian River, Monroe, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Polk, and Seminole. Thirteen counties reported a low percentage of patients with ILI, and 8 counties reported no cases of ILI. A breakdown of ILI% reported for week ending November 8, 2003 by county is listed in Table 1.

County	Change in ILI Activity	Enrolled as of 11/17/03		Reporting for Week 45		Participation for Week 45	ILI% Reported for Week 45 (Current)	ILI% Reported for Week 44 (Updated)	ILI% Reported for Week 43 (Updated)
		Sentinels recruited	from Offices	Sentinels reporting	from Offices				
Alachua	Increase	2	2	1	1	50%	1.03%	0.19%	0.06%
Brevard	Decrease	3	3	1	1	33%	0.00%	1.13%	0.00%
Broward	Decrease	7	7	5	5	71%	2.27%	3.49%	0.56%
Charlotte	None	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Citrus	Increase	1	1	1	1	100%	0.17%	0.00%	0.00%
Collier	None	2	2	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Duval	Decrease	12	9	5	5	42%	0.77%	1.69%	1.19%
Hernando		1	1	0	0	0%		3.26%	6.20%
Hillsborough	Increase	6	6	2	2	33%	1.40%	0.97%	0.94%
Indian River	Increase	8	3	7	5	88%	4.02%	3.29%	4.54%
Lake	Increase	2	2	2	2	100%	0.47%	0.00%	0.00%
Lee	Increase	2	2	1	1	50%	0.96%	0.00%	0.00%
Leon	Decrease	2	2	2	2	100%	0.51%	0.63%	0.57%
Marion	Increase	1	1	1	1	100%	0.26%	0.12%	0.12%
Martin	Increase	1	1	1	1	100%	0.31%	0.00%	0.00%
Miami-Dade	Increase	6	6	4	4	67%	0.68%	0.31%	0.41%
Monroe	Decrease	1	1	1	1	100%	2.21%	3.73%	1.65%
Okaloosa	Decrease	4	4	2	2	50%	2.06%	2.27%	1.57%
Orange	Decrease	12	9	7	4	58%	1.07%	1.77%	3.99%
Osceola	None	2	2	1	1	50%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Palm Beach	Increase	5	5	4	4	80%	3.51%	1.55%	1.97%
Pasco	Decrease	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	2.63%	
Pinellas	Increase	7	7	4	4	57%	0.88%	0.00%	0.00%
Polk	Increase	7	4	5	4	71%	3.08%	3.05%	1.58%

Santa Rosa	None	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sarasota		1	1	0	0	0%			
Seminole		5	5	1	1	20%	2.84%		
St. Johns	Decrease	3	2	1	1	33%	0.00%	1.10%	0.00%
St. Lucie	None	1	1	1	1	100%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Volusia	Increase	1	1	1	1	100%	1.27%	0.00%	0.56%
Walton		1	1	0	0	0%			

Laboratory Specimen Testing in Florida

Four of the 15 specimens received by the Jacksonville Central and Tampa Branch laboratories for influenza isolate testing during the week ending November 8, 2003 (Week 200345) were found positive for influenza A (H3N2). Three of these viruses came from Alachua County and 1 came from Leon County.

From September 28, 2003 to November 8, 2003, the Florida laboratories tested a total of 41 specimens and found 7 positive for influenza A (H3N2). The remaining specimens were negative for influenza. Table 2 details isolates found since September 28, 2003 by county.

Table 2. Isolates by County Found During 2003-2004 Surveillance				
<i>Report Date: November 17, 2003</i>				
Number of previously reported cases (Number of new cases)				
County	Type A - H3N2	Type A - H1N1	Type A - Unknown	Type B
Alachua	3	0	0	0
Leon	1	0	0	0
Okaloosa	2	0	0	0
Orange	1	0	0	0

Rapid Testing Performed by Private Laboratories in Florida

No new cases of influenza were reported during the week ending November 8, 2003.

Two cases of influenza were reported during late August in Sarasota County. An unsubtype influenza A virus was found in Broward County during the week ending September 4, 2003.

National Influenza Surveillance

This section summarizes the weekly influenza report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More detailed information can be found at their website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/weekly.htm>

Influenza-Like Illness Report for the Week ending November 8, 2003.

The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) was **3.2%** nationwide. This is above the national baseline of 2.5%. On a regional level, the percentage of visits for ILI for most regions were **below 4%**. The West South Central region, however, continues to have a higher ILI (14.2%). Due to wide variability in regional level data, it is not appropriate to apply the national baseline to regional level data. National percentage and regional percentages of patient visits for ILI are weighted on the basis of state population.

Influenza drift variant, A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2), found in the United States and Europe

The influenza A drift variant, A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2) predominated the Australian and New Zealand outbreaks that peaked in mid-to-late August 2003. This influenza A (H3N2) drift variant has been found in 46 of the 55 influenza A (H3N2) viruses that have been antigenically characterized by the CDC to date. Two of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses submitted to the CDC from Florida in mid-October were A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2). The CDC expects the current U.S. vaccine will offer some protective immunity against the A/Fujian/411/2002-like viruses because these viruses are related to the vaccine strain, A/Panama/2007/99. Antibodies produced against the vaccine virus cross-react with A/Fujian/411/2002-like viruses, but at a lower level. A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2)-like isolates have also been identified in Denmark (4), England (6), Ireland (8), Northern Ireland (1), Norway (5), Portugal (3), Spain (13) and Switzerland (1).

U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Laboratories Report. **Two hundred three (19.2%)** of the **1,056** specimens submitted during the week ending November 8, 2003 tested for influenza viruses were positive. Thirty influenza A (H3N2), 170 untyped influenza A viruses, and 3 influenza B viruses were identified.

Since September 28, 2003, **443 (7.4%)** of the **6,024** specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. One hundred ten influenza A (H3N2) viruses and 6 influenza B viruses have been identified. Of the 443 specimens submitted to date, 285 (64%) were reported from the West South Central region and 23% (102) were from the Mountain region.

State and Territorial Epidemiologists Report. Texas reported widespread influenza activity, Colorado reported regional influenza activity, Arkansas, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia reported local influenza activity, and Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, New York City, Guam, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic influenza activity. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia reported no influenza activity.

2003-2004 Summary By Region

Region	WHO and NREVSS Laboratories						ILI Reporting: Weighted ILI% For Week 45
	Total Specimens	AH1N1	AH3N2	A-Unk	B	Ratio Pos.	
New England Region	31	0	0	1	0	0.032	.808
Mid-Atlantic Region	747	0	0	3	0	0.005	1.196
East North Central Region	420	0	0	1	0	0.017	1.032
West North Central Region	1149	0	0	0	1	0.001	1.107
South Atlantic Region	912	0	16	4	0	0.022	1.137
East South Central Region	213	0	2	4	0	0.028	1.604
West South Central Region	1026	0	47	235	3	0.278	7.207
Mountain Region	870	0	27	75	0	0.117	1.178
Pacific Region	656	0	12	3	2	0.026	1.322

* Weekly ratios rather than proportions are presented because specimens reported positive for influenza virus each week may include specimens submitted for testing during an earlier week.

122 US Cities Vital Statistics Mortality Report. The percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza was 6.2%. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for the week ending November 8, 2003.

International Influenza Activity

WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, Melbourne Australia
Australia's winter months are from May to October. One of Australia's biggest influenza seasons since 1998 peaked from mid to late August 2003, and by October cases of influenza had generally subsided. Influenza A (H3) viruses were cited as the primary cause of outbreaks, with little A (H1) or B viruses isolated during the season. For more information about Australian influenza, please visit the Melbourne, Australia Branch website at <http://www.influenzacentre.org/> (specific article can be found at <http://www.influenzacentre.org/flunews.htm#subsiding>).

FluWatch Report from the Canadian Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control

For the week ending November 8, 2003, widespread influenza activity was reported in all regions in Saskatchewan, localized influenza activity was reported in all parts of Alberta and the Northwest Territories, 2 regions of Ontario, and 1 region of British Columbia, and sporadic influenza activity was reported 2 regions in British Columbia, 1 region in Nova Scotia, and 1 region in Manitoba. For more information about the FluWatch report, please visit their website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pphb-dgspssp/fluwatch/index.html>

Report from the European Influenza Surveillance Scheme (EISS)

Of the 22 European countries that are members of the EISS, widespread influenza activity was reported in Scotland and Spain, Northern Ireland and Norway reported local activity, and Belgium, England, France, and Portugal reported sporadic activity for the week ending November 1, 2003. For more information about the EISS report, please visit their website at <http://www.eiss.org/index> .

2002-2003 Influenza Surveillance Summaries

An international summary of the 2002-2003 influenza surveillance season (October-September) can be found on page 303 in the November 7, 2003 edition of the WHO's *Weekly Epidemiological Record* (Vol. 78) at <http://www.who.int/wer/2003/wer7845/en/>.

WHO Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2004 influenza season

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/recommendations2004/en/>

** Reporting is incomplete for this week. Numbers may change as more reports are received.*