

## Florida Influenza Surveillance for the Week Ending November 22, 2003 (Week 47)

### Summary

Florida influenza-like illness (ILI) activity is beginning to increase statewide. Eight counties are reported as having high ILI% activity for the week ending November 22 (Week 47). Significance testing is not done for these percentages however Duval, Palm Beach, Pasco and Pinellas counties all had more than a full point change in their ILI% from the previous week. Specimen submissions and positive laboratory results are increasing, however, the Bureau of Epidemiology continues to encourage the county influenza coordinators to contact their sentinel providers to promote submission of laboratory specimens. This new influenza A drift variant has potential to cause more widespread infection in Florida as it has done in Texas and Colorado. 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. Health care workers and care givers are encouraged to get vaccinated in an effort to decrease transmission of the virus to patients who may be at high risk for complications.

### Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Florida Summary

Sixty-four sentinels from 60 public clinics and private offices submitted reports for 27 counties during the week ending November 22, 2003 (Week 47). Counties with the highest percentage of patients with ILI were Alachua, 2.66% (1 of 2 locations reporting), Brevard, 2.53% (1 of 3 locations), Broward, 2.82% (6 of 7 locations), Duval, 2.64% (4 of 9 locations), Indian River, 5.64% (3 of 3 locations), Palm Beach, 3.80% (4 of 5 locations), Polk, 4.34% (4 of 4 locations), Seminole, 2.20% (2 of 5 locations). Thirteen counties reported a low percentage of patients with ILI, and six counties reported no ILI activity. A breakdown of ILI% reported for week ending November 22, 2003 by county is listed in Table 1.

County	Change in ILI Activity	Enrolled as of 12/1/03		Reporting for Week 47		Participation for Week 47	ILI% Reported for Week 47 (Current)	ILI% Reported for Week 46 (Updated)	ILI% Reported for Week 45 (Updated)
		Sentinels recruited	from Offices	Sentinels reporting	from Offices				
Alachua	Decreasing	2	2	1	1	50.00%	2.66%	3.23%	1.03%
Brevard	Decreasing	3	3	1	1	33.33%	2.53%	4.63%	0.00%
Broward	Decreasing	7	7	6	6	85.71%	2.82%	4.25%	2.02%
Charlotte	None	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Citrus	Level	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0.09%	0.13%	0.17%
Collier	Increasing	2	2	1	1	50.00%	0.47%	0.00%	0.00%
Duval	Increasing	12	9	4	4	33.33%	2.64%	0.83%	0.77%
Hillsborough	Level	6	6	4	4	66.67%	0.34%	0.32%	1.04%
Indian River	Increasing	8	3	6	3	75.00%	5.64%	5.25%	3.89%
Lake	Increasing	2	2	2	2	100.00%	0.99%	0.50%	0.47%
Lee	Increasing	2	2	1	1	50.00%	1.75%	0.80%	0.42%
Leon	Increasing	2	2	2	2	100.00%	1.16%	0.94%	0.51%
Marion	Level	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0.24%	0.14%	0.26%
Martin	--	1	1	0	0	0.00%		0.00%	0.31%
Miami-Dade	Decreasing	6	6	4	4	66.67%	0.44%	0.98%	0.96%
Monroe	Decreasing	1	1	1	1	100.00%	1.55%	5.36%	2.21%
Okaloosa	Decreasing	4	4	3	3	75.00%	1.32%	2.29%	1.83%
Orange	Decreasing	12	9	4	3	33.33%	1.52%	1.87%	3.64%
Osceola	None	2	2	1	1	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Palm Beach	Increasing	5	5	4	4	80.00%	3.80%	2.48%	3.25%
Pasco	Increasing	1	1	1	1	100.00%	1.67%	0.00%	0.00%
Pinellas	Increasing	7	7	5	5	71.43%	1.72%	0.54%	1.63%
Polk	Increasing	7	4	4	4	57.14%	4.34%	4.10%	2.55%

Santa Rosa	None	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sarasota	--	1	1	0	0	0.00%			
Seminole	Increasing	5	5	2	2	40.00%	2.20%	1.46%	1.52%
St. Johns	Decreasing	3	2	1	1	33.33%	0.00%	0.59%	0.00%
St. Lucie	None	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Volusia	None	1	1	1	1	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.27%
Walton	--	1	1	0	0	0.00%		6.82%	5.13%

### Laboratory Specimen Testing in Florida

Three of the 14 specimens received by the Jacksonville Central and Tampa Branch laboratories for influenza isolate testing during the week ending November 22, 2003 (Week 47) were found positive for influenza A (H3N2). One virus came from Alachua County, one from Indian River County and one from Orange County.

From September 28, 2003 to November 22, 2003, the Florida laboratories tested a total of 71 specimens and found 13 positive for influenza A (H3N2). The remaining specimens were negative for influenza. Table 2 details isolates found since September 28, 2003 by county.

<b>Table 2. Isolates by County Found During 2003-2004 Surveillance</b>				
<i>Report Date: December 1, 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(1)	0	0	0
Hillsborough	2	0	0	0
Indian River	(1)	0	0	0
Leon	1	0	0	0
Okaloosa	2	0	0	0
Orange	1(1)	0	0	0
Pinellas	1	0	0	0

### Rapid Testing Performed by Private Laboratories in Florida

Reports received from one clinic, three hospitals and one private laboratory since September 28, 2003 are summarized in Table 3.

<b>Table 3. Rapid Influenza Tests by County During 2003-2004</b>					
<i>Report Date: December 1, 2003</i>					
Number of previously reported cases (Number of new cases) Rapid tests reported					
County	Rapid Tests performed	Negative Tests	Positive for A or B	Positive for A	Positive for B
Alachua	0	0	5	0	0
Brevard	108	107	(1)	0	0
Broward	7	6	0	1	0
Marion	2	1	(1)	0	0
Miami-Dade	7	6	(1)	0	0
Orange	2	0	0	1	1

### 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> and at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/flu/vacfacts.htm#01>

Influenza-Like Illness Report for the Week ending November 22, 2003.

*No new report available as of 12/1/03*

**Antigenic Characterization:** CDC has antigenically characterized 77 influenza A (H3N2) viruses submitted by U.S. laboratories since September 28. Of the 77 A (H3N2) viruses tested, 17 (22%) were similar antigenically to the vaccine strain A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2), and 60 (78%) were similar to the drift variant, A/Fujian/411/2002 (H3N2),

**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 60 of the 77 influenza A (H3N2) viruses that have been antigenically characterized by the CDC to date. The remaining 17 influenza A (H3N2) viruses were similar antigenically to the vaccine strain A/Panama/2007/99 (H3N2). 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 (14), Ireland (8), The Netherlands (8), Northern Ireland (1), Norway (11), Portugal (9), Scotland (4), Spain (16), and Switzerland (3).

U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Laboratories Report.

*No new report available as of 12/1/03*

Since September 28, 2003, **1,876 (17.6%)** of the 10,550 specimens tested for influenza viruses were positive. Two hundred eighty-eight influenza A (H3N2) viruses, ten influenza (H1) viruses and 5 influenza B viruses have been identified. Of the specimens submitted to date, 1,252 (66.7%) were reported from the West South Central region and 482 (25.7%) were from the Mountain region.

**2003-2004 Summary By Region**

Region	WHO and NREVSS Laboratories						ILI Reporting: Weighted ILI% For Week 46
	Total Specimens	AH1N1	AH3N2	A-Unk	B	Ratio Pos.	
New England Region	43	0	0	2	0	0.047	0.866
Mid-Atlantic Region	904	0	0	10	0	0.011	1.078
East North Central Region	577	0	8	2	0	0.017	1.172
West North Central Region	1429	0	1	7	1	0.006	1.128
South Atlantic Region	1217	0	46	22	0	0.056	1.320
East South Central Region	342	0	7	9	0	0.047	1.732
West South Central Region	3163	0	129	1120	3	0.396	8.368
Mountain Region	1925	10	77	395	0	0.250	1.483
Pacific Region	950	0	20	6	1	0.028	1.405

\* 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.** *No new report available as of 12/1/03.*

The percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia and influenza was 6.1%. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.2% for the week ending November 15, 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 15, 2003, widespread influenza activity was reported in all regions in Saskatchewan and 1 region in Ontario, localized influenza activity was reported in all regions of the North West Territories, 2 regions of Nunavut, 1 region of Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia, and sporadic influenza activity was reported Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Quebec and the Yukon.

Four Influenza outbreaks were reporting in schools in Nova Scotia (3) and Alberta (1); long-term care facilities in Alberta (2), British Columbia (1), Manitoba (1), Ontario (2), and Saskatchewan (2); and a hospital in British Columbia. Influenza related deaths were reported in Ontario (2 seniors, and a 10-year-old child with co-morbidities).

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)

The EISS reports influenza activity in west Europe is slowing down, however widespread activity and outbreaks were reported during the week ending November 22, 2003 (Week 47). Of the 22 European countries that are members of the EISS, widespread influenza activity was reported in England, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Scotland and Spain; France reported regional activity; and Belgium and Northern Ireland reported local outbreaks for the week ending November 22, 2003. Countries located in east Europe reported sporadic or no activity. For more information about the EISS report, please visit their website at [http://dev.eiss.org/cgi-files/bulletin\\_v2.cgi](http://dev.eiss.org/cgi-files/bulletin_v2.cgi).

### 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.*