This Report Includes...

⇒ Information on influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Harris County as well as on the state and national level.

Important Notes:

⇒ Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as an illness including a fever (temperature of at least 100°F) with a cough OR a sore throat, without another known cause (such as strep throat).

⇒ Influenza/ILI is reported on a voluntary basis and is not a mandatory notifiable condition.

⇒ Similarly, rapid influenza test results are also reported on a voluntary basis.

⇒ Therefore, data presented in this report indicate trends and should not be interpreted as a complete and total picture of influenza activity in Harris County.


Additional Information

Harris County Public Health
http://publichealth.harriscountytx.gov/Services-Programs/Programs/Epidemiology

Texas Department of State Health Services
Influenza Surveillance:
http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
FluView Weekly Report:
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly
Information for Schools and Childcare Providers:
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm

World Health Organization
Influenza Surveillance:
http://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/
Nationally

During week 42 (October 14 to October 20, 2018), activity levels from outpatient clinics were minimal (ILI below, or only slightly above the average) to low (activity level similar to the average) nationwide. In Texas, influenza activity was sporadic for the same time period.

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Statewide

No variant influenza viruses have been identified in Texas during this flu season.

HCPH Jurisdiction

There have been no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported in Harris County (excluding the City of Houston) during this flu season.

https://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/
School Reporting

Influenza/ILI reporting is voluntary as it is not a mandatory notifiable condition. Therefore, this report indicates trends and should not be interpreted as a complete and total picture of influenza activity in Harris County.

Daily absenteeism and student/staff ILI numbers are reported from schools in the 18 Harris County Independent School Districts (ISDs). Schools were asked to begin reporting ILI from the beginning of the school year; however, reporting participation generally increases as occurrence of ILI increases.

School holidays:
* Week 47/48 (Thanksgiving)
* Week 52-Week 1 (Winter Break)
* Week 10/11 (Spring Break)