This report includes...

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

⇒ Absenteeism data are voluntarily reported from school nurses located at area public schools.

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.

⇒ The 2015-2016 influenza season is from October 4, 2015—May 21, 2016.

Public Health is “what we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy”

- The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century, Institutes of Medicine, 2003
Statewide
No variant influenza viruses have been identified in Texas during this flu season.

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

Nationally
Influenza activity is considered to be at low levels with regional spread in the state of Texas for CDC Week 11 (March 13, 2016—March 19, 2016).

Source: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2016/
Source: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly
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.

The 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2015-2016 influenza seasons did not have a week 53; the week 53 data point for those seasons is an average of weeks 52 and 1.

School holidays:
* Week 47/48 (Thanksgiving)
* Week 52-Week 1 (Winter Break)
* Week 10/11 (Spring Break)
Figure 1: Number and Percentage of Tests (Antigen, Culture, PCR) Positive for Influenza by Type, Subtype, and Lineage Reported by Texas Laboratories, 2015–2016 Season.

Source: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2016/

Additional Information

Harris County Public Health
http://www.hcphtx.org/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
Information for Schools/Childcare Providers: http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/index.htm

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

Contact Us

HCPH
Epidemiology Department
2223 West Loop South
Houston, TX 77027

Phone: (713) 439-6000
Fax: (713) 439-6306

Visit us on the web at www.hcphtx.org

Follow us on Twitter: @HCPHTX

Like us on Facebook: Harris County Public Health

Healthy People, Healthy Communities
...a Healthy Harris County