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

In This Issue

• National and State Influenza Activity

• Harris County School Absenteeism

• Texas Influenza Lab Testing Summary
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.
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.

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)
### 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/

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