Tarrant County Public Health
Division of Epidemiology and Health Information

Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC Week 06: February 05—11, 2012

Influenza Activity Code, County and State Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tarrant County: Week 06</th>
<th>Tarrant County: Week 05</th>
<th>Texas: Week 05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Regional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respiratory Virus Activity Summary

- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Tarrant County *increased* from 1.8% in week 05 to 2.5% in week 06 and is currently below the 2011-2012 HHS region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) baseline (4.3%).

- The percentage of all cause absenteeism was **4.5%** during week 06 in Tarrant County. Absenteeism due to ILI and school nurse office visits due to ILI were **2.1%** and **2.8%** respectively during week 06 in Tarrant County.

- The percentage of flu screen positive tests in Tarrant County *decreased* from 5.7% in week 05 to 5.1% in week 06.

- During the 2011-2012 influenza season, 0 Tarrant County influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported.

- Since last report, 9 specimen results were received from The North Texas Regional Laboratory. The following types and number of viruses were detected in these specimens: *Influenza AH3 (1)*, *RSV (1)*, *Human metapneumovirus (2)*

- Cumulatively this season, the North Texas Regional Laboratory at Tarrant County Public Health has tested **139** specimens.

- At the national level during week 05, 10.5% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (1.7%) was **below** the national baseline (2.4%), and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (7.3%) was **below** the epidemic threshold (7.8%).
NOTE: Tarrant County ILI activity is assessed using information provided by surveillance participants and the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Texas ILI activity is assessed using information provided by a network of physicians. For week 06, 26 surveillance participants reported ILI information to Tarrant County Public Health. For week 05, 52 physicians reported information to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

In week 06, 2.5% of visits to health care providers were due to ILI. ILI levels are currently below the regional established baseline of 4.3% and lower than state of Texas levels. In Tarrant County, of 479 patients presenting with ILI the majority (44.5%) were between 0-4 years of age. Those 65 years and older accounted for the lowest percentage of health care visits due to ILI (4.2%).

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**Influenza Confirmatory and Screening Test Results: Tarrant County**

**Table 2. Influenza Screening Test Results– Tarrant County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDC Week Number</th>
<th>04 (Jan. 22–28)</th>
<th>05 (Jan. 29– Feb. 04)</th>
<th>06 (Feb. 05–11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># Influenza Tests Performed</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Influenza Positive</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Influenza A Positive</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Influenza A Positive</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Influenza B Positive</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Influenza B Positive</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Non-differentiated Positive</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Non-differentiated Positive</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Laboratory results based on real-time PCR analysis; information is for the 2011-2012 season.

2 Influenza A subtype not determined; further analysis pending.

3 Inconclusive for influenza A and influenza B.

**NOTE:** 2 specimens tested positive for both human parainfluenza virus-1 AND rhinovirus, 2 specimen tested positive for both rhinovirus AND adenovirus, 1 specimen tested positive for both influenza AH3 AND human metapneumovirus, 1 specimen tested positive for both adenovirus AND RSV.
### Table 3. Weekly Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Absenteeism, %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CDC Week Number</th>
<th>04 (Jan. 22–28)</th>
<th>05 (Jan. 29–Feb. 04)</th>
<th>06 (Feb. 05–11)</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Average Daily % Absent</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Average Daily % ILI Absent</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Average % ILI seen in nurse’s office</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Tarrant County absenteeism and student ILI is collected from 17 school districts located within Tarrant County. For week 06, 11 school districts provided general absenteeism data, 8 school districts provided data regarding absenteeism due to ILI, and 8 school districts provided data regarding nurses’ office visits due to ILI.

***Baseline percentage for absenteeism due to ILI and proportion of school nurses office visits due to ILI not yet established.
The Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report is available on the Tarrant County Public Health web site at: www.tarrantcounty.com/flu

If you have questions or comments regarding influenza surveillance, please contact:

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NOTE:

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever (temperature ≥ 100°F) plus a cough OR a sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

Tarrant County reporting quadrants consist of Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast regions within the boundaries of Interstate 35 and Interstate 30.

Regional ILI baselines are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and can be accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm#SGSI

Absenteeism baseline is the average weekly absenteeism experienced during April-May during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years. Some data points may be excluded due to holidays and inclement weather.

Additional information regarding Tarrant County and statewide activity codes can be accessed at www.tarrantcounty.com/flu and http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2012/

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