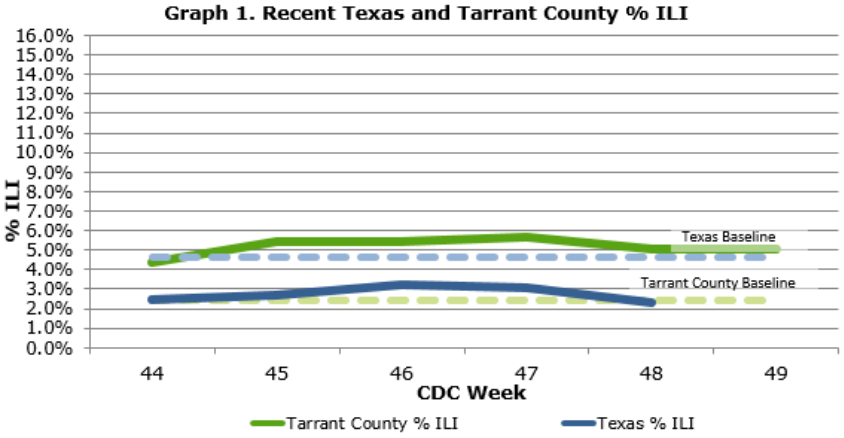
Tarrant County Public Health
Division of Epidemiology and Health Information

Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC Week 49: December 5-11, 2021

Influenza Activity Code:
County and State Levels

Tarrant County: Week 49
Regional
Tarrant County: Week 48
Regional
Texas: Week 48
Minimal

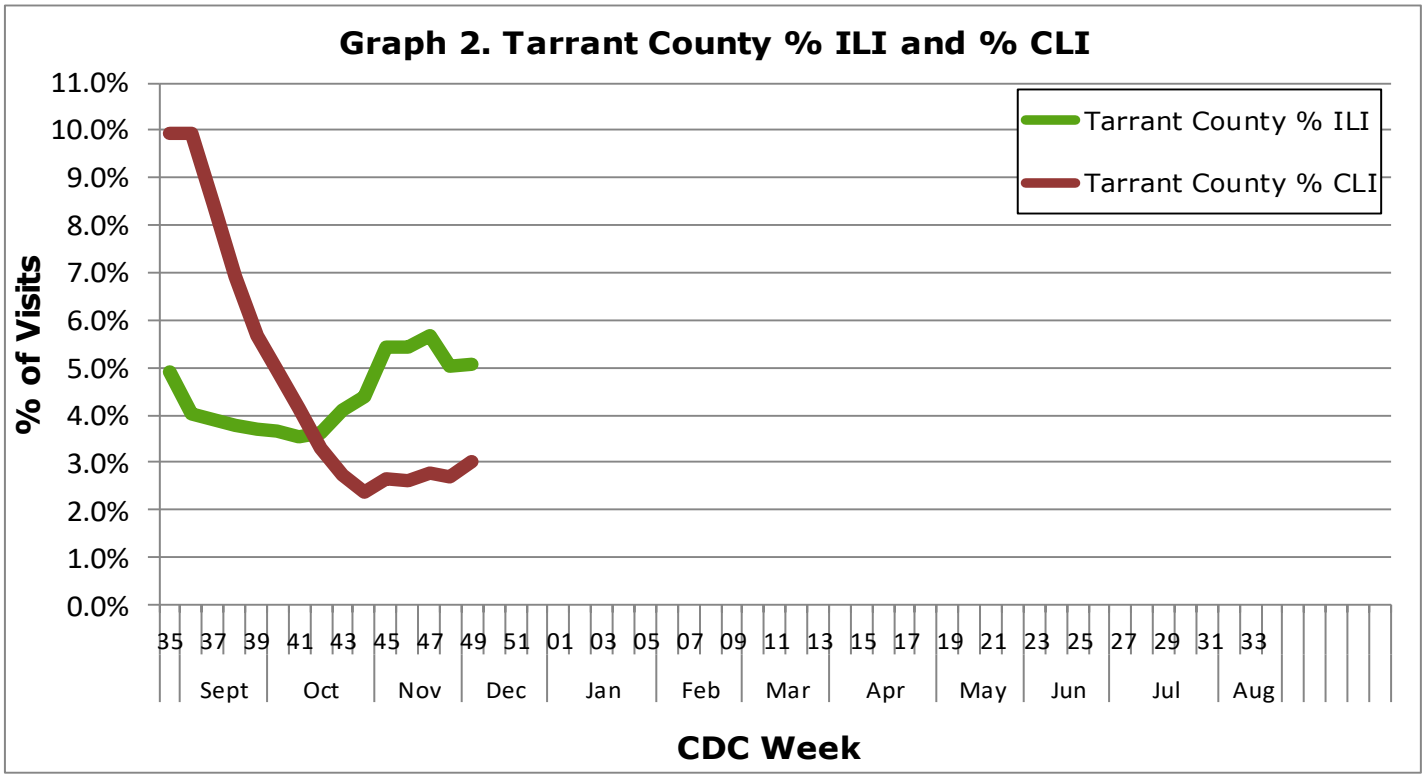


NOTE: The COVID-19 outbreak unfolding in the United States may affect healthcare seeking behavior which in turn would impact ILI data.

Respiratory Virus Activity Summary

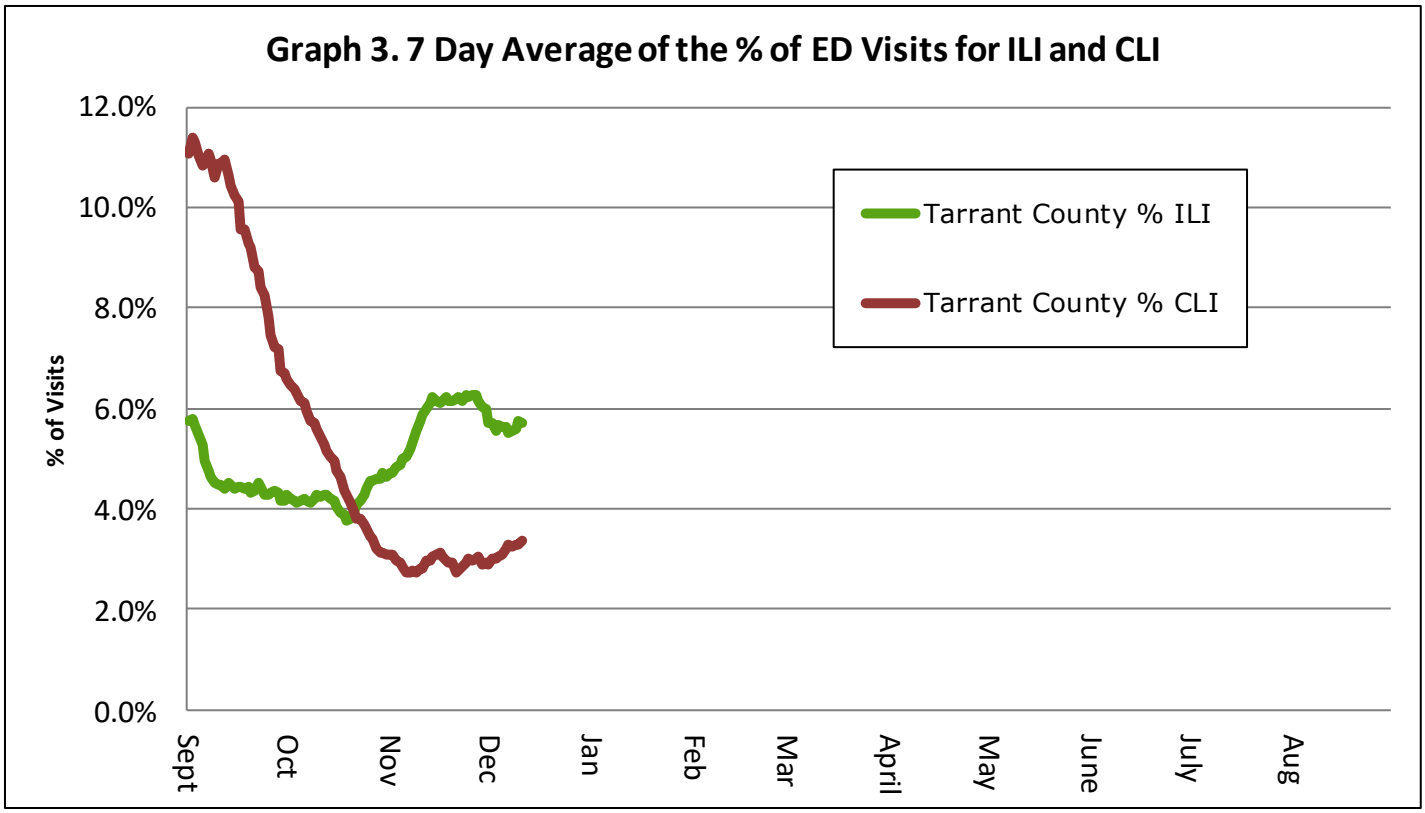
- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Tarrant County increased from 5.0% in week 48 to 5.1% in week 49 and is currently above the 2020-2021 Tarrant County baseline (2.7%).
- The percentage of all cause school absenteeism was 7.9% during week 49 in Tarrant County. Absenteeism due to ILI and school nurse office visits due to ILI were 8.6% and 3.8% respectively during week 49 in Tarrant County.
- The percentage of rapid flu test positives in Tarrant County increased from 2.7% in Week 48 to 3.3% in Week 49.
- Based on data from the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community -based Epidemics, the percentage of patients hospitalized following ER visits who were diagnosed with influenza was 0.2% in week 49.
- During the 2021-2022 influenza season, as of Week 49, 0 Tarrant County influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported. As of Week 48, 0 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas, with a total of 0 reported in the United States for 2021-2022.
- During the 2021-2022 influenza season, 0 influenza outbreaks have been reported in Tarrant County within institutions in Tarrant County.
- Since last report, 23 surveillance specimens were tested for Influenza and SARS-CoV-2. A subset were tested for additional respiratory viruses. The following types and number of viruses were detected in these specimens: SARS-CoV-2 (3), Influenza A/H3 (3), RSV (1), Rhinovirus (2), and RSV/Rhinovirus co-infection (1), Cumulatively this season, the North Texas Regional Laboratory at Tarrant County Public Health has tested 215 surveillance specimens and of these, 19 have been positive for influenza and 39 have been positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- In Texas during Week 48, the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI, 2.3%, was below the state baseline of 4.6%.
- Nationally during Week 48, 2.6% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (2.5%) was equal to the national baseline (2.5%). The proportion of deaths in Week 48 attributed to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19 from the National Center for Health Statistics (17.5%) was above the epidemic threshold (6.5%).

Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and COVID-19 Like Illness (CLI)

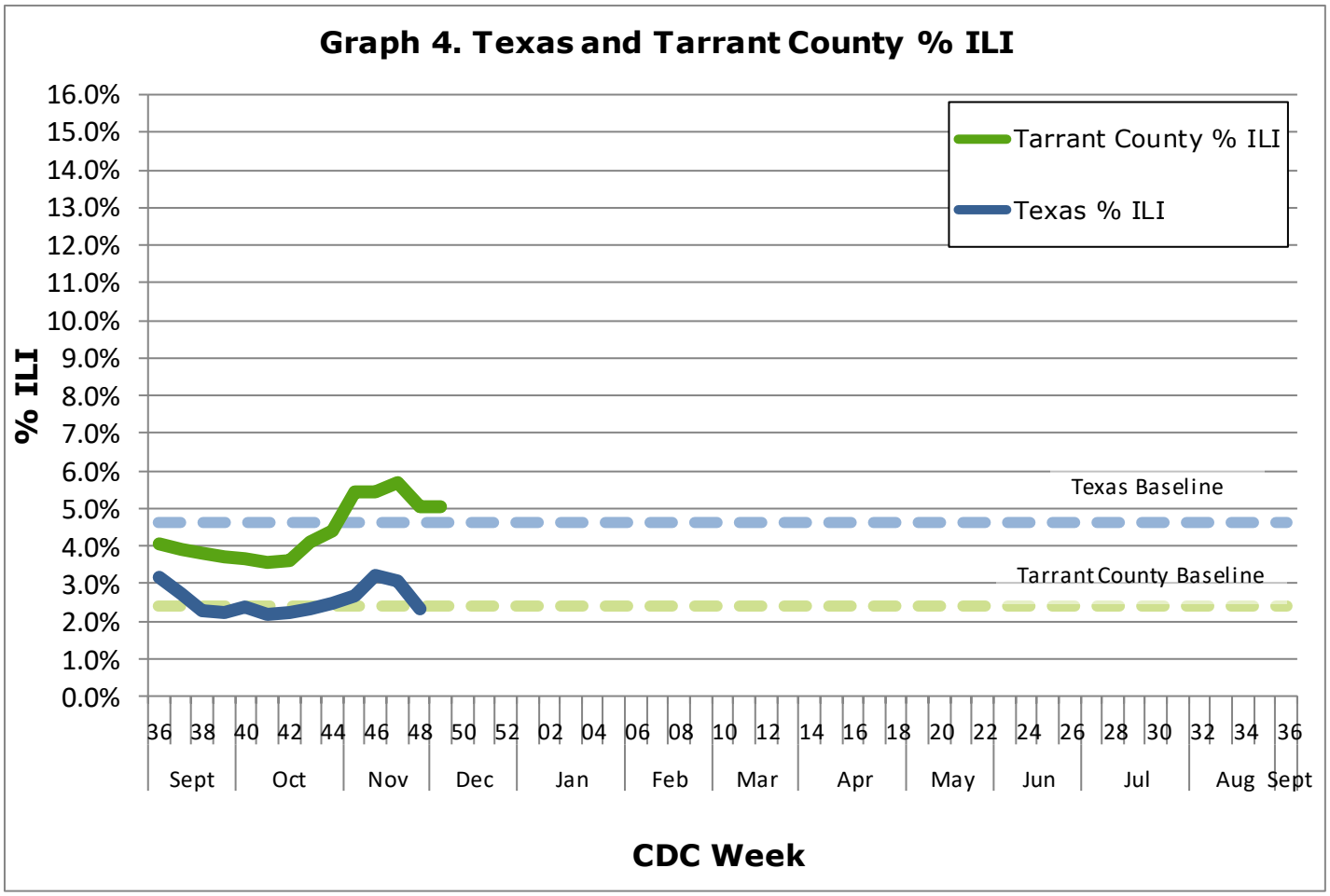


COVID-19-like illness is defined as visits with a mention of Fever AND (Cough OR Shortness of Breath OR Difficulty Breathing) AND NOT (Influenza Diagnosis). These counts do not reflect confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

NOTE: Tarrant County ILI and CLI activity are assessed using information available from the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). ILI and CLI visits are determined by identifying key terms and codes within the chief complaint field (i.e. the patients stated reason for visit), and diagnosis code field (i.e. ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM codes).

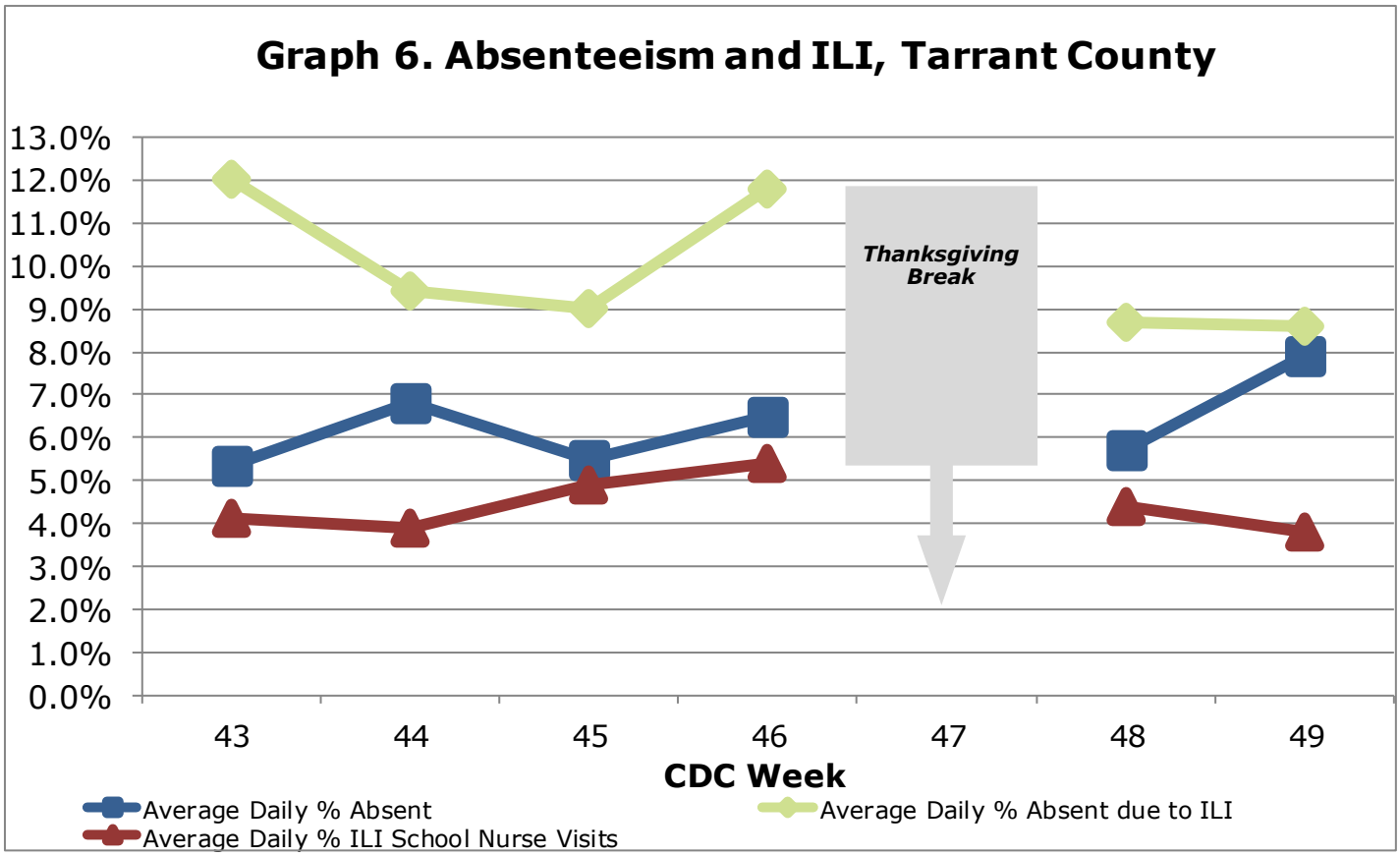


Influenza Like Illness (ILI)



In Week 49, 5.1% of visits to health care providers were due to ILI. ILI levels are currently above the county established baseline of 2.7% and are higher than the state of Texas levels from the week prior.

School Absenteeism and Influenza Test Results



The percentage of all cause school absenteeism was 7.9% during week 49 in Tarrant County. Absenteeism due to ILI and school nurse office visits due to ILI were 8.6% and 3.8% respectively.

Table 1. Influenza Test Results, Tarrant County

CDC Week Number	47	48	49
# Influenza Tests Performed	2119	2626	3236
% Influenza Positive	1.5%	2.7%	3.3%
# Influenza A Positive	26	63	95
% Influenza A Positive	83.9%	90.0%	89.6%
# Influenza B Positive	5	7	11
% Influenza B Positive	16.1%	10.0%	10.4%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0	0	0
% Non-differentiated Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

NOTE: Tarrant County influenza test results are reported weekly by influenza surveillance participants. For CDC Week 49, rapid influenza test results were reported by 15 hospitals.

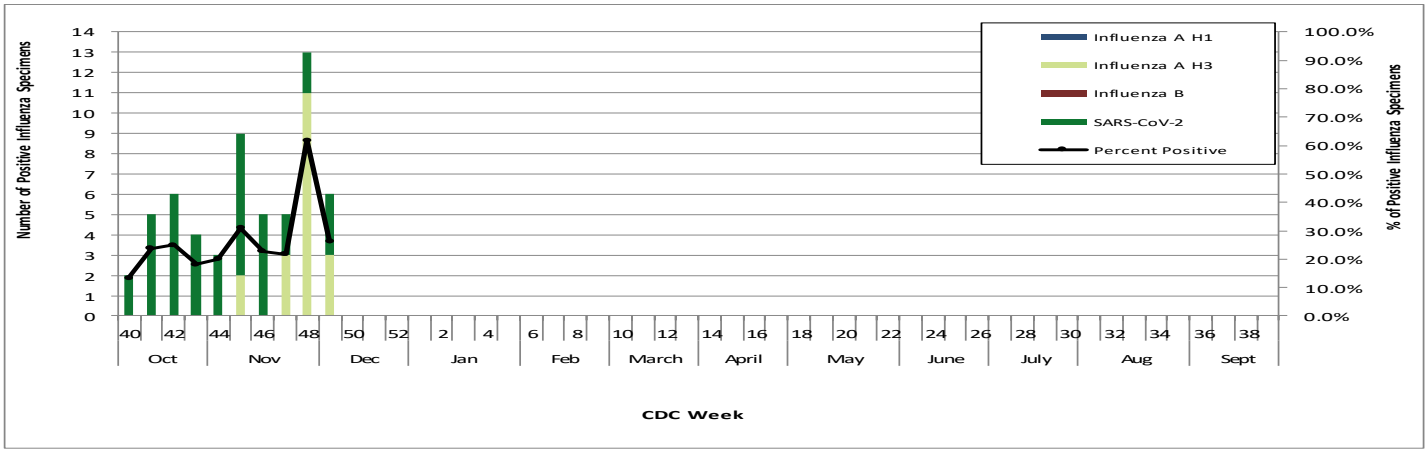
Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Test Results

Table 2. North Texas Regional Laboratory: Respiratory Virus Results[1]

	Current Week	2021-2022 Season
Number of Specimens Tested	**23**	**215**
Positive Specimens	6 (26.1%)	58 (27.0%)
Influenza A	3 (50.0%)	19 (32.8%)
Influenza A H1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Influenza A H3	3 (100.0%)	19 (100.0%)
Influenza A, Inconclusive subtype	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Influenza A, Unsubtypeable[2]	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Influenza B	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Influenza B Yamagata[3]	-	-
Influenza B Victoria[3]	-	-
Influenza B, Inconclusive	-	-
SARS-CoV-2	3 (50.0%)	39 (67.2%)
Inconclusive[4]	0	0

[1] *Laboratory results based on real-time PCR analysis; information is for the 2020-2021 season.*
[2] *Influenza A subtype not determined; further analysis pending*
[3] *Influenza B genotyping is only included in current week column if genotyping occurred in the same week as original PCR testing.*
[4] *Inconclusive for influenza A and influenza B; not included in positive specimens count.*

Graph 6. North Texas Regional Laboratory: Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virus Results[1]

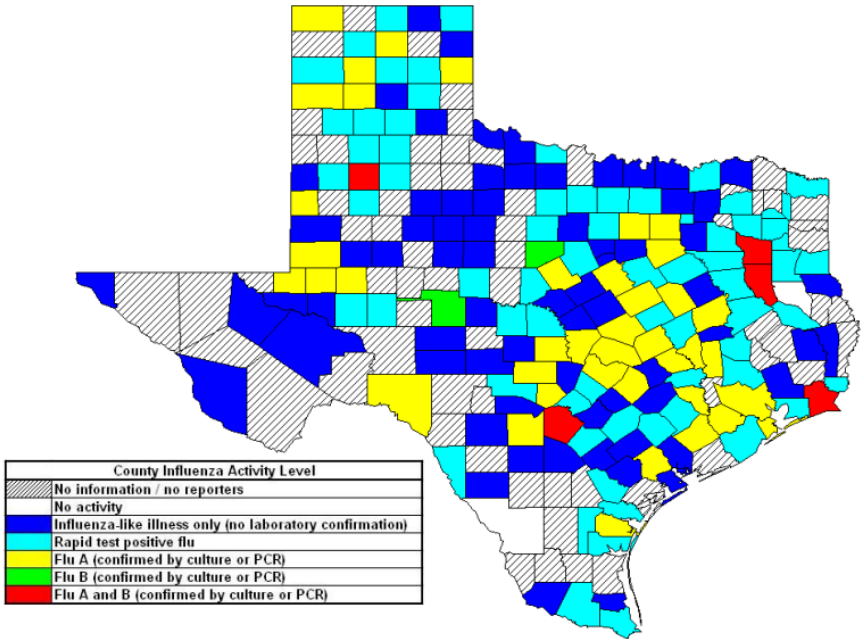


	Current Week	2021-2022 Season
Number of Specimens Tested	**19**	**162**
Positive Specimens	11 (57.9%)	99 (61.1%)
Influenza A	3 (27.3%)	14 (14.1%)
Influenza B	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
SARS-COV-2	1 (9.1%)	26 (26.3%)
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	2 (18.2%)	12 (12.1%)
Adenovirus	0 (0.0%)	4 (4.0%)
Human Metapneumovirus	3 (27.3%)	14 (14.1%)
Parainfluenza-1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Parainfluenza-2	0 (0.0%)	3 (3.0%)
Parainfluenza-3	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.0%)
Rhinovirus	3 (27.3%)	34 (34.3%)
Inconclusive[4]	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.0%)

NOTE: *Percentages do not add up to 100% due to co-infections. 11 specimens tested positive with a co-infection: Rhinovirus/RSV (4), Rhilnovirus/Human Metapneumovirus (2), SARS-CoV-2/Adenovirus (1), Rhinovirus/Adenovirus (1), Human Metapneumovirus/Adenovirus (1), SARS-CoV-2/Rhinovirus (1), Parainfluenza-3/Rhinovirus (1)*

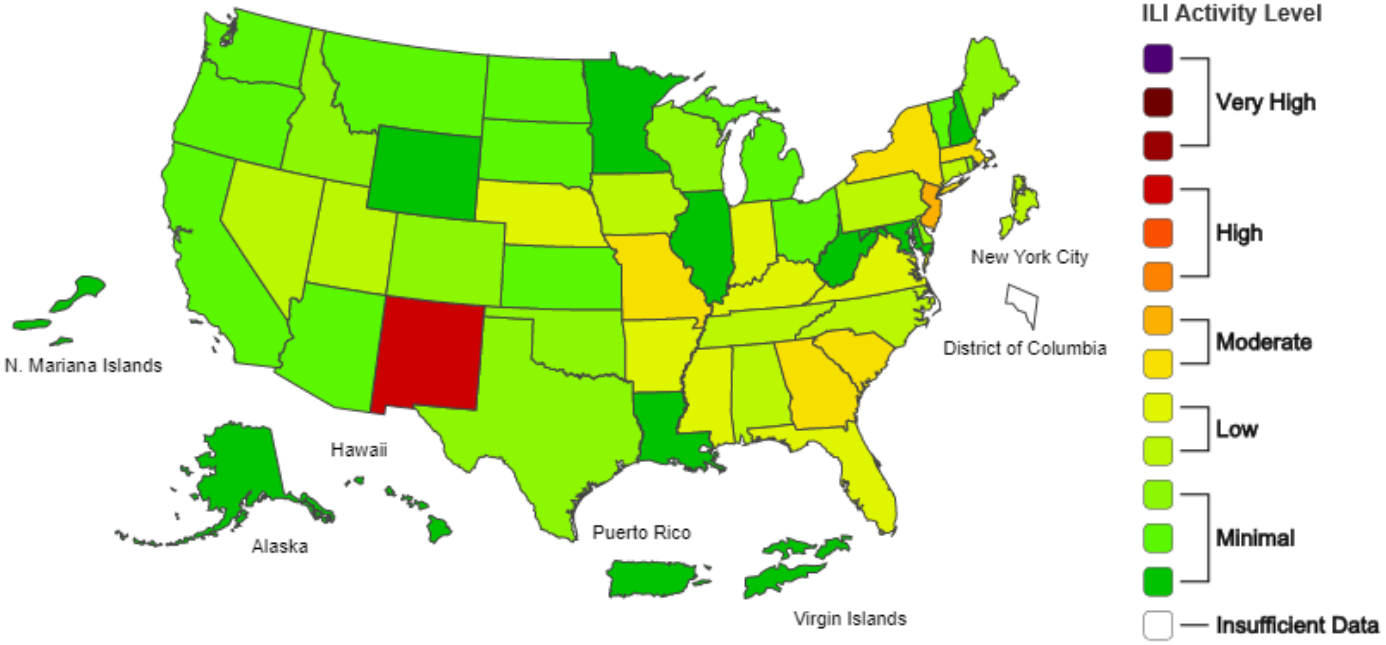
Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity

Map 1: Texas County Specific Influenza Activity, CDC Week 48



Influenza activity level corresponds to current MMWR week only and does not reflect previous weeks' activity. The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all influenza cases in the state. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date or date received in the lab if the former is unknown. https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/influenza/surveillance/2020-2021.aspx

Map 2: ILINet Activity Indicator Map, CDC Week 48



Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity by state. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels. Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore, may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

The Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report is available on the Tarrant County Public Health web site at:

flu.tarrantcounty.com

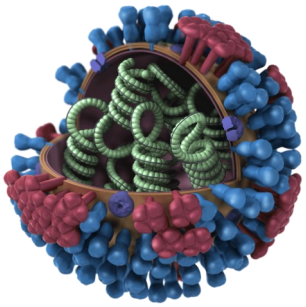
If you have questions or comments regarding influenza surveillance, please contact:

Laura Lockwood, MPH
Influenza Surveillance Specialist
LBLockwood@tarrantcounty.com

Tarrant County Public Health

Influenza Surveillance
Epidemiology and Health Information

1101 South Main Street, Suite 2200
Fort Worth, TX 76104



Veerinder (Vinny) Taneja, MBBS; MPH
Director, Tarrant County Public Health

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.

Tarrant County ILI baselines were determined using a similar method as the Centers for Disease Control Prevention Regional ILI baselines and Texas Department of State Health Services Texas baseline. Regional ILI baselines are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and can be accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm

Additional information regarding Tarrant County, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at

flu.tarrantounty.com

https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/influenza/surveillance/2020-2021.aspx

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

Russ Jones, MPH
Division Manager & Chief Epidemiologist
Epidemiology and Health Information
Tarrant County Public Health

Main Epidemiology Division Number : (817) 321-5350
Disease Reporting Fax Number: (817) 850-2366