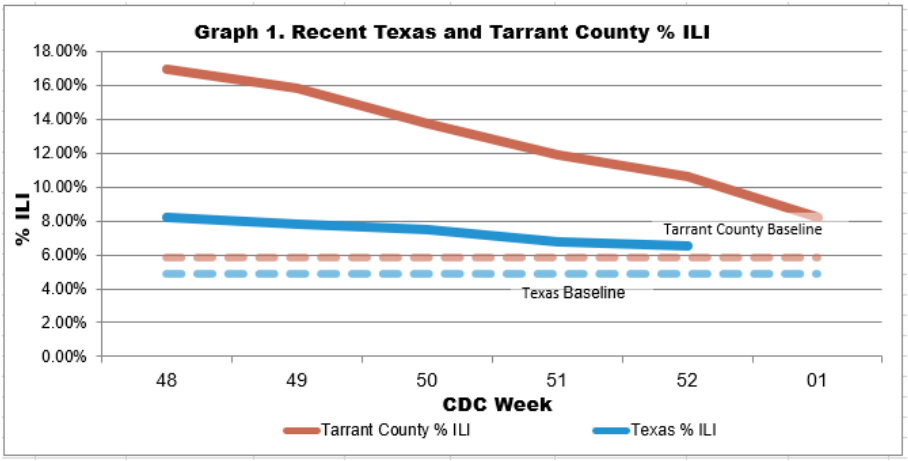
Tarrant County Public Health
Division of Epidemiology and Health Information

Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC Week 01: January 01 — January 07, 2023

Public Health

Influenza Activity Code:
County and State Levels

Tarrant County: Week 01
Widespread
Tarrant County: Week 52
Widespread
Texas: Week 52
Very High

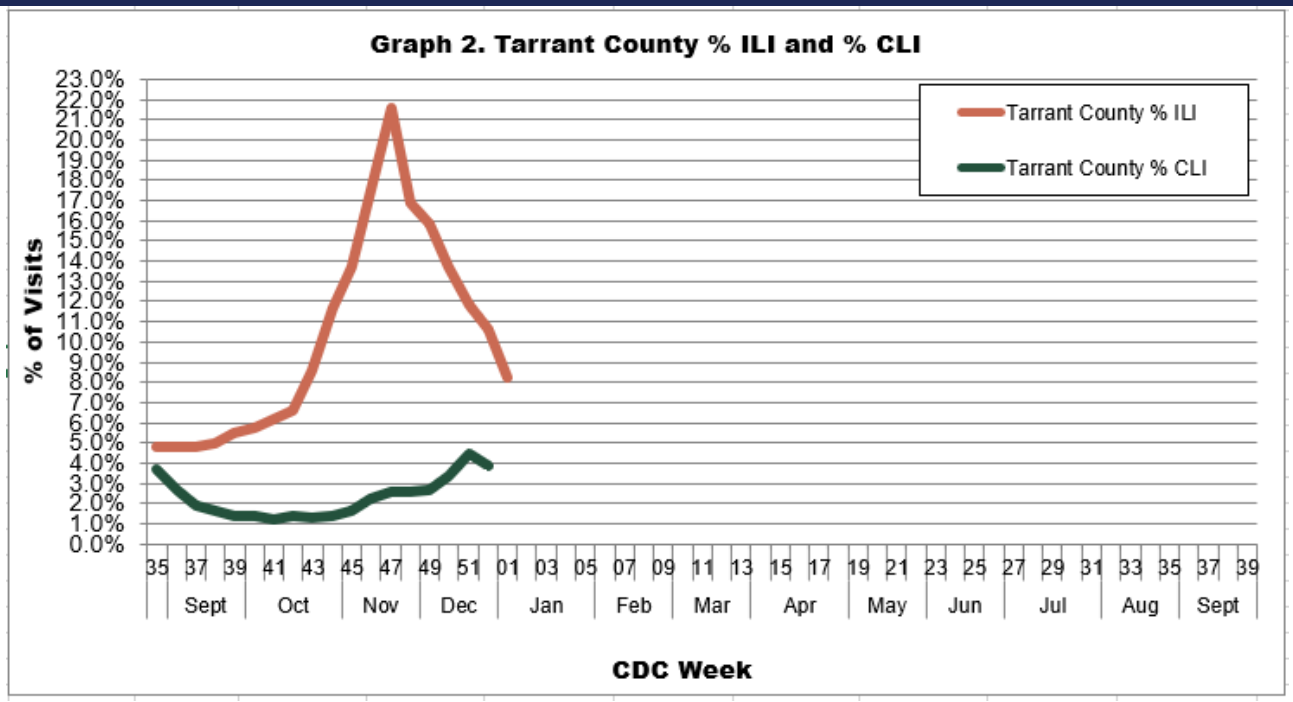


NOTE: The COVID-19 outbreak unfolding in the United States may affect healthcare seeking behavior which in turn would impact ILI data.

Respiratory Virus Activity Summary

- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Tarrant County decreased from 10.6% in week 52 to 8.2% in week 01 and is currently above the 2022-2023 Tarrant County baseline (5.9%).
- Due to school closures for winter break, no absenteeism information is available for week 01.
- The percentage of flu test positives in Tarrant County decreased from 10.6% in Week 52 to 7.1% in Week 01.
- 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 2.0% in week 01.
- During the 2022-2023 influenza season, as of Week 01, 0 Tarrant County influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported. As of Week 52, 0 influenza-associated pediatric death(s) have been reported in Texas, with a total of 74 reported in the United States for 2022-2023.
- During the 2022-2023 influenza season, 10 influenza outbreak(s) have been reported in Tarrant County within institutions in Tarrant County.
- Since last report, 21 surveillance specimens were tested. Cumulatively this season, the North Texas Regional Laboratory at Tarrant County Public Health has tested 281 surveillance specimens and of these, 108 have been positive for influenza and 22 have been positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- In Texas during Week 52 the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI, 6.5%, was above the state baseline of 4.6%.
- Nationally during Week 52, 15.0% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (5.4%) was above the national baseline (2.5%). The proportion of deaths in Week 52 attributed to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19 from the National Center for Health Statistics (12.8%) was above the epidemic threshold (6.9%).

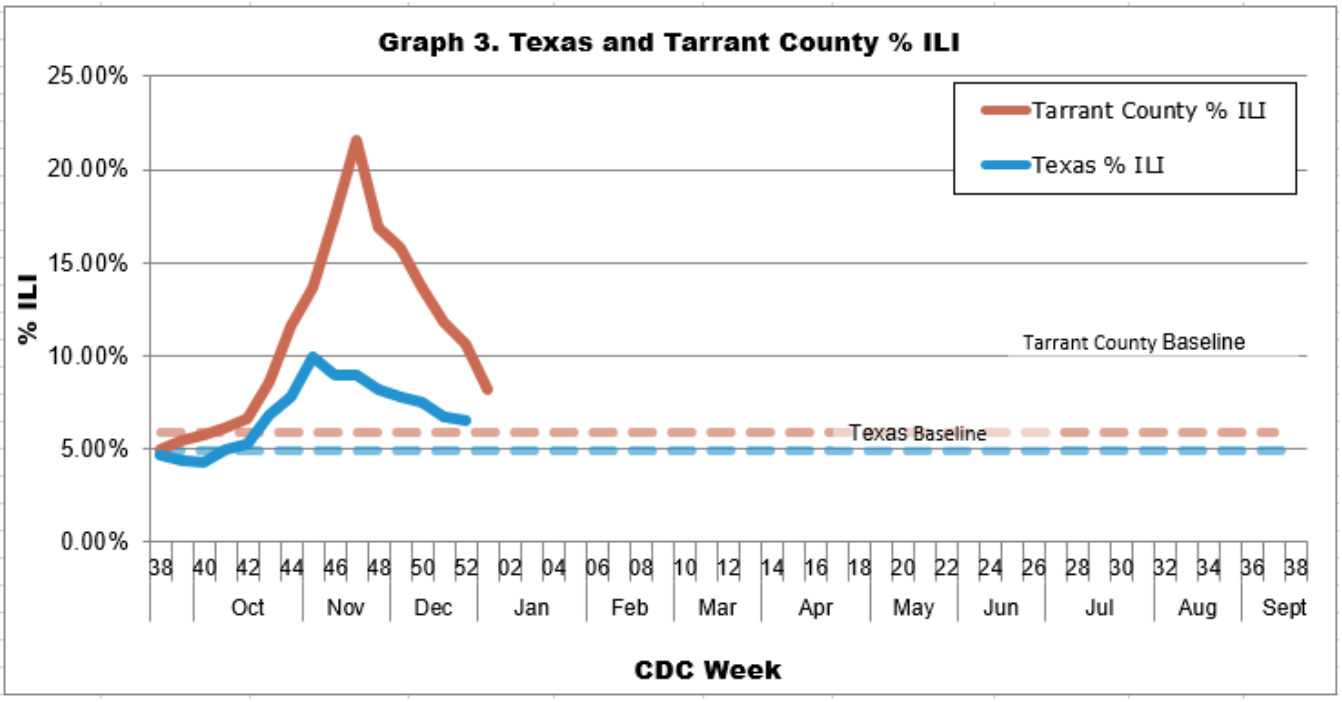
Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and COVID-19 Like Illness (CLI)



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.

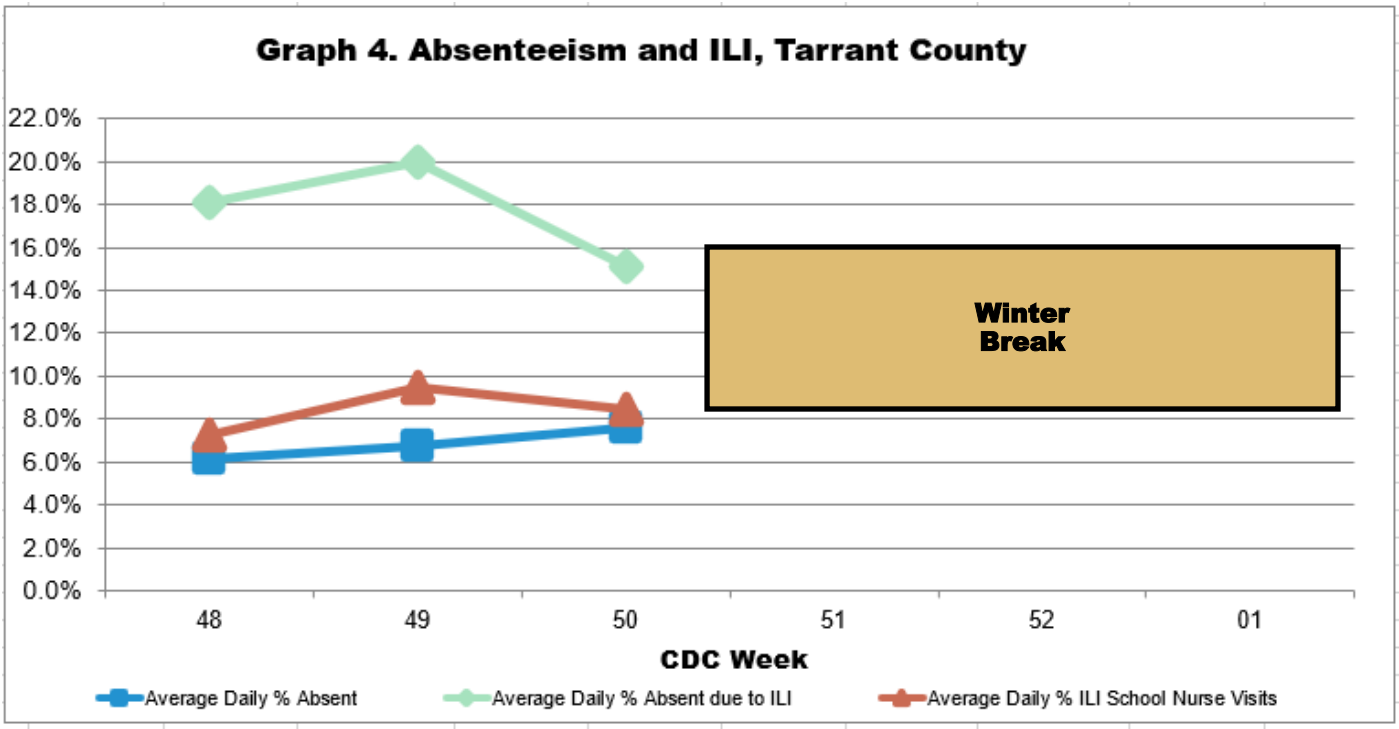
NOTE: Tarrant County ILI and CLI activity are assessed using information available from the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). ILI and CLI visits are determined by identifying key terms and codes within the chief complaint field (i.e. the 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 01, 8.2% of visits to health care providers were due to ILI. ILI levels are currently above the county established baseline of 5.9% and are higher than the state of Texas levels from the week prior.

School Absenteeism



Due to school closures for winter break, no absenteeism information is available for week 01.

Influenza Test Results

Table 1. Influenza Test Results, Tarrant County

CDC Week Number	51	52	01
# Influenza Tests Performed	6983	7403	5147
% Influenza Positive	12.7%	10.0%	7.1%
# Influenza A Positive	817	728	343
% Influenza A Positive	92.3%	93.2%	93.5%
# Influenza B Positive	68	53	24
% Influenza B Positive	7.7%	6.8%	6.5%
# 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 01, rapid influenza test results were reported by 9 hospitals and 1 clinic.

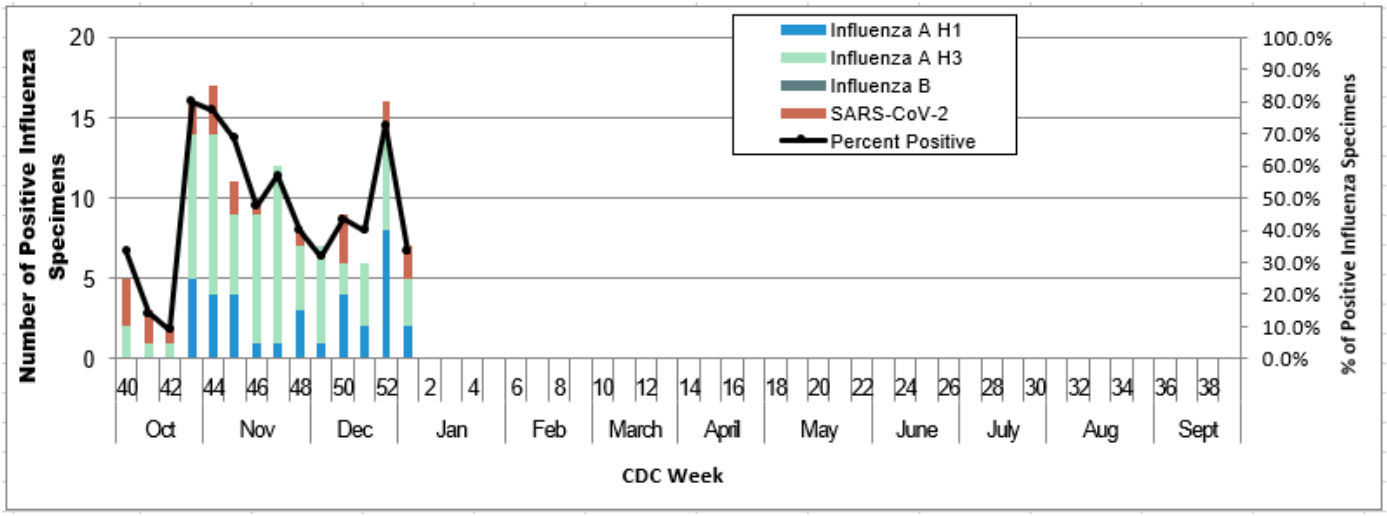
North Texas Regional Lab Influenza, SARS-CoV-2 Test Results

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

	Current Week	2022-2023 Season
Number of Specimens Tested	**21**	**281**
Positive Specimens	7 (33.3%)	130 (46.3%)
Influenza A	5 (71.4%)	108 (83.1%)
Influenza A H1	2 (40.0%)	35 (32.4%)
Influenza A H3	3 (60.0%)	72 (66.7%)
Influenza A, Inconclusive subtype	0 (0.0%)	1 (.9%)
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[4]	2 (28.6%)	22 (16.9%)
Inconclusive[5]	0	0

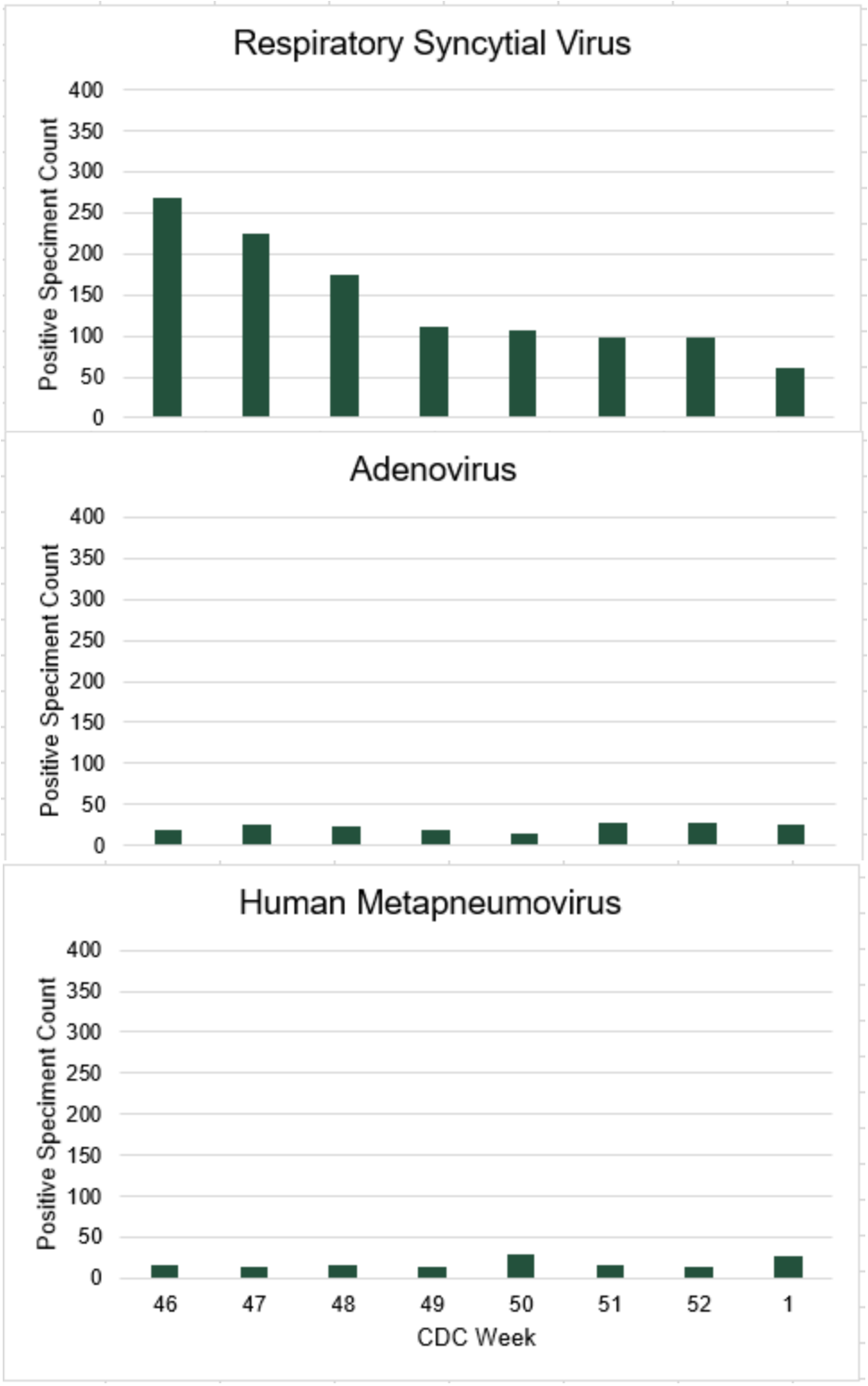
[1] *Laboratory results based on real-time PCR analysis; information is for the 2022-2023 season.*
[2] *Influenza A subtype not determined; further analysis pending*
[3] *Influenza B genotyping is only included in current week column if genotyping occurred in the same week as original PCR testing.*
[4] *Specimens that contain influenza co-infections with SARS-CoV-2 are not included in the SARS-CoV-2 positive specimen count*
[5] *Inconclusive for influenza A and influenza B; not included in positive specimens count.*

Graph 5. North Texas Regional Laboratory: Influenza and SARS-CoV-2 Virus Results[1]



Since last report, 21 surveillance specimens were tested for influenza and SARS-CoV-2. Percent positivity for week 01 was 33.3% with 3 testing positive for Influenza A H3, 2 testing positive for Influenza A H1, 0 testing positive for Influenza B, and 2 testing positive for SARS-CoV-2.

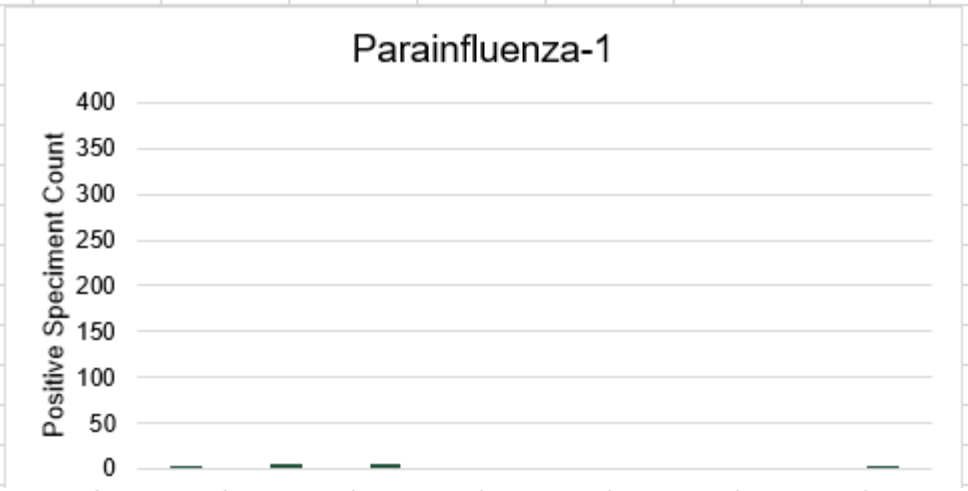
Tarrant County NREVSS Test Results

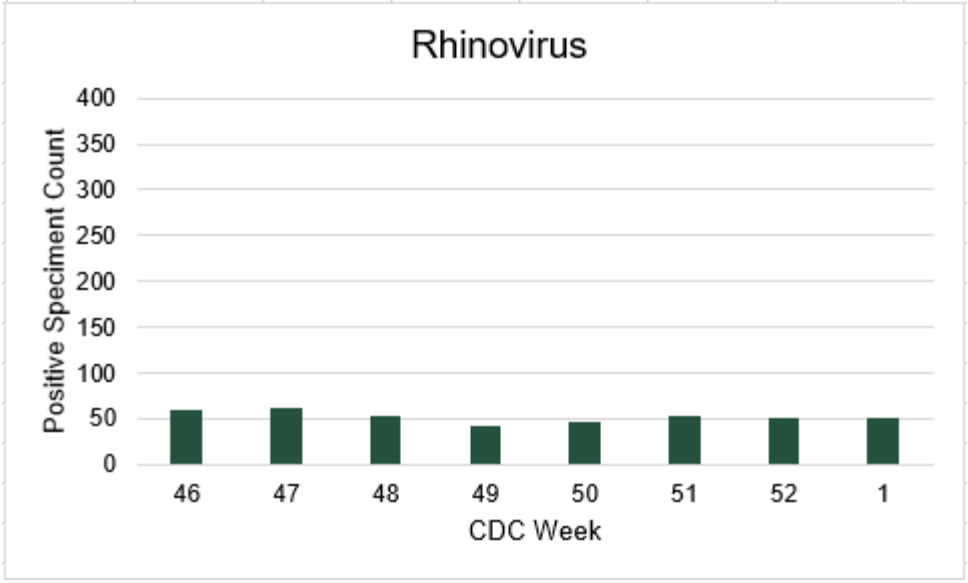


The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) is a laboratory-based system that monitors temporal and geographic circulation patterns (patterns occurring in time and place) of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human parainfluenza viruses (HPIV), human metapneumovirus (HMPV), respiratory adenoviruses, human coronavirus, rotavirus, and norovirus. In this surveillance system, participating U.S. laboratories voluntarily report weekly to CDC the total number of weekly aggregate tests performed to detect these viruses, and the weekly aggregate positive tests.

NOTE: Enteric viruses are not included in the TCPH Influenza report. Parainfluenza II has been omitted due to infrequent incidence.

Tarrant County NREVSS Test Results





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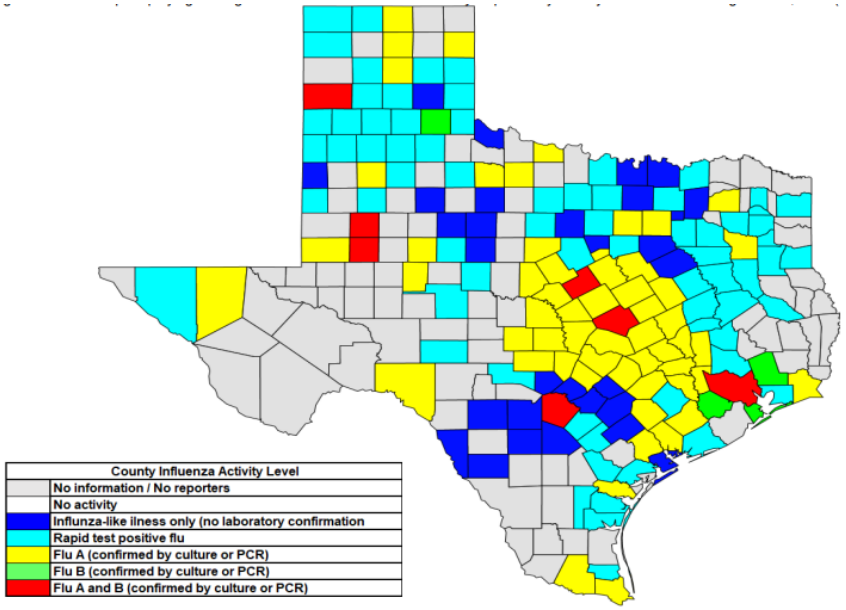
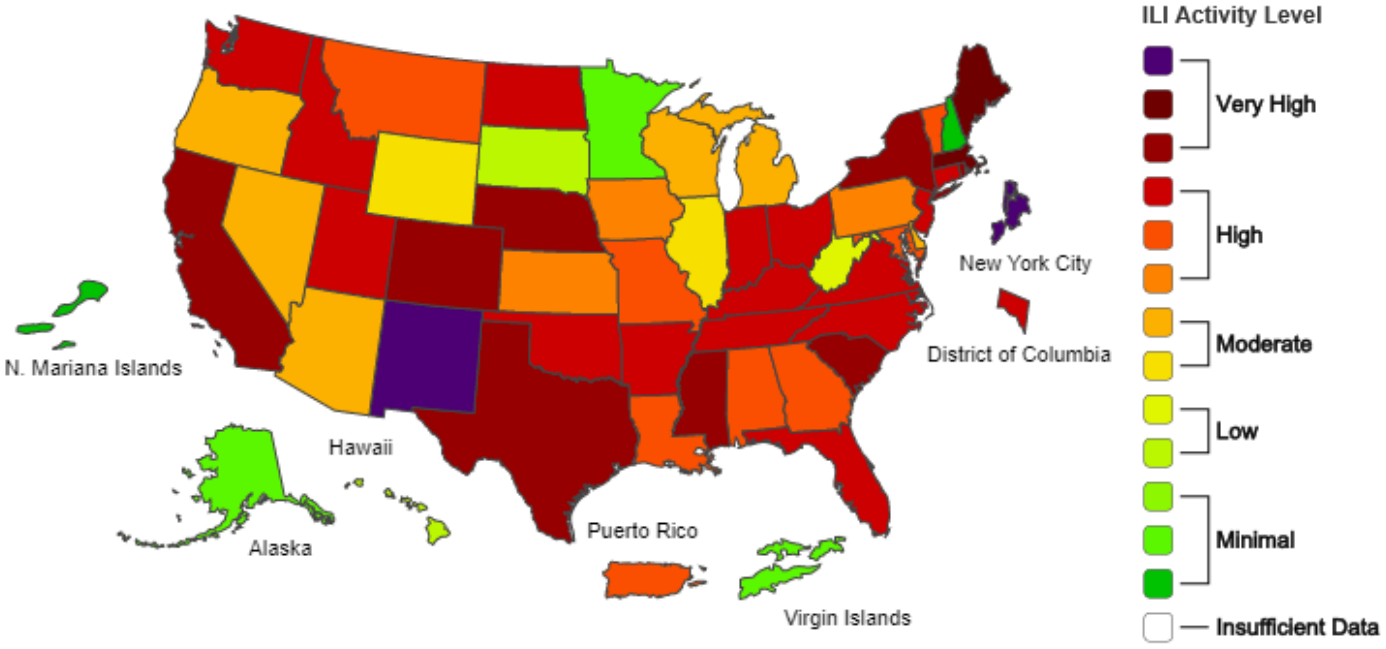
Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity

Map 1: Texas County Specific Influenza Activity, CDC Week 52



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 52



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

www.tarrantcounty.com/flu

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

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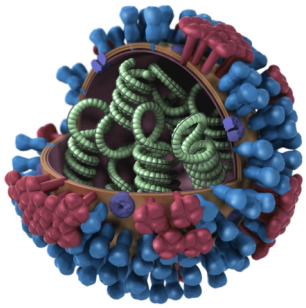

Veerinder (Vinny) Taneja, MBBS; MPH
Director, Tarrant County Public Health

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.tarrantcounty.com

https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/influenza/surveillance/2022-2023-Texas-Influenza-Surveillance-Activity/

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

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