

# EPIGRAM

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Florida  
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Nassau County  
30 South 4th Street

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FLORIDA'S SURGEON GENERAL LETTER-FLU AWARENESS

## INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY

As seasonal influenza activity continues to decline across the country, the Florida Department of Health in Nassau County is currently experiencing mild activity of Influenza like Illness (ILI).

Most counties in Florida have reported mild influenza activity. In week 10 (March 2-8, 2014) 37 counties reported decreasing influenza activity; 28 counties indicated activity is at a plateau. Florida reported localized influenza activity to the CDC in week 10. This activity level represents the geographic spread of influenza in Florida.

### State of Florida —

✦ In Florida, the most common influenza subtype detected in recent weeks has been influenza A 2009 (H1N1). Nationally (including Florida), almost all circulating influenza is a good match for the vaccine.

✦ One pediatric influenza-associated death was reported in week 10. This brings the total pediatric influenza-associated deaths in Florida to four, for the 2013-2014 season.

✦ The preliminary estimated number of Florida deaths due to pneumonia or influenza is lower than the seasonal baseline, based on previous years' data. While the 2013-2014 season has been typical, the Florida Department of Health received early reports this season of severe morbidity and mortality associated with influenza A (2009 H1N1) in unvaccinated healthy adults.

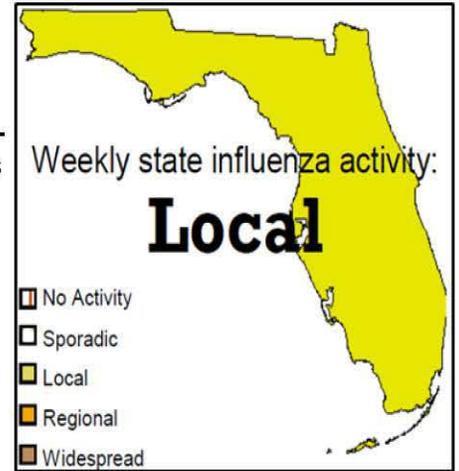


Figure 1. Map of Influenza Activity in Florida for Week 10, 2014. Florida Department of Health

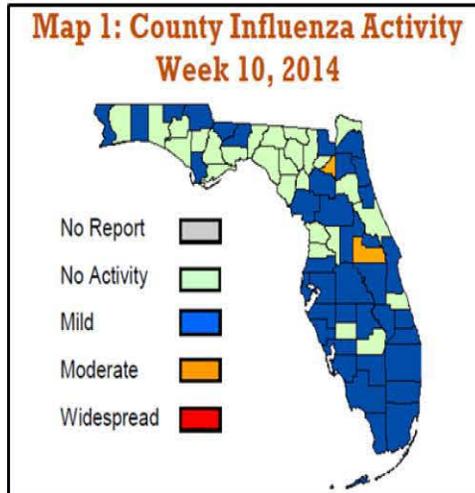


Figure 2. Map of Influenza Activity in Florida by county

DISEASE REPORTING

Phone: (904) 548-1800

Confidential Fax Line:  
(904) 277-7286

After Hours Lines:  
(904) 225-2351  
(866) 535-0420 (toll free)

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NASSAU COUNTY  
CLINIC SITES

Fernandina Beach Clinic  
1620 Nectarine Street  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034  
(904) 548-1860

Yulee Clinic  
528 Page's Dairy Road  
Yulee, FL 32097  
(904) 548-1880

Callahan Clinic  
208 Mickler Street  
Callahan, FL 32011  
(904) 879-2306

Hilliard Clinic  
37203 Pecan Street  
Hilliard, FL 32046  
(904) 845-5761



## INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITY (CONTINUED)

Albeit in low numbers, the Florida Department of Health continues to see those populations at high risk for adverse health outcomes due to influenza infection presenting to emergency departments and urgent care centers for care. Therefore, on March 14, 2014, a letter was issued by the Florida's Surgeon General Dr. John H. Armstrong to healthcare providers (A copy of this letter is on page 6 of this newsletter). *The Florida Surgeon General is strongly encouraging providers to promote sustaining health habits such as frequent hand washing to limit the spread of flu, and to promote public health and patient safety by ensuring that clinics have a policy for vaccinating health care personnel.*

### National —

- ✦ According to the CDC's FluView report, despite a decrease in several key indicators, influenza activity remains elevated nationally.
- ✦ At this time, more than 60% of the reported hospitalizations this season have been in people 18-64 years old.
- ✦ Nationwide during week 6, 3.0% of patient visits reported through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) were due to influenza-like illness (ILI). This percentage is above the national baseline of 2.0%.

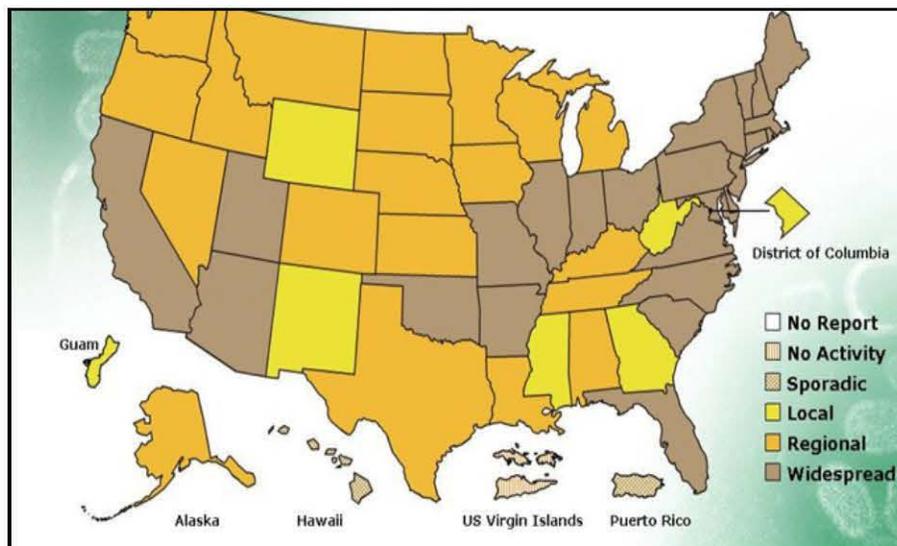


Figure 3. Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists.  
\*This map indicates geographic spread and does not measure the severity of influenza activity.  
[www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm)

### 2013-14 Seasonal Flu Vaccine Efficacy Report: CDC finds 60% reduction in ILI visits in vaccinated population

The CDC published a report on February 20, 2014 that getting a flu vaccine this season was associated with reducing the vaccinated population's risk of having to go to the doctor because of the flu by 60% for both children and adults.

## 2014 RABIES PREVENTION GUIDEBOOK RELEASED

Animal bites are notifiable to public health authorities according to Florida law (FL Statutes 381.0031(1,2)). Annually, the Florida Department of Health released the latest guidance on management of human and animal exposure to rabies or to suspect rabies. This guidance should be used by clinicians and veterinarians when managing human and animal rabies exposure, respectively. Guidance for local animal control services is included, and criteria for public health to issue local rabies alerts and advisories. The Florida Department of Health in Nassau County is available for consultation for individual cases, including referrals to state veterinary experts and public health physicians.

The complete guide *Rabies Prevention and Control in Florida, 2014* is posted at the Bureau of Epidemiology webpage at: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html> . Rabies educational materials can be downloaded from: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/educational-materials.html>

Highlights of the changes to the *Rabies Prevention and Control in Florida, 2014* include:

- ✦ Consolidating historical rabies information into the beginning of Chapter 2 (p 9)
- ✦ Adding a non-human primate reference related to negative testing in FL (p 17)
- ✦ Removing risk and assessment redundancies and consolidating into a new Chapter 3 (p 18) and moving the animal chapter (chapter 5, p 30)
- ✦ Clarifying scratch exposures (p 19)
- ✦ Adding Key Risk Assessment Questions (p 21)
- ✦ Adding N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor encephalitis with reference to human rabies differential diagnosis (p 27)
- ✦ Adding the language from the FWC rule (68A-4.001, *F.A.C.*) prohibiting feeding of raccoons (p 65)

### **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day: March 24, 2014**

Theme: "Find TB. Treat TB. *Working together to eliminate TB.*"

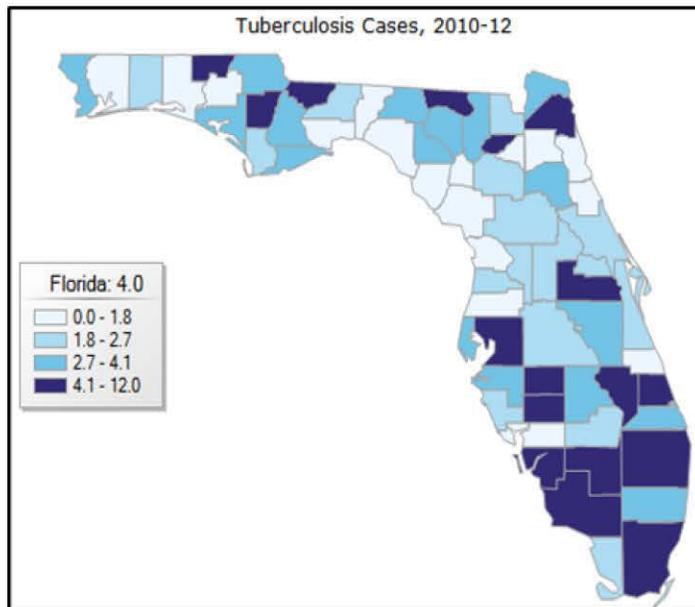
Each year in March, we recognize World Tuberculosis (TB) Day to commemorate the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacillus that causes TB that was identified by Dr. Robert Koch. This year the CDC selected the theme to highlight that TB is still a life-threatening issue in the US, despite the declining number of cases. Anyone can get TB, and our current efforts to find and treat latent TB infection and TB disease are not sufficient. Misdiagnosis of TB still exists and health care professionals often do not "think TB."

This year's World TB Day theme encourages local and state TB programs to reach out to their communities to raise awareness about TB. We don't have to fight TB alone; we should partner with others who are also caring for those most at risk for TB such as people with HIV infection or diabetes, and the homeless. Everyone has a role in ensuring that one day TB will be eliminated. CDC and our partners are committed to a world free of TB.

TB is an immediately notifiable disease to public health authorities, according to Florida law. The Florida Department of Health in Nassau County provides assistance to health care providers who identify tuberculosis and assists with treatment to cure. Health department services include: Public health physician consultation, nurses case management, diagnostic x-rays, and medications, directly observed therapy and contact tracing. Nassau County TB case rate averages 1-3 cases annually. The epidemiology of TB cases in Nassau County includes foreign born, homeless, immune compromised, and activation of previously untreated remote latent TB. For more information, contact the FDOH Nassau TB program offices at (904) 548-1800 x 5204 and x5387.

**World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on March 24, 2014**Theme: "Find TB. Treat TB. *Working together to eliminate TB*" (continued)TB Cases in Florida 2010-2012 retrieved from Florida Charts at [www.floridacharts.com](http://www.floridacharts.com)

Figure 4: Reported TB Cases in Florida for 2008-2012

**FDOH - NASSAU HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES AND ALERTS****Bulletin**

+ None.

**Advisories**

+ None.

**State Issued HAN**

+ None.

## REPORTABLE DISEASE FREQUENCY NASSAU

## February 2014 Reported Cases with Previous Three-Year Period Comparison

Disease Name	Selection Date		Compare Date 1		Compare Date 2		Compare Date 3	
	02/01/2014 - 02/28/2014		02/01/2013 - 02/28/2013		02/01/2012 - 02/28/2012		02/01/2011 - 02/28/2011	
	Cases	Rates*	Cases	Rates*	Cases	Rates*	Cases	Rates*
<b>County: NASSAU</b>								
Campylobacteriosis - 03840	1	1.29	2	2.64	0	0.00	0	0.00
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - 98600		0.00	1	1.32	0	0.00	0	0.00
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC - 07032		0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.35
HEPATITIS C, ACUTE - 07051		0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.35
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC - 07054	5	6.47	5	6.61	8	10.74	3	4.06
Rabies, Animal - 07102		0.00	1	1.32	0	0.00	0	0.00
Rabies, Possible Exposure - 07101	1	1.29	0	0.00	1	1.34	3	4.06
Salmonellosis - 00300		0.00	0	0.00	1	1.34	1	1.35
STREP PNEUMONIAE INVASIVE DIS- EASE, DRUG-SUSCEPTIBLE - 04830	1	1.29	2	2.64	0	0.00	1	1.35
Varicella - 05290	3	3.88	1	1.32	0	0.00	0	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14.22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15.85</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13.42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13.54</b>
<b>STATEWIDE TOTAL</b>								
Campylobacteriosis - 03840	208	1.07	176	0.92	175	0.92	125	0.66
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning - 98600	17	0.09	5	0.03	5	0.03	8	0.04
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC - 07032	320	1.64	362	1.88	272	1.43	225	1.19
HEPATITIS C, ACUTE - 07051	9	0.05	15	0.08	16	0.08	6	0.03
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC - 07054	2,147	11.04	1,542	8.02	1,523	8.00	1,720	9.08
Rabies, Animal - 07102	11	0.06	11	0.06	10	0.05	7	0.04
Rabies, Possible Exposure - 07101	221	1.14	176	0.92	186	0.98	132	0.70
Salmonellosis - 00300	261	1.34	225	1.17	235	1.23	198	1.05
Shigellosis - 00490	149	0.77	32	0.17	115	0.60	130	0.69
STREP PNEUMONIAE INVASIVE DIS- EASE, DRUG-RESISTANT - 04823	71	0.36	52	0.27	54	0.28	78	0.41
STREP PNEUMONIAE INVASIVE DIS- EASE, DRUG-SUSCEPTIBLE - 04830	79	0.41	73	0.38	56	0.29	92	0.49
Varicella - 05290	53	0.27	51	0.27	85	0.45	83	0.44
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,061</b>	<b>20.93</b>	<b>3,141</b>	<b>16.39</b>	<b>3,139</b>	<b>16.53</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>16.88</b>

The population data are obtained from CHARTS and are an estimate.

\*Rates are per 100,000

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

**Rick Scott**

Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**

State Surgeon General &amp; Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

March 14, 2014

Dear Colleagues:

The 2013-2014 flu season appears to have peaked, with 37 counties reporting decreased influenza activity in the week ending March 8, and another 28 counties indicating activity is at a plateau.

Overall this season has been typical, but early reports of severe morbidity and mortality associated with influenza A 2009 H1N1 infections among unvaccinated healthy adults, in particular pregnant women, were of concern. Since flu vaccination is the single most effective way to prevent flu-related illness and complications, the Florida Department of Health collaborated with the Agency for Health Care Administration to ensure reimbursement of influenza vaccination for Medicaid-eligible pregnant women. Reports of pregnant women with severe illness have slowed significantly since that accomplishment, but those at high risk for infection are still presenting to emergency departments and urgent care centers in lower numbers.

Please continue to encourage your patients to adopt and sustain healthy habits such as frequent hand washing to limit the spread of flu, and promote public health and patient safety by ensuring your clinic has a policy for vaccinating health care personnel.

For more information regarding flu recommendations and vaccine locators, visit Florida's influenza webpage at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/prevention-safety-and-wellness/flu-prevention/index.html>, Florida's Influenza Surveillance webpage at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/florida-influenza-weekly-surveillance.html>, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.htm>.

Thank you for your important contribution to the improvement of immunization rates in the communities you serve. I look forward to a continued partnership in reducing the morbidity and mortality of influenza, to make Florida the healthiest state in the nation.

Sincerely,



John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS  
Surgeon General & Secretary

**Florida Department of Health**

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