

EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES
EDITOR: EMILY CASON, MPH
CONTRIBUTOR: KIM GEIB, DNP, ARNP, A-GNP-C, CPH

INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

Local influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity

Nassau County reported mild flu activity in week 3 (Fig. 1) with influenza and ILI activity increasing over the past several weeks (Fig. 2). Three influenza outbreaks have been reported in Nassau County so far this season, one of which was in week 3 (January 14-20). All of the outbreaks reported so far this flu season have been in facilities serving people at high risk for complications from influenza infection (adults ≥ 65 years and children).

State influenza and ILI activity

- ✦ Flu activity is high and increasing. In week 3, activity increased sharply and was higher than peak activity in previous flu seasons.
- ✦ Visits to emergency departments among pregnant women and adults ≥ 65 increased sharply in week 3 and are well above peak activity in previous flu seasons. These groups are among those at high risk for severe complications from influenza infection.
- ✦ Fifty-two outbreaks were reported in week 3, 25 of which had laboratory evidence of influenza and 27 of which were ILI. So far 159 outbreaks of influenza and ILI have been reported since the beginning of the 2017-18 flu season, which is more than in previous seasons. Nearly all (93%) of these outbreaks have been reported in facilities serving people at high

County Flu Activity Levels

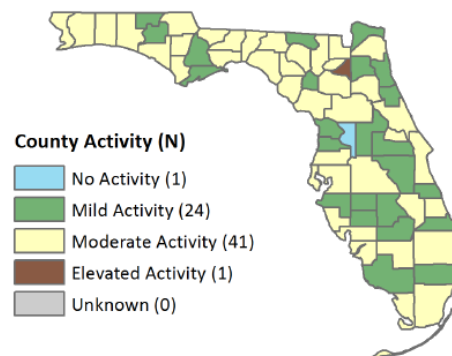


Figure 1. County influenza activity level for week 3, reported by 9:30am January 24, 2018. Source: Florida Flu Review, week 3

County Flu Activity Trend

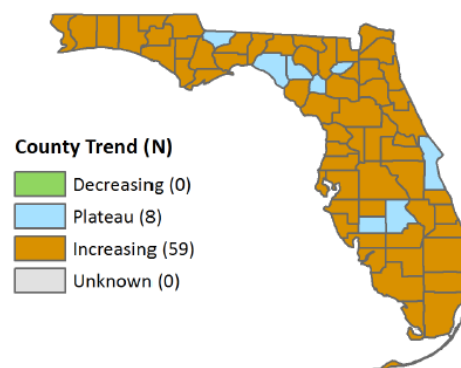


Figure 2. County influenza activity trend for week 3, reported by 9:30am January 24, 2018. Source: Florida Flu Review, week 3

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BULLETINS, ADVISORIES
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DISEASE REPORTING

Phone
(904) 875-6100

Confidential Fax Line
(904) 428-5630

After Hours Line
(904) 813-6801

Bureau of Epidemiology
24 Hour Reporting Line
(850) 245-4401

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NASSAU COUNTY CONTACTS

Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, MD, MPH (Director)
(904) 557-9174
Eugenia.Ngo-Seidel@flhealth.gov

Kim Geib, DNP, ARNP, A-GNP-C, CPH
(PH Manager)
(904) 557-9172
Kim.Geib@flhealth.gov

Emily Cason, MPH (Epidemiologist)
(904) 557-9173
Emily.Cason@flhealth.gov

Vicki Roberts (Administrative Secretary)
(904) 557-9183
Vicki.Roberts@flhealth.gov

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NASSAU COUNTY

Fernandina Beach Clinic
1620 Nectarine Street
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
(904) 557-9130

Yulee Clinic
86014 Pages Dairy Road
Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 875-6110

Callahan Clinic
45377 Mickler Street
Callahan, FL 32011
(904) 320-6010

Hilliard Clinic
37203 Pecan Street
Hilliard, FL 32046
(904) 320-6020



risk for complications due to influenza infection (children and adults age 65 and older).

- ✦ One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported in week 3. Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been confirmed since the start of this flu season.
- ✦ Deaths due to influenza are increasing but are within normal limits. Increases in influenza deaths are expected in the coming weeks.

Source: Florida Flu Review, week 3, 2018. www.floridahealth.gov/floridafiu

INFLUENZA PREVENTION & CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

Influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Florida is high and continues to increase. Flu activity is currently above peak activity in previous seasons, and more outbreaks have been reported this season in Florida than in previous flu seasons. Influenza A (H3) has been the predominately circulating strain of influenza so far this season in Florida, but influenza B viruses are also circulating throughout the state. Seasons where influenza A (H3) predominately circulates are often associated with increased deaths, hospitalizations, and outbreaks, particularly in adults aged 65 years and older and children. **Flu levels have not peaked yet, and we expect to see several more weeks of elevated influenza and ILI activity.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends antiviral treatment as soon as possible for all patients with suspect influenza who are hospitalized, severely ill, or at higher risk for complications: children <2 years old, adults ≥65 years old, pregnant women, and those with underlying medical conditions. **Clinicians should not wait for laboratory confirmation to administer antivirals to people with suspect influenza.** A recent CDC health advisory stresses the importance of rapid and early antiviral treatment this season. For more information, visit: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/_documents/cdc-han-influenza-12-27-2017.pdf

In a media briefing on January 26, 2018, CDC reported they have been in regular contact with manufacturers of influenza antiviral medications, and some have reported occasional delays in filling orders of oseltamivir, specifically oseltamivir suspension and generic oseltamivir capsules. CDC is aware of some spot shortages, and is working with manufacturers to address any existing gaps in the market. **The Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (DOH-Nassau) has been communicating with local pharmacies twice weekly to assess to availability of influenza antiviral medication, and most pharmacies are reporting adequate supply. As of 01/29/2018, the majority of Nassau County pharmacies reported adequate supply of antivirals.** In the past, for those pharmacies that have reported an inadequate supply, the shortage is temporary and is resolved within a few days. Please continue to prescribe antiviral treatment for influenza as appropriate. When you prescribe antivirals, you may consider suggesting that your patients call another pharmacy if their preferred pharmacy is temporarily out of antiviral medications.

Please recommend and offer flu vaccine to patients in your practice who have not received their 2017-18 influenza vaccination. Studies have shown that people are more likely to get vaccinated if it is recommended by their provider. Everyone aged six months and older is recommended to receive an annual flu vaccine, with only rare exceptions. Influenza vaccines, including pediatric vaccines, are available at several locations across Nassau County. It is not too late to get a vaccine for the 2017-18 season. For additional information on influenza vaccination, antivirals, chemoprophylaxis, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/>

CDC has specific guidance for influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.). An influenza outbreak may be occurring when at least 2 patients are ill within 72 hours of each other and at least one resident has laboratory-confirmed influenza. **All long-term care facility residents who have confirmed or suspected influenza should receive antiviral treatment immediately, regardless of whether an outbreak is occur-**

ring. Treatment should not wait for laboratory confirmation of influenza. **As soon as an influenza outbreak is confirmed, all eligible residents in the entire long-term care facility (not just currently impacted wards) should receive antiviral chemoprophylaxis, regardless of their vaccination status for the current influenza season.**

CDC recommends antiviral chemoprophylaxis for a minimum of 2 weeks, and continuing for at least 7 days after the last known case was identified. For more information on guidance for control of influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/ltc-facility-guidance.htm>

Please contact DOH-Nassau if:

- ✦ You suspect an outbreak of influenza or influenza-like illness;
- ✦ You think a patient may be infected with novel influenza;
- ✦ You suspect antiviral resistance in a patient;
- ✦ You identify an influenza-associated pediatric death; or
- ✦ You see an unusually severe presentation of flu.

STD SURVEILLANCE

Confirmed, Probable, Suspect Cases of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Reported in Fourth Quarter 2017 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County

Disease Name	Selection Date		Comparison Date 1		Comparison Date 2		Comparison Date 3	
	10/01/17 - 12/31/17		10/01/16 - 12/31/16		10/01/15 - 12/31/15		10/01/14 - 12/31/14	
	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
NASSAU COUNTY								
Chlamydia	40	81.6%	48	71.6%	68	78.2%	42	72.4%
Gonorrhea	8	16.3%	16	23.9%	16	18.4%	14	24.1%
Syphilis	1	2.0%	3	4.5%	3	3.4%	2	3.4%
TOTAL	49	100.0%	67	100.0%	87	100.0%	58	100.0%
STATEWIDE								
Chlamydia	23,920	72.7%	23,900	70.9%	23,864	73.0%	21,694	76.3%
Gonorrhea	7,330	22.3%	7,704	22.8%	6,835	20.9%	5,252	18.5%
Syphilis	1,667	5.1%	2,113	6.3%	1,999	6.1%	1,479	5.2%
TOTAL	32,917	100.0%	33,717	100.0%	32,698	100.0%	28,425	100.0%

Table 1. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for sexually transmitted diseases in Nassau County and Florida, fourth quarter 2014 through fourth quarter 2017.

EMERGING ISSUES—PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEY 2018

The Florida Department of Health is surveying Nassau County clinicians to get input on emerging issues that impact health in our community. This brief survey should take no more than 5 minutes. If you are not currently an active prescriber, please skip section I (Questions 1-4) and complete sections II-IV (Questions 5-13). Your responses are confidential and we thank you for your time.

The survey can be accessed online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/X8M6NNX>

DECEMBER 2017: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Confirmed, Probable, Suspect Cases of Multiple Diseases with Report Date 12/01/17 to 12/31/17 with Three-Year Period
Comparison for Nassau County

Disease Name	Selection Date		Comparison Date 1		Comparison Date 2		Comparison Date 3	
	12/01/17-12/31/17		12/01/16-12/31/16		12/01/15-12/31/15		12/01/14-12/31/14	
	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
NASSAU COUNTY								
Campylobacteriosis	2	7.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	7.7%
Giardiasis, Acute	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	3.8%	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	3.8%	1	9.1%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	8	30.8%	6	54.5%	12	60.0%	10	76.9%
Lead Poisoning	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Lyme Disease	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Mumps	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Pertussis	1	3.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	4	15.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Salmonellosis	5	19.2%	2	18.2%	4	20.0%	2	15.4%
Shigellosis	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	26	100.0%	11	100.0%	20	100.0%	13	100.0%
STATEWIDE								
Campylobacteriosis	369	7.6%	338	6.9%	330	7.1%	231	5.7%
Cryptosporidiosis	51	1.0%	37	0.8%	47	1.0%	109	2.7%
Giardiasis, Acute	73	1.5%	94	1.9%	88	1.9%	79	1.9%
Hepatitis B, Acute	76	1.6%	6	1.4%	54	1.2%	38	0.9%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	355	7.3%	480	9.9%	430	9.3%	366	9.0%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	2143	44.1%	2250	46.2%	2033	43.8%	1711	42.1%
Lead Poisoning	33	0.7%	91	1.9%	108	2.3%	65	1.6%
Lyme Disease	30	0.6%	36	0.7%	21	0.5%	28	0.7%
Mumps	37	0.8%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Pertussis	32	0.7%	30	0.6%	34	0.7%	22	0.5%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	366	7.5%	271	5.6%	358	7.7%	335	8.2%
Salmonellosis	530	10.9%	521	10.7%	602	13.0%	445	11.0%
Shigellosis	105	2.2%	95	2.0%	103	2.2%	189	4.7%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	62	1.3%	62	1.3%	45	1.0%	59	1.5%
Vibriosis (Excluding Cholera)	29	0.6%	18	0.4%	23	0.5%	14	0.3%
Other remaining conditions in FL (not shared with Nassau County)	569	11.7%	473	9.7%	366	7.9%	369	9.1%
TOTAL	4860	100.0%	4865	100.0%	4642	100.0%	4061	100.0%

Table 2. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for reportable diseases and conditions in Nassau County and Florida, December 2014 through December 2017.

HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS

December Press Releases

For additional information regarding press releases visit the DOH-Nassau website or Department of Health Online Newsroom at: <http://nassau.floridahealth.gov/> and <http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/>

- ✦ On December 5th, a rabies alert was issued for northwest Nassau County in response to a fox that tested positive for rabies on December 4th. The rabies alert is active for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in Nassau County: St. Mary's River to the north, Middle Road to the west, Owens Farm Road to the east, and W. County Road 108 to the south. All residents and visitors in Nassau County should be aware that rabies is present in the wild animal population and domestic animals are at risk if not vaccinated. The public is asked to maintain a heightened awareness that rabies is active in Nassau County. Alerts are designed to increase awareness to the public. Please be aware that rabies activity can still occur outside the alert area. For more information about rabies, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html> or contact DOH-Nassau Environmental Health at 904-557-9150.

KEEP SICK AT HOME**IF YOU CAUGHT THE FLU, NO WORK OR SCHOOL FOR YOU!****You may have the flu if:**

- ✦ In addition to coughing or sneezing, you're suffering from a fever, headache, chills, or body aches.
- ✦ It came on suddenly.

The flu is most contagious early in the illness.

- ✦ If you believe you're coming down with the flu, go home and stay home.
- ✦ Keep your hands clean, and coughs and sneezes covered.
- ✦ Consider seeing your doctor.

**Prevent the flu— it's in your hands!**

- ✦ Wash your hands often with soap and water. If you don't have soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ✦ Don't touch or shake hands with people who are sick.
- ✦ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- ✦ Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper elbow, not your hands.
- ✦ Stay home when you're sick, and keep your children home when they're sick.

For more information visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/index.html>