

# EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES  
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## INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE

### County influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity

Nassau County reported mild influenza and ILI activity for week 9 (February 25-March 3). Influenza and ILI activity has been decreasing for the past few weeks. In week 9, 3.1% of reported emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) visits in Nassau County residents were for ILI. Influenza and ILI-related ED and UCC visits peaked at 11.7% in week 6 in Nassau County residents. Three influenza outbreaks have been reported in Nassau County since the start of the 2017-18 season.

### State influenza and ILI activity<sup>1</sup>

- ✦ Influenza activity decreased in week 9 (Fig. 1). Data indicate influenza activity peaked in week 5 in Florida (ending February 3, 2018). While there have been decreases in flu activity, activity ED and UCC visits for ILI by Flu Season

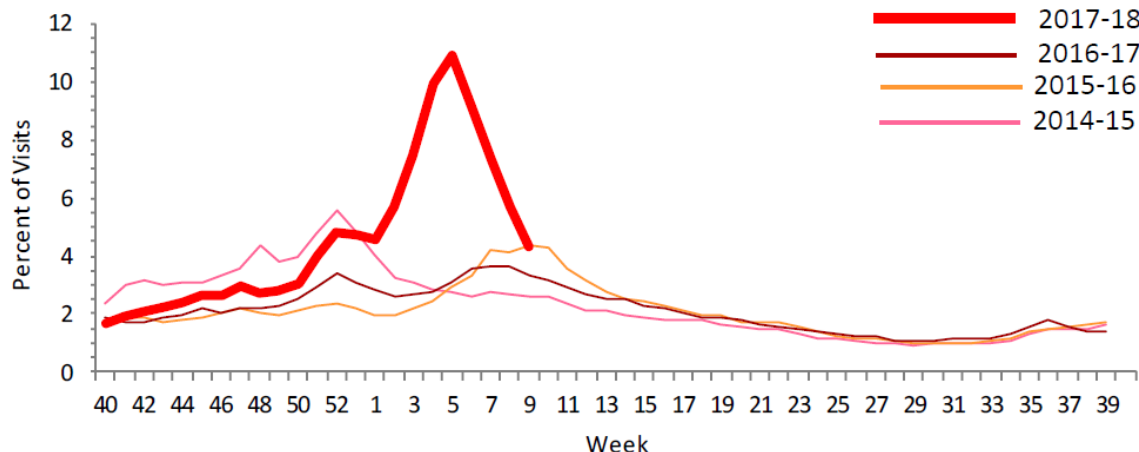


Figure 1. Percent of visits for ILI from ED and UCC chief complaint data for ESSENCE-FL participating facilities (n=310), week 40, 2014 to week 9, 2018. Source: Florida Flu Review, [www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu](http://www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu)

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#### DISEASE REPORTING

Phone  
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Bureau of Epidemiology  
24 Hour Reporting Line  
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levels are still high and the season is not over yet.

- ✦ No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been confirmed. So far this season, six influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been confirmed in Florida.
- ✦ Deaths due to pneumonia and influenza were within expected levels.
- ✦ Eight outbreaks of influenza or ILI were reported: six with laboratory confirmation of influenza and two ILI. As of week 9, 456 outbreaks of influenza and ILI have been reported since the start of the 2017-18 flu season. More outbreaks have been reported this season than in previous seasons on record. An average of 91 total influenza and ILI outbreaks were reported during the past five seasons.
- ✦ The Florida Department of Health is conducting enhanced surveillance of intensive care unit (ICU) patients aged <65 years with laboratory-confirmed influenza. In week 9, 33 cases were reported, bringing the total number of cases reported to 274 since February 1, 2018. The majority of these cases occurred in unvaccinated people with underlying health conditions.

### **National influenza and ILI activity<sup>2</sup>**

- ✦ For week 9, the proportion of people seeing a health care provider for ILI was 3.7% nationally, which is a decrease from week 8 (4.9%), but still above the national baseline of 2.2%. ILI has been at or above the national baseline for 15 weeks so far this season. Over the past five seasons, ILI has remained above baseline for 16 weeks on average.

**2017-18 Influenza Season Activity Level for Week 9**

- ✦ During week 9, New York City and 21 states experienced high ILI activity, 15 states experienced moderate ILI activity, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and five states experienced low ILI activity, and nine states experienced minimal ILI activity (Fig. 2).

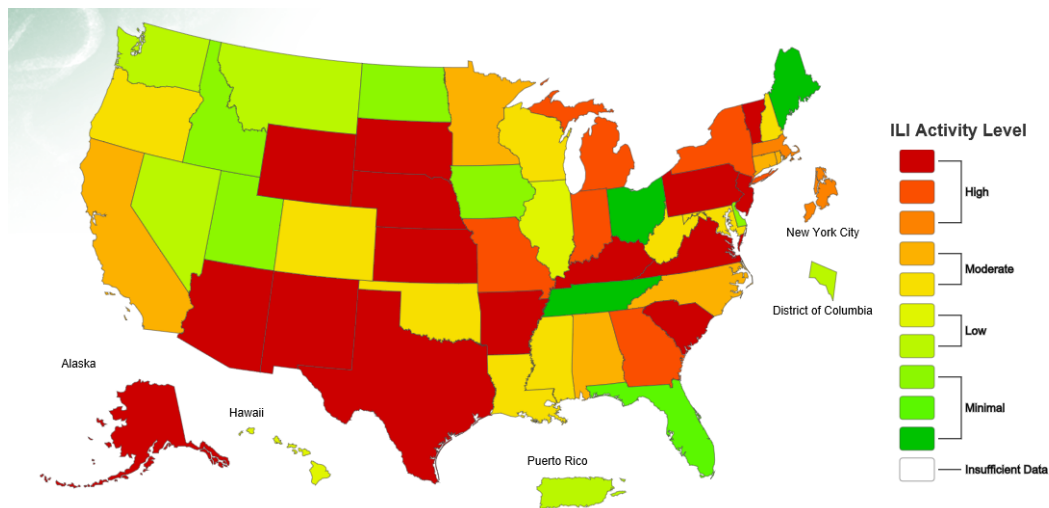


Figure 2. ILI activity by state in week 9, 2018, measured using proportion of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness. Source: CDC Flu View, <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/main.html>

- ✦ Since the start of the 2017-18 influenza season (October 1, 2017), 24,644 laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations have been reported. This brings the cumulative hospitalization rate to 86.3 hospitalizations per 100,000 people in the United States. The highest hospitalization rate is among people 65 years and older (370.6 per 100,000).
- ✦ The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) decreased, but is still high at 8.8% for week 7 (ending February 17, 2018). Mortality data are delayed two weeks to allow for data collection.
- ✦ Nationally, the percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories during week 9 was 17.7%. Of these, 49.9% were influenza A viruses and 50.1% were influenza B viruses.

<sup>1</sup> Florida Department of Health. Florida Flu Review. [www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu](http://www.floridahealth.gov/floridaflu)

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Weekly U.S. influenza Surveillance Report. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/summary.htm>

## WORLD TB DAY

Every year, March 24th is designated as World TB Day to commemorate the date in 1882 that Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which causes tuberculosis (TB). World TB Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about TB and its impact, recognize achievements in TB prevention and control, and renew our commitment to eliminating TB disease. The U.S. theme for this year's World TB Day is **“Wanted: Leaders for a TB Free United States. We can make history. End TB.”** Clinicians, especially those serving at-risk populations, have a critical role in TB elimination. Expanding targeted testing and treatment of latent TB infection is key to eliminating TB in the United States. Up to 13 million people in the United States are estimated to have latent TB infection, and without treatment, 5-10% of people with latent TB will develop TB disease<sup>1</sup>. Clinicians are encouraged to “think TB” and recommend testing people who are at increased risk for TB infection, such as people who have spent time with someone who has TB disease, people from a country where TB disease is common, and people who live or work in high-risk settings.

### Surveillance

Four states in the U.S. made up 50.9% of TB cases reported nationwide in 2016: California, Florida, New York, and Texas<sup>2</sup>. **In 2016, there were 639 tuberculosis cases reported in Florida. This is a 6.1% increase in cases from 2015, but cases have declined by 23% since 2010.** The statewide incidence of TB in 2016 was 3.2 cases per 100,000 residents. In Florida, 59% of TB cases reported in 2016 were male, 62% were foreign-born, 74% were non-Hispanic, 47% were white, and the largest age group was 45-64 (35%). Forty-two (7%) of the cases were resistant to Isoniazid, and three (<1%) were resistant to Isoniazid and Rifampin (multi-drug resistant). No TB cases were reported in Nassau County residents in 2016. Nassau County typically reports between 0 and 3 TB cases per year<sup>3</sup>.

### Training, Resources & Events

- ✦ The Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center (SNTC) is one of five regional TB training and medical consultation centers in the United States. SNTC is based in Florida and provides training, technical assistance, and medical consultation throughout the southeast region. **The SNTC medical consultation service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and is a free service to TB health care providers. The 24 hour TB hotline is 1-800-4TB-INFO, or 1-800-482-4636.** For more information on training and education provided by SNTC, visit <http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/Training.aspx>
- ✦ Cases of TB must be reported to the Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (DOH-Nassau) by the next business day. To report a case of TB to DOH-Nassau, call 904-875-6100 or fax 904-428-5630. Specimens or isolates must be submitted to the state public health laboratory for confirmation.
- ✦ The Florida Department of Health in Duval County will be hosting a Grand Rounds in recognition of World TB Day. The event will be at 8am on March 23, 2018 in the Learning Resource Center Auditorium at UF Health Jacksonville, 655 West 8th St., Jacksonville, FL 32209. For more information, contact Ashley Donnelly at 904-253-2305.

**Risk Factors in Florida TB Cases, 2016**

Risk Factor	Percent
Excess alcohol use within past year	11%
HIV co-infection	10%
Homelessness	4.5%
Illicit drug use within past year	7%
Diabetes	12%
Incarcerated at diagnosis	1%

Table 1. Risk factors reported among tuberculosis cases in Florida, 2016. Source: [http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/tuberculosis/\\_documents/Fact\\_Sheet-FL16.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/tuberculosis/_documents/Fact_Sheet-FL16.pdf)



Image source: <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbdays/resources.htm>

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. World TB Day 2018: Key Messages and Resources. <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbdays/pdf/wtbd2018-KeyMessagesResources-508.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Schmit, K. et al. Tuberculosis—United States, 2016. MMWR. [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6611a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6611a2\\_w](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6611a2.htm?s_cid=mm6611a2_w)

<sup>3</sup> Florida Department of Health. Trends and Statistics. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/tuberculosis/tb-statistics/index.html>

## FEBRUARY 2018: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Confirmed, Probable, Suspect Cases of Multiple Diseases with Report Date 02/01/18 to 02/28/18 with Three-Year Period  
Comparison for Nassau County

Disease Name	Selection Date		Comparison Date 1		Comparison Date 2		Comparison Date 3	
	02/01/18-02/28/18		02/01/17-02/28/17		02/01/16-02/28/16		02/01/15-02/28/15	
	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
<b>NASSAU COUNTY</b>								
Campylobacteriosis	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0.0%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Giardiasis, Acute	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	0	0.0%	3	21.4%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	0	0.0%	9	64.3%	11	84.6%	8	80.0%
Influenza, ICU (Special Project)	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Legionellosis	0	0.0%	1	7.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	2	18.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Salmonellosis	4	36.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%
Typhoid Fever (Salmonella Serotype Typhi)	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>								
Campylobacteriosis	270	5.7%	307	6.8%	260	7.4%	257	7.1%
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	2	0.0%	3	0.1%	0	0.0%	5	0.1%
Giardiasis, Acute	86	1.8%	74	1.6%	74	2.1%	86	2.4%
Hepatitis B, Acute	117	2.4%	49	1.1%	51	1.5%	37	1.0%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	428	9.0%	465	10.3%	366	10.5%	405	11.1%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	2324	48.6%	2501	55.5%	1658	47.5%	1694	46.5%
Influenza, ICU (Special Project)	268	5.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Legionellosis	45	0.9%	33	0.7%	17	0.5%	29	0.8%
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	13	0.3%	6	0.1%	13	0.4%	8	0.2%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	326	6.8%	222	4.9%	210	6.0%	250	6.9%
Salmonellosis	249	5.2%	278	6.2%	254	7.3%	229	6.3%
Typhoid Fever (Salmonella Serotype Typhi)	5	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Other remaining conditions in FL (not shared with Nassau County)	645	13.5%	571	12.7%	587	16.8%	643	17.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4778</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4509</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3490</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3645</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 2. Confirmed, probable, and suspect case counts for reportable diseases and conditions in Nassau County and Florida, February 2015 through February 2018.

For more information on disease reporting, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/index.html>

List of reportable diseases and conditions: [http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/\\_documents/reportable-diseases/\\_documents/reportable-diseases-list-practitioners.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/_documents/reportable-diseases/_documents/reportable-diseases-list-practitioners.pdf)

Practitioner disease reporting form: [http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/\\_documents/reportable-diseases/\\_documents/practitioner-disease-report-form.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease-reporting-and-management/_documents/reportable-diseases/_documents/practitioner-disease-report-form.pdf)

**HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES & ALERTS****February Press Releases & Public Information**

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/>

- ✦ 02/09/18: "February Flu Message" press release
- ✦ 02/15/18: "*Candida auris* Update: Information for Clinicians and Laboratories" blast fax/email to medical providers

**What You Should Know about Rabies**

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that can be prevented but not cured. The virus attacks the brain of warm-blooded animals, including people.

**How is rabies spread?**

When an animal is sick with rabies, the virus is shed in the saliva and can be passed to another animal or a person, usually through a bite. Transmission may also occur if the saliva or the animal's nervous tissue enters open wounds, the mouth, nose, or eyes of another animal or person.

**What do rabid animals look like?**

Animals with rabies may show strange behavior— they can be aggressive, attacking for no apparent reason, or act very tame (especially wild animals). They may not be able to eat, drink or swallow. They may drool because they have difficulty swallowing. They may stagger or become paralyzed. Rabies will kill most animals.

**Which animals have been reported with rabies in Florida?**

Rabid raccoons have been reported most frequently, followed by bats and foxes. Since the 1980s, rabid cats were reported more frequently than rabid dogs. Rabid bobcats, skunks, otters, horses, cattle and ferrets have also been reported.

**What should I do if an animal bites me?**

Immediately scrub the wound with lots of soap and running water for five to ten minutes. Try to get a complete description of the animal and determine where it is so that it can be picked up by animal control staff for quarantine or rabies testing. Go to your family doctor or the nearest emergency room. Call the Florida Department of Health in Nassau County (904-875-6100) or your local animal control agency (Nassau Humane Society in the Fernandina Beach city limits, 904-321-1647, or Nassau County Animal Services in the rest of the county, 904-530-6150) with the animal's description and location. The animal will either be quarantined for ten days (if it is a dog, cat or ferret) or be tested for rabies. If you kill the animal, be careful not to damage the head, and avoid further contact with the animal even when it is dead.

**What should I do to protect myself, my family, and my pets from rabies?**

Have your veterinarian vaccinate all of your dogs, cats, ferrets and horses against rabies, and make sure you follow your veterinarian's instructions for revaccination. Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Never feed wild or stray animals— avoid attracting them with outdoor food sources (like uncovered trash). Feed your pets indoors. Do not allow your pets to run free. Follow leash laws by keeping pets and livestock secured on your property. Support animal control in your community. If your animal is attacked by a wild, stray or unvaccinated animal, DO NOT examine your pet for injuries without wearing gloves. DO wash your pet with soap and water to remove saliva from the attacking animal. DO NOT let your animal come in contact with other animals or people until the situation can be handled by animal control or health department staff. Bat proof your house, but remember it is illegal to exclude or remove bats during maternity season, which is April 16 through August 14. For more information on bat exclusion, visit <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mammals/land/bats/information/buildings/exclude/>.

For more information on rabies, visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>

