

EPIGRAM

PRODUCED BY DISEASE CONTROL SERVICES
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FLU SURVEILLANCE

The week of October 2-8 (week 40) marks the beginning of the 2016-2017 flu season. Everyone six months of age and older should get a flu vaccine before Halloween. Flu activity in Nassau County remains at low levels.

State influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity:

- ✦ **During the first week (week 40) of the 2016-17 influenza season, influenza activity increased slightly but remains at low levels across the state.**
- ✦ Emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) visits for ILI remained low, which is typical for this time in the influenza season.
- ✦ In recent weeks, the preliminary estimated number of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) increased slightly and is above levels seen in previous seasons at this time. We are working to better understand this trend in P&I mortality.
- ✦ In week 40, the majority of counties reported “mild” or no influenza activity.
- ✦ No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported in week 40.
- ✦ No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported so far this season. **Annual vaccination remains the best way to protect children against influenza infection. Now is the perfect time to get your annual vaccine.**
- ✦ In week 40, no outbreaks of influenza or ILI were reported.
- ✦ In the last four weeks, the most common influenza subtype detected at the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) has been influenza B Yamagata lineage. Throughout the summer months, influenza B Yamagata lineage viruses predominated in Florida, where influenza A (H3) has been the predominantly circulating strain nationally. As Florida transitions into the winter months, we often see a change to influenza A as the most commonly circulating strain. In recent weeks, influenza A (H3) viruses have also been detected at BPHL.

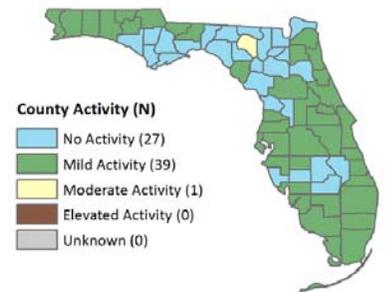


Figure 1. County influenza activity level for week 40.

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DISEASE REPORTING

Phone: (904) 530-6800

Confidential Fax Line:
(904) 277-7286

After Hours Line:
(904) 813-6801

Bureau of Epidemiology
24 Hour Reporting Line:
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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NASSAU COUNTY

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(904) 530-6750

Yulee Clinic

86014 Pages Dairy Road
Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 530-6840

Callahan Clinic

45377 Mickler Street
Callahan, FL 32011
(904) 530-6870

Hilliard Clinic

37203 Pecan Street
Hilliard, FL 32046
(904) 530-6890



National influenza activity:

- ✦ **Influenza activity continues to circulate at low levels nationally. In recent weeks, influenza and ILI activity increased but remains below the national baseline.**
- ✦ In recent weeks, influenza A (H3) has been the most common subtype reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by public health laboratories across the nation. It is not uncommon for the national predominantly circulating strain to be different from the predominantly circulating strain in Florida.
- ✦ On August 25, 2016, the 2016-17 influenza vaccine recommendations were published in a CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. For the 2016-17 season, CDC recommends use of inactivated influenza vaccines (IIV) or recombinant influenza vaccines (RIV). Live attenuated influenza vaccines (LAIV) should not be used during the 2016-17 influenza season. This recommendation follows poor or relatively lower effectiveness of LAIV between 2013 and 2016. To learn more, please visit: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6505a1.htm?s_cid=rr6505a1_w.
- ✦ There is increased risk for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 virus identification in birds as we enter the fall migratory season. HPAI H5 has not been identified in Florida birds and would be expected to be seen in more northerly states first, but identifications are possible. To date, only one wild duck in Alaska has tested positive for HPAI H5 since November 2015. No human HPAI infections have been identified in Florida or other states. To learn more about HPAI, please visit: www.floridahealth.gov/novelflu.

Source: http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/influenza/_documents/2016-17/2016-w40-flu-review.pdf

POST-HURRICANE HEALTH

After hurricanes and other severe weather events, there are often increases in health problems related to power outages, storm cleanup, and flooding. In addition to acute problems such as food and waterborne diseases and injuries, people may also experience exacerbations of chronic illnesses or mental health problems that need to be addressed.

Food Safety: Preventing Foodborne Disease

People should not eat any food that may have come into contact with contaminated water from floods or tidal surges. Commercially prepared cans of food should not be eaten if there is a bulging or opening on the can or screw caps, soda bottle tops or twist-caps. Undamaged, commercially canned foods can be saved if labels are removed and cans are disinfected in a bleach solution. Use 1/4 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water; re-label the cans including expiration date and type of food. Assume that home-canned food is unsafe. Infants should preferably be breast fed or fed only pre-mixed canned baby formula. Do not use powdered formulas prepared with untreated water, use boiled water instead. When the power is out, refrigerators will keep foods cool for approximately 4 hours. Thawed and refrigerated foods should be thrown out after 4 hours.

Sanitation and Hygiene: Preventing Waterborne Illness

Basic hygiene is very important during this emergency period. Always wash your hands with soap and water. Use only water that has been boiled or disinfected for washing hands before eating, after toilet use, after helping in clean up activities and after handling items contaminated by floodwater or sewage. Flood water may contain fecal matter from sewage systems, agricultural and industrial waste and septic tanks. If you have open cuts or sores exposed to the floodwater, keep them as clean as possible by washing them with soap and disinfected or boiled water. Apply antibiotic cream to reduce the risk of infection. Do not allow children to play in floodwater. They can be exposed to water contaminated with fecal matter. Do not allow children to play with toys that have been in floodwater until the toys have been disinfected. Use 1/4 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water to disinfect toys and other items. If your area is put under a boil water notice, you must take precautions against dirty water especially if you have a private well. If you are not sure if your water is safe, drink commercially bottled water. Water can be held at a rolling boil for one minute to remove bacteria, or disinfected by adding eight drops of plain, unscented household bleach per gallon of water, mixing, and letting it stand for 30 minutes. If the water is cloudy after 30 minutes, repeat the procedure.

Post-Flood Clean Up

Clean up debris carefully to avoid injury or contamination. Chainsaws should only be operated in safe conditions (not in

water-soaked areas) and by people who are experienced in proper use. Lift heavy debris by bending knees and using legs to help lift. Wear shoes to avoid injury to the feet from glass, nails or other sharp objects. Avoid contact with power lines. To prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, gas-powered generators, pressure washers, and grills should never be used indoors, not even in the garage. Be alert to wildlife and pets (snakes, dogs, etc.) that may have been displaced as a result of the storm. If you see a snake or other potentially dangerous wildlife, back away from it slowly and do not touch it.

Clearing Standing Water: Preventing Mosquito-Borne Illness

Heavy rains and flooding can lead to an increase in mosquitoes. To help protect yourself from mosquitoes, remember to “Drain and Cover.”

Drain standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying. Drain water from garbage cans, house gutters, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected. Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used. Empty and clean bird-baths and pet water bowls at least once to twice a week. Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water. Maintain swimming pools in good condition and keep appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

Cover skin with clothing or repellent. Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeves. This type of protection may be necessary for people working in areas where mosquitoes are present. Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old. Cover doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

GLOBAL HEALTH NEWS

- ✦ The World Health Organization (WHO) reported an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in Niger. RVF is a zoonotic livestock disease that is endemic to many countries in Africa. Animals tend to be infected by mosquitoes and other blood-feeding insects, while humans are often infected through direct contact with blood and tissues during livestock slaughter or birth. This current outbreak has affected over 150 cattle, sheep, goats and camels. More than 100 human cases have been reported, including over 25 deaths.
- ✦ The Ministry of Health in Vietnam reported a case of microcephaly in a four month old child in Krong Buk district, Dak Lak province which appears to be Zika-related. Zika testing was performed on the mother which revealed she was Zika positive. The Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology is conducting an investigation and blood samples have been sent to Nagasaki University in Japan for analysis.

HEALTH BULLETINS, ADVISORIES AND ALERTS

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

- ✦ 9/22/16 Media Release: *Florida Health Promotes Falls Prevention to Keep Older Adults Safe and Independent*
- ✦ 9/29/16 Media Release: *DOH-Nassau County Raises Awareness Regarding Sickle Cell Disease*
- ✦ 10/4/16 Media Release: *Florida Department of Health in Nassau County Reminds the Public of Precautionary Measures to Help Prevent Mosquito-borne Illnesses After Heavy Rainfall*
- ✦ 10/14/16 Media Release: *Florida Health in Nassau County Encourages Residents to Stay Flu Free this Season by Getting the Flu Shot*

SEPTEMBER 2016: REPORTED CASES IN NASSAU COUNTY

Confirmed, Probable, Suspect, Unkown Cases of Multiple Diseases with Report Date 09/01/2016 to 09/30/2016 with Three-Year Period Comparison for Nassau County

Disease Name	Selection Date		Comparison Date 1		Comparison Date 2		Comparison Date 3	
	09/01/16 - 09/30/16		09/01/15 - 09/30/15		09/01/14 - 09/30/14		09/01/13 - 09/30/13	
	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent	Cases	Percent
County: NASSAU								
Campylobacteriosis	1	3.85%	0	0.00%	1	5.00%	1	3.85%
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	2	7.69%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Chikungunya Fever	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.00%	0	0.00%
Cryptosporidiosis	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	3.85%
Dengue Fever	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	3.85%
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	1	3.85%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Giardiasis, Acute	1	3.85%	1	5.56%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Haemophilus Influenzae Invasive Disease	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	3.85%
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.00%	0	0.00%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	0	0.00%	1	5.56%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	11	42.31%	9	50.00%	5	25.00%	5	19.23%
Legionellosis	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.00%	0	0.00%
Lyme Disease	1	3.85%	0	0.00%	1	5.00%	0	0.00%
Pertussis	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	7	26.92%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	1	3.85%	4	22.22%	1	5.00%	0	0.00%
Salmonellosis	7	26.92%	2	11.11%	7	35.00%	9	34.62%
Shigellosis	0	0.00%	1	5.56%	1	5.00%	0	0.00%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	5.00%	0	0.00%
West Nile Virus Neuroinvasive Disease	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	3.85%
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	1	3.85%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
TOTAL:	26	100.00%	18	100.00%	20	100.00%	26	100.00%
STATEWIDE TOTAL								
Campylobacteriosis	271	5.27%	283	6.04%	236	4.86%	215	5.05%
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	16	0.31%	30	0.64%	12	0.25%	25	0.59%
Chikungunya Fever	1	0.02%	12	0.26%	65	1.34%	0	0.00%
Cryptosporidiosis	92	1.79%	149	3.18%	486	10.02%	49	1.15%
Dengue Fever	10	0.19%	4	0.09%	9	0.19%	29	0.68%
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC) Infection	54	1.05%	43	0.92%	38	0.78%	70	1.64%
Giardiasis, Acute	90	1.75%	113	2.41%	105	2.16%	122	2.87%
Haemophilus Influenzae Invasive Disease	15	0.29%	72	1.54%	9	0.19%	9	0.21%
Hepatitis B, Acute	62	1.21%	43	0.92%	45	0.93%	36	0.85%
Hepatitis B, Chronic	376	7.31%	404	8.62%	364	7.50%	290	6.81%
Hepatitis C, Chronic	2370	46.06%	1864	39.77%	1859	38.31%	1781	41.83%
Legionellosis	46	0.89%	31	0.66%	27	0.56%	28	0.66%
Lyme Disease	46	0.89%	26	0.55%	22	0.45%	27	0.63%
Pertussis	26	0.51%	30	0.64%	45	0.93%	68	1.60%
Rabies, Possible Exposure	270	5.25%	228	4.86%	275	5.67%	208	4.88%
Salmonellosis	934	18.15%	824	17.58%	809	16.67%	838	19.68%
Shigellosis	93	1.81%	151	3.22%	146	3.01%	158	3.71%
Varicella (Chickenpox)	60	1.17%	93	1.98%	65	1.34%	52	1.22%
West Nile Virus Neuroinvasive Disease	0	0.00%	2	0.04%	6	0.12%	1	0.02%
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	162	3.15%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
<i>Other remaining conditions in FL (not shared w/ Nassau County)</i>	151	2.93%	285	6.08%	229	4.72%	252	5.92%
TOTAL:	5145	100.00%	4687	100.00%	4852	100.00%	4258	100.00%

CHANGES TO THE REPORTABLE DISEASE LIST

As of October 20, 2016, there have been some changes to the Florida Administrative Code Chapter 64D-3.029, the reportable diseases list in Florida.

- ✦ Babesiosis and paratyphoid fever are now reportable diseases.
- ✦ Laboratories must submit all salmonella specimens/isolates to the state lab for confirmation.