

Bexar County Influenza and COVID-19 Surveillance Report, 2020-2021 Season; 2020 MMWR Week 48

(November 22, 2020 – November 28, 2020)

Summary

Influenza activity continues to be sporadic in San Antonio and Bexar County. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased and there was a decrease in reports of specimens testing positive for influenza by the public health and hospital laboratories. There were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths and no influenza-associated outbreaks reported this week.

COVID-19 continues to be widespread throughout Bexar County. A total of 17 deaths were reported for the week. Additional data for COVID-19 can be found on the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District website:

<https://covid19.sanantonio.gov/About-COVID-19/Dashboards-Data/Surveillance>.

Table 1: Summary of Recent Bexar County Influenza, Influenza-like Illness (ILI), and COVID-19 Activity

	Percent Change from Previous Week	Current Week 48	Previous Week 47	Data Cumulative since September 27, 2020 (Week 40)
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by hospitals and public health laboratory	↓80.0%	0.2%	1.0%	0.6%
Percentage of visits due to ILI*	↓5.0%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	0.0%	0	0	0
Number of pediatric influenza deaths	0.0%	0	0	0
Influenza activity code	N/A	Sporadic	Sporadic	N/A
Percentage of specimens positive for COVID-19 by hospitals and public health laboratory**	↑59.4%	11.0%	6.9%	5.4%

Note: Data included in this table have been updated since last week's flu report with any new reports received.

+ Based on ILINet data

++ Based on NRVESS and Metro Health Lab data

U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

Information on patient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) is collected throughout Bexar County. Health care providers voluntarily report this information to ILINet.

Figure 1: Percentage of Visits Due to ILI Reported by Bexar County ILINet Participants 2017-2021 Seasons

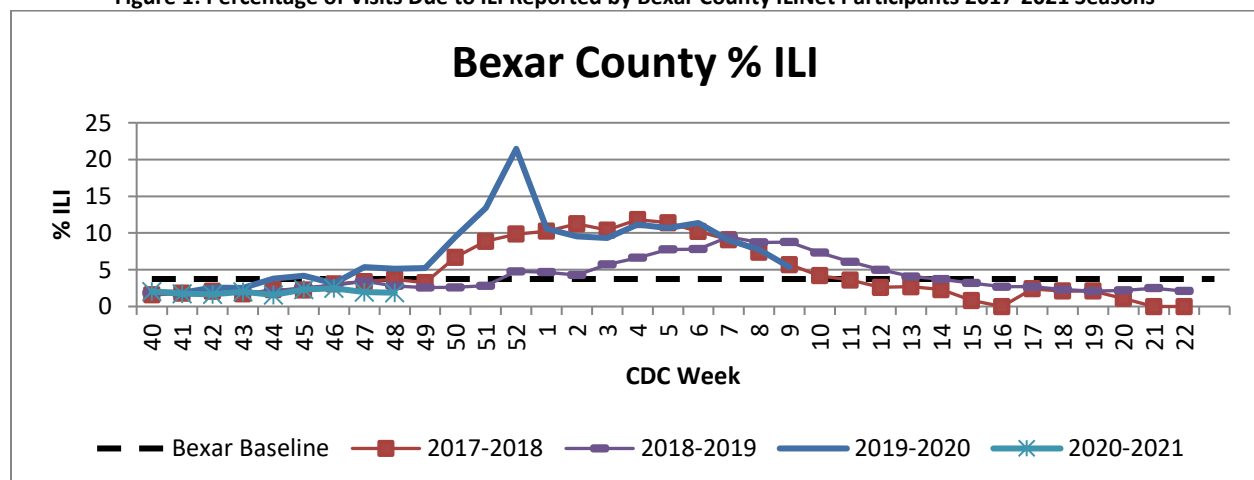
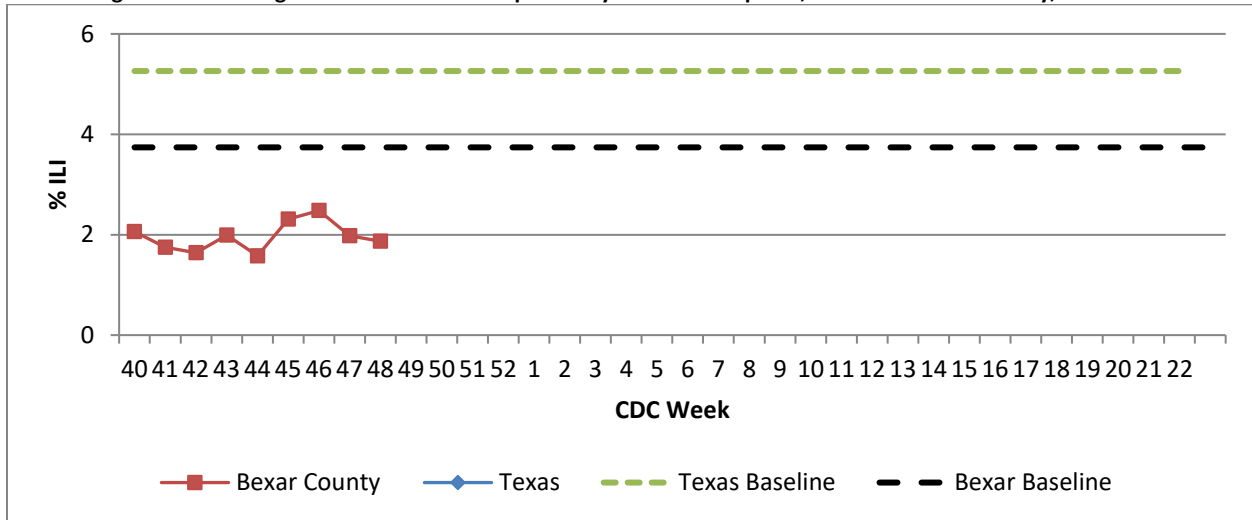


Figure 2: Percentage of Visits Due to ILI Reported by ILINet Participants, Texas and Bexar County, 2020-2021



Laboratory Results

Hospital and Public Health Laboratory Testing

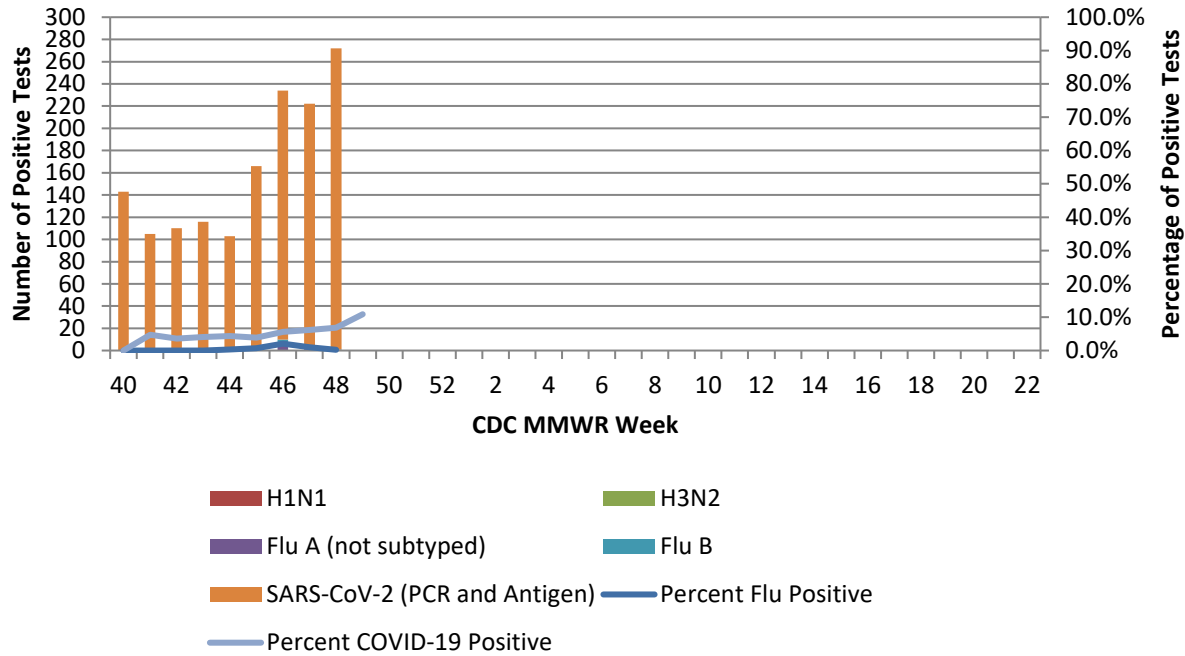
Hospital laboratories voluntarily report influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). Providers throughout Bexar County also submit specimens for influenza testing and SARS-CoV-2 testing (PCR and antigen) to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District’s (Metro Health) public health laboratory. The results reported by Texas NREVSS participants and Metro Health for the current week are summarized in the table below.

Table 2: Influenza and COVID-19 testing performed in Bexar County for the Current and Previous Week

	Current Week 48	Previous Week 47	Cumulative since September 27, 2020 (Week 40)
Number of Influenza specimens tested	507	417	3299
Number of positive Influenza specimens (n, %)	1 (0.2%)	4 (1.0%)	19 (0.6%)
Positive Influenza specimens by type/subtype (n, %)			
Influenza Type A	0 (0.0%)	2 (50.0%)	10 (52.6%)
Subtyping performed	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
H1N1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
H3N2	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Subtyping not performed	0 (0.0%)	2 (100.0%)	10 (100.0%)
Influenza Type B	1 (100.0%)	2 (50.0%)	9 (47.4%)
Number of COVID-19 specimens tested	2488	3160	26840
Number of positive COVID-19 specimens (n, %)	271 (11.0%)	218 (6.9%)	1452 (5.4%)
Confirmed (n, %)	271 (100.0%)	218 (100.0%)	1452 (100.0%)
Probable (n, %)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Note: Influenza data included in this table is voluntarily submitted weekly via NREVSS and Metro Health laboratory and reporting may vary from week to week. SARS-CoV-2 data for this table is also submitted weekly via NREVSS and the Metro Health Laboratory.

Figure 3: Number and Percentage of Positive Influenza (PCR) and COVID-19 Tests (PCR and Antigen), Bexar County, 2020-2021



Note: Influenza data included in this graph is voluntarily submitted weekly via NREVSS and the Metro Health laboratory and reporting may vary from week to week. SARS-CoV-2 data in this graph is also submitted weekly via NREVSS and the Metro Health Laboratory.

Sentinel Provider Laboratory Testing

Providers throughout Bexar County also submit influenza test results (antigen, PCR) to Metro Health on a voluntary basis. These sites are recruited to send this information on a weekly basis. The results from the participating providers are summarized in the table below (Table 3).

Table 3: Influenza testing performed by Bexar County Sentinel Providers

	Current Week 48	Previous Week 47	Cumulative since September 27, 2020 (Week 40)
Number of providers reporting flu tests	12	12	-
Number of positive specimens	2	5	24
Positive specimens by type/subtype (n, %)			
Influenza Type A, total	1 (50.0%)	5 (100.0%)	16 (66.7%)
PCR	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (6.3%)
Subtyping performed	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
H1N1	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
H3N2	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (100.0%)
Subtyping not performed	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Antigen (rapid) test	1 (100.0%)	5 (100.0%)	15 (93.7%)
Influenza Type B, total	1 (50.0%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (33.3%)
PCR	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Antigen (rapid) test	1 (100.0%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (100.0%)

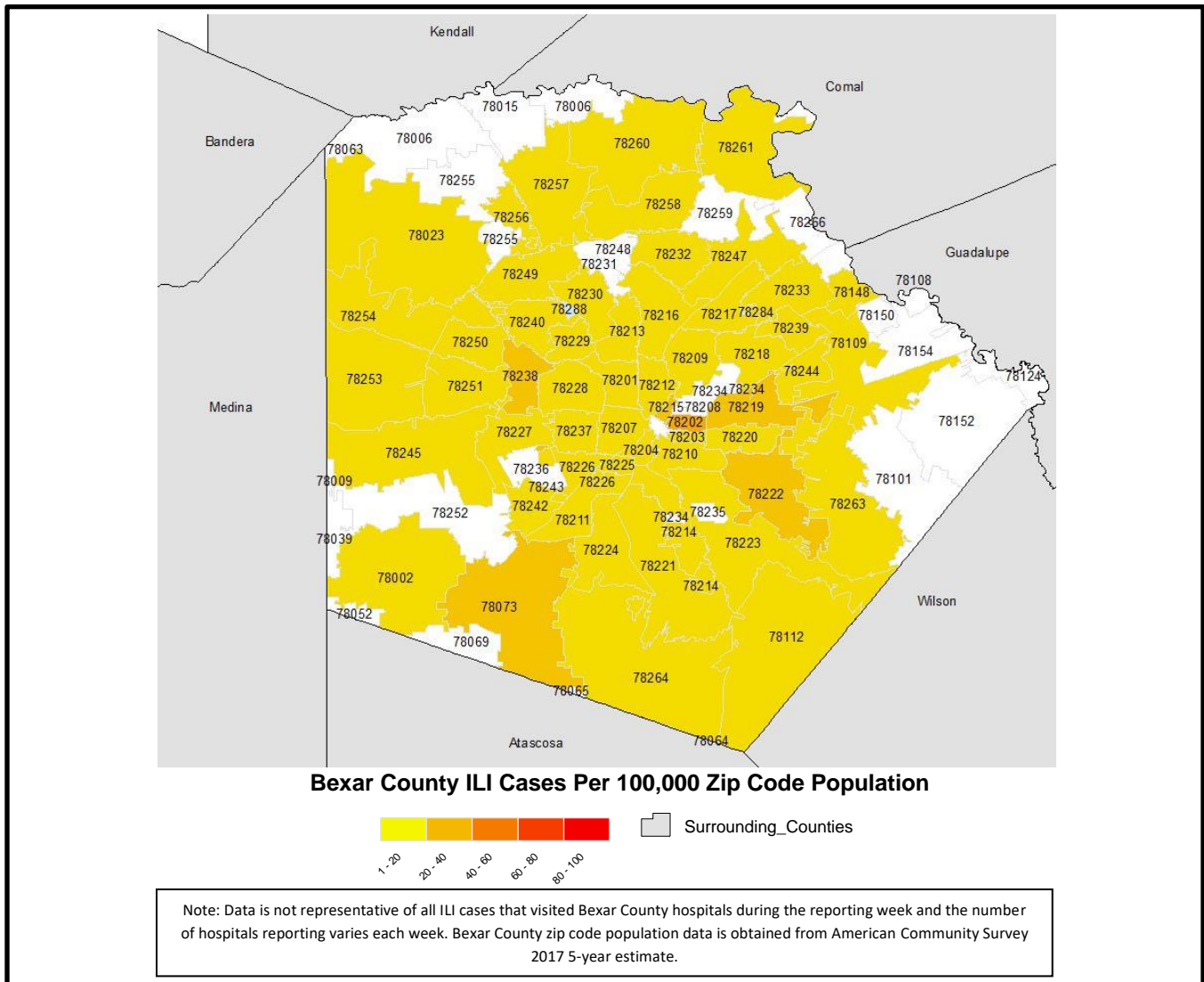
Texas Syndromic Surveillance (TXs2)

Hospital providers throughout Bexar County voluntarily report data based on chief complaints of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) plus cough and/or sore throat. Participating providers are required to report data every 24 hours.

Table 4: ILI Cases Reported by Age Group in TXs2 during MMWR Week 48

Age Group	ILI Cases	ILI Percentage
0 – 4 Years	38	23.3%
5 – 24 Years	39	24.0%
25 – 49 Years	55	33.7%
50 – 64 Years	17	10.4%
65 +	14	8.6%

Figure 4: MMWR Week 48 TXs2 Reported ILI Cases by Zip Code



P&I Mortality Surveillance Data

Pneumonia and influenza (P&I) death data are obtained from death certificates of Bexar County residents whose underlying or contributing cause(s) of death is reported as pneumonia or influenza.

Table 5: Bexar County P&I Deaths Occurring November 22, 2020 – November 28, 2020 by Age Group

Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths
0-4	0
5-17	0
18-49	0
50-64	5
65+	5

Note: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

COVID-19 Mortality Surveillance Data

COVID-19 Mortality Data is obtained from Bexar County death certificates.

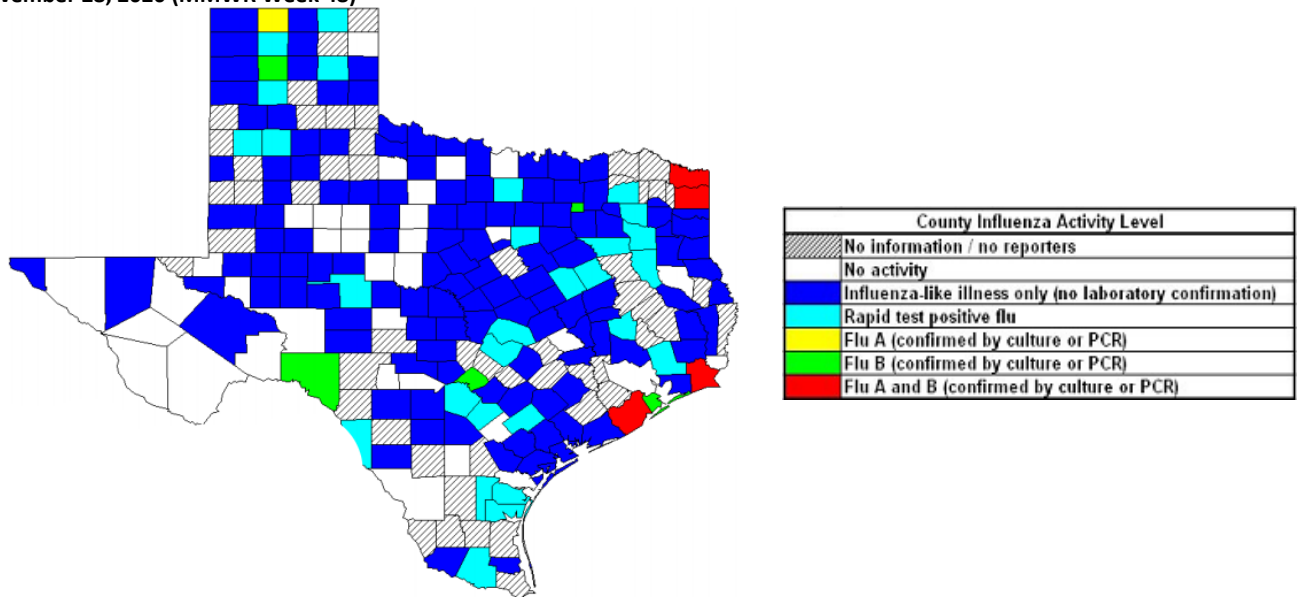
Table 6: Bexar County COVID-19 Deaths Occurring November 22, 2020 – November 28, 2020 by Age Group

Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths
0-4	0
5-17	0
18-49	1
50-64	2
65+	14

Note: Data are provisional and subject to change, errors, and duplicates

Statewide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 5: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending November 28, 2020 (MMWR Week 48)

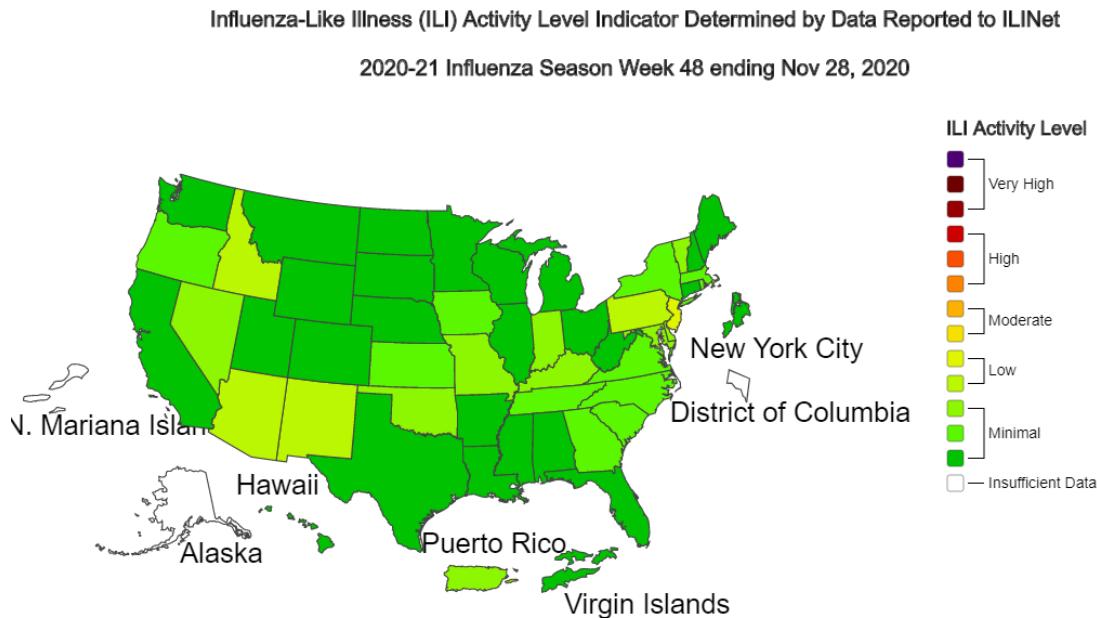


Note: The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law in Texas. This map contains data from sentinel sites and only displays influenza and ILI cases that were reported to public health. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date, or date received in the laboratory if the former is unknown.

Source: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/>

Nationwide Influenza Activity Map

Figure 6: US Influenza Activity Estimates



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>

- **View More Bexar County Weekly Influenza Reports on San Antonio Metropolitan Health District's Website:** <https://www.sanantonio.gov/Health/News/HealthDataReports>
- Note: Bexar County seasonal baseline was calculated using a method similar to CDC's National/Regional baseline calculation. For further information on this method, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>
- Influenza-like illness (ILI): patients with a fever of $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ and a cough/sore throat
- Influenza activity codes are determined using GIS and are based on influenza activity per zip code tabulation area (ZCTA) within a quadrant-based system for Bexar county.
 - No activity = No or low ILI activity (all four quadrants have <20 per ZCTA population) and no lab confirmed cases
 - Sporadic = Isolated cases of lab confirmed influenza and increased ILI activity in at least one of the four defined Bexar quadrants, but activity does not exceed 100 cases per ZCTA population.
 - Localized = ILI activity within one Bexar quadrant increases above 100 cases per ZCTA population, but all other quadrants remain below 100 cases AND lab confirmed cases have increased since the previous week
 - Widespread = ILI activity has increased above 100 cases per ZCTA population in 2 or more quadrants and lab confirmed cases of influenza have had an increased activity level at least one of the three prior reporting weeks
- **For questions about influenza surveillance and reporting for Bexar County**, email SA Metro Health's Influenza Surveillance Coordinator, Annika Jones at Annika.jones@sanantonio.gov.