

**Bexar County Influenza Surveillance Report, 2019-2020 Season; 2019 MMWR Week 50**  
(December 8, 2019 – December 14, 2019)

**Summary**

Influenza activity is widespread in San Antonio and Bexar County; activity level continues to increase. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) increased and there was an increase in reports of specimens testing positive for influenza by the public health and hospital laboratories. There were zero pediatric deaths reported this week and three influenza-associated outbreaks were reported.

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

	Percent Change from Previous Week	Current Week 50	Previous Week 49	Data Cumulative since September 29, 2019 (Week 40)
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by hospitals and public health laboratory	↑ 83.1%	24.9%	13.6%	6.7%
Percentage of visits due to ILI <sup>+</sup>	↑ 82.7%	9.5%	5.2%	3.6%
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	No Change	0	0	0
Number of pediatric influenza deaths	No Change	0	0	1
Influenza activity code <sup>++</sup>	No Change	Widespread	Widespread	N/A

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

<sup>+</sup>Based on ILINet data

<sup>++</sup>Based on ESSENCE 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 2016-2020 Seasons**

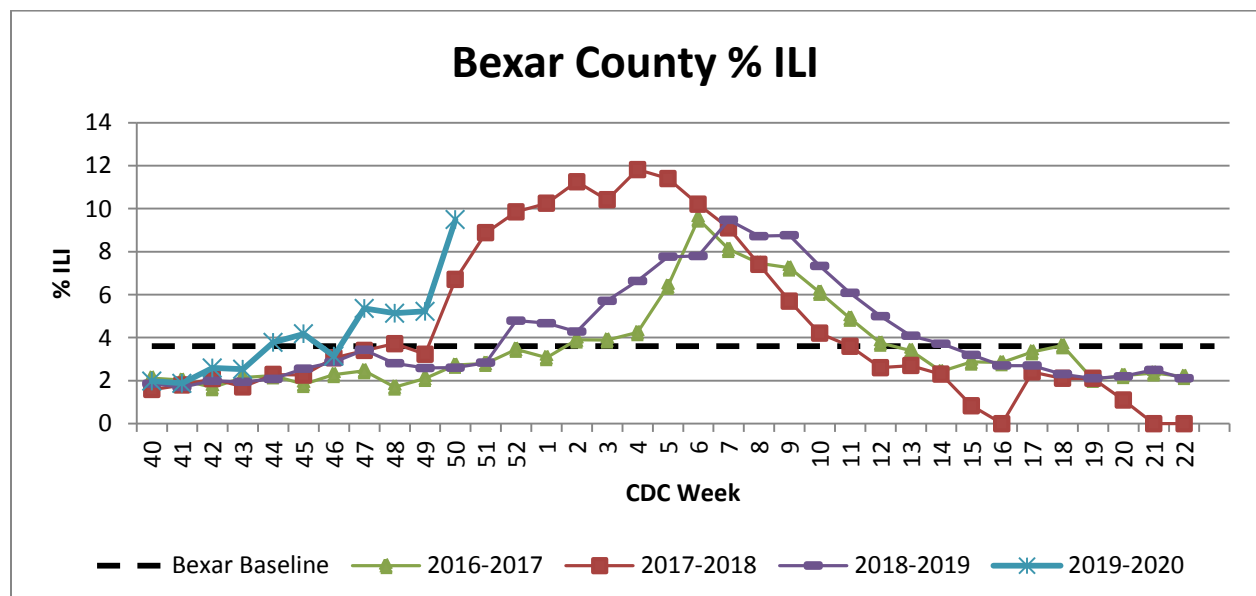
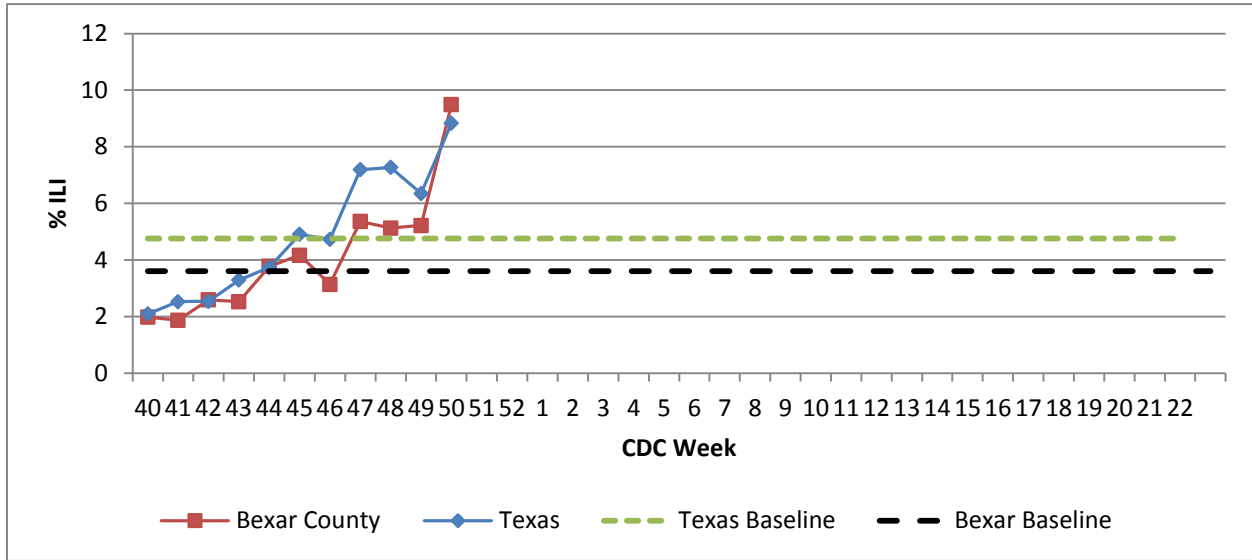


Figure 2: Percentage of Visits Due to ILI Reported by ILINet Participants, Texas and Bexar County, 2019-2020



## Laboratory Results

### Hospital and Public Health Laboratory Testing

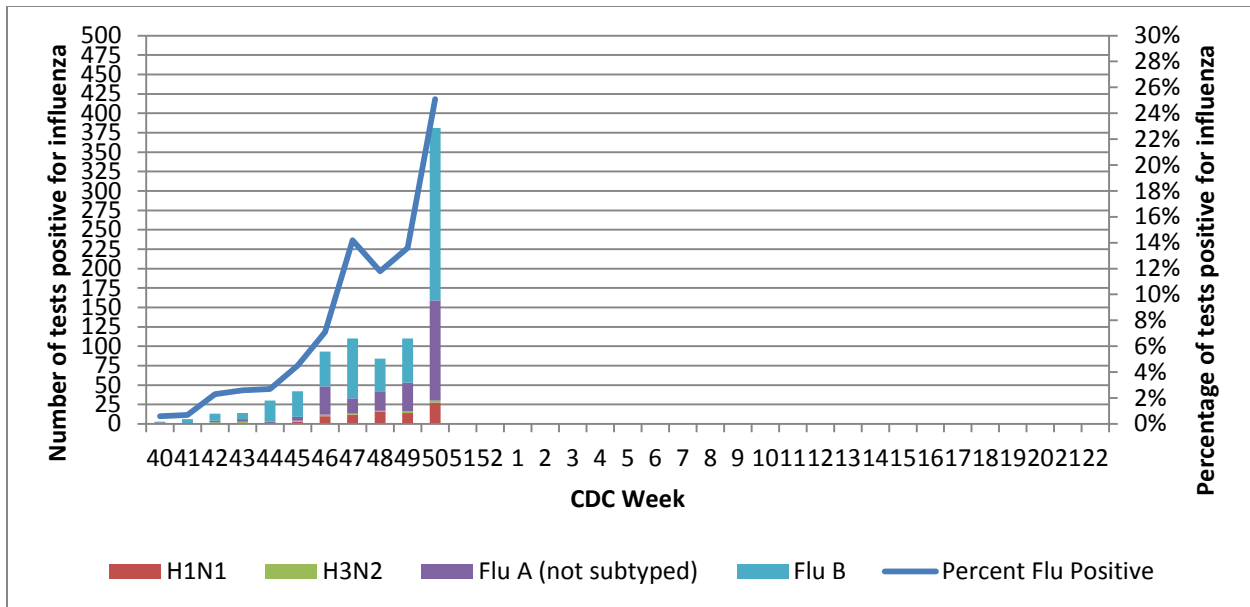
Hospital laboratories voluntarily report influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). Providers throughout Bexar County also submit specimens for influenza testing (PCR) to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District’s (Metro 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 testing performed in Bexar County for the Current and Previous Week

	Current Week 50	Previous Week 49	Cumulative since September 29, 2019 (Week 40)
<b>Number of specimens tested</b>	1530	808	9047
<b>Number of positive specimens (n, %)</b>	381 (24.9%)	110 (13.6%)	886 (9.8%)
<b>Positive specimens by type/subtype (n, %)</b>			
<b>Influenza Type A</b>	159 (41.7%)	53 (48.2%)	359 (40.5%)
<b>Subtyping performed</b>	30 (18.9%)	16 (30.2%)	99 (27.6%)
<b>H1N1</b>	27 (90.0%)	14 (87.5%)	85 (85.6%)
<b>H3N2</b>	3 (10.0%)	2 (12.5%)	14 (14.1%)
<b>Subtyping not performed</b>	129 (81.1%)	37 (69.8%)	260 (72.4%)
<b>Influenza Type B</b>	222 (58.3%)	57 (51.8%)	527 (59.5%)

Note: Data included in this table is voluntarily submitted weekly via NREVSS and Metro Health laboratory and reporting may vary from week to week.

Figure 3: Number and Percentage of PCR Tests Positive for Influenza by Type and Subtype, Bexar County, 2019-2020



### 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 50	Previous Week 49	Cumulative since September 29, 2019 (Week 40)
Number of providers reporting flu tests	20	20	-
Number of positive specimens	486	374	1870
<b>Positive specimens by type/subtype (n, %)</b>			
<b>Influenza Type A, total</b>	212 (43.6%)	161 (43.0%)	789 (42.2%)
<b>PCR</b>	79 (37.3%)	52 (32.3%)	231 (29.3%)
Subtyping performed	36 (45.6%)	18 (34.6%)	103 (44.6%)
H1N1	33 (91.7%)	16 (88.9%)	91 (88.3%)
H3N2	3 (8.3%)	2 (11.1%)	12 (11.7%)
Subtyping not performed	43 (54.4%)	34 (65.4%)	128 (55.4%)
<b>Antigen (rapid) test</b>	133 (62.7%)	109 (67.7%)	558 (70.7%)
<b>Influenza Type B, total</b>	274 (56.4%)	213 (57.0%)	1081 (57.8%)
<b>PCR</b>	105 (38.3%)	155 (72.8%)	285 (26.4%)
<b>Antigen (rapid) test</b>	169 (61.7%)	58 (27.2%)	796 (73.6%)

Note: Data included in this table is voluntarily submitted weekly by our sentinel flu providers. This data may not be comparable to previous flu seasons because providers vary by year.

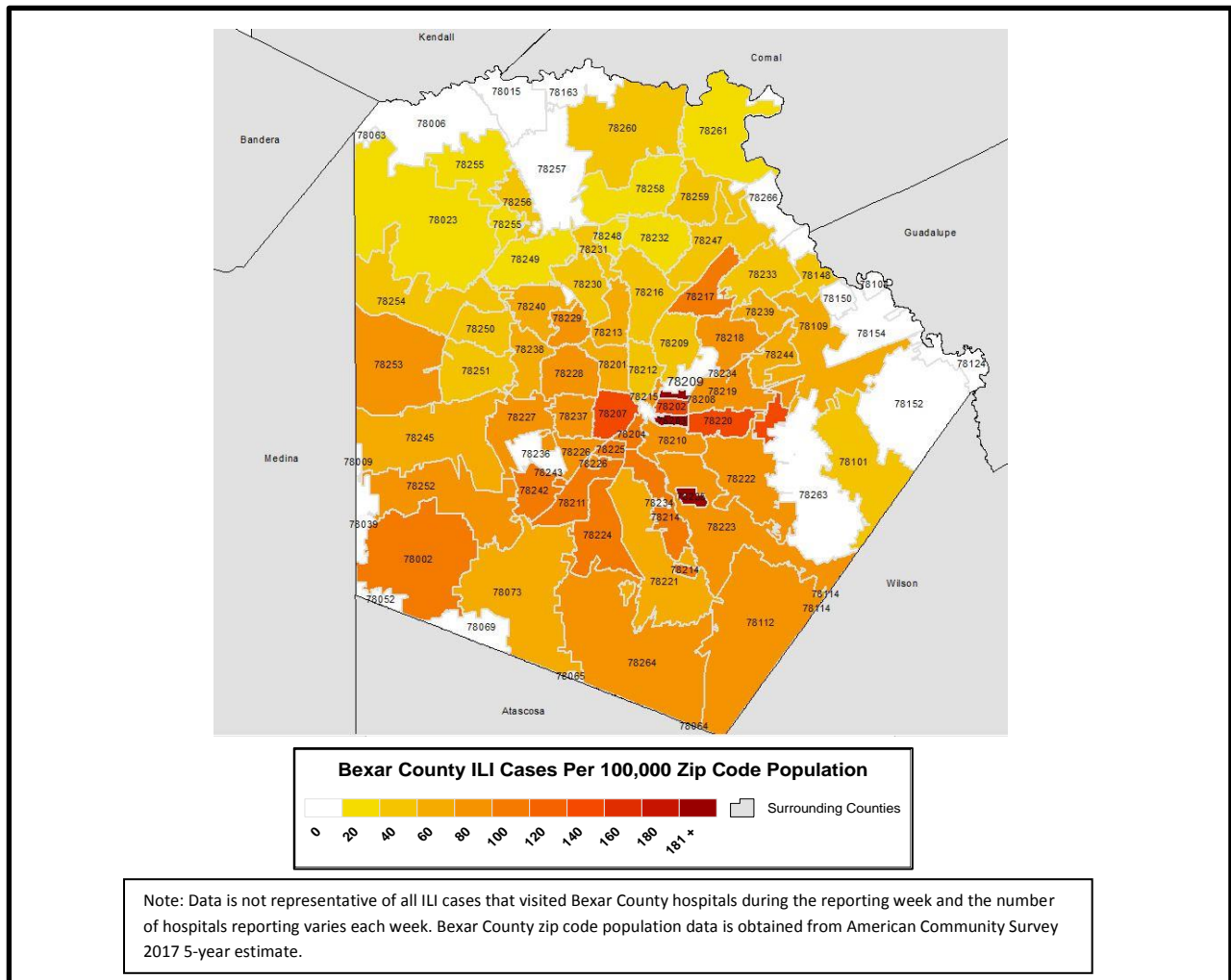
## Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE)

Hospital providers throughout Bexar County voluntarily report data based on chief complaints of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) defined by influenza or fever plus cough and sore throat. Participating providers are required to report data every 24 hours.

**Table 4: ILI Cases Reported by CDC ILI Age Group in ESSENCE during MMWR Week 50**

CDC ILI Age Group	ILI Cases Per Age Group	ILI Percentage Per Age Group
0 – 4 Years	359	36.5%
5 – 24 Years	394	40.0%
25 – 49 Years	173	17.6%
50 – 64 Years	39	4.0%
65 +	19	1.9%

**Figure 4: MMWR Week 50 ESSENCE 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 September 29, 2019 – December 14, 2019 by Age Group**

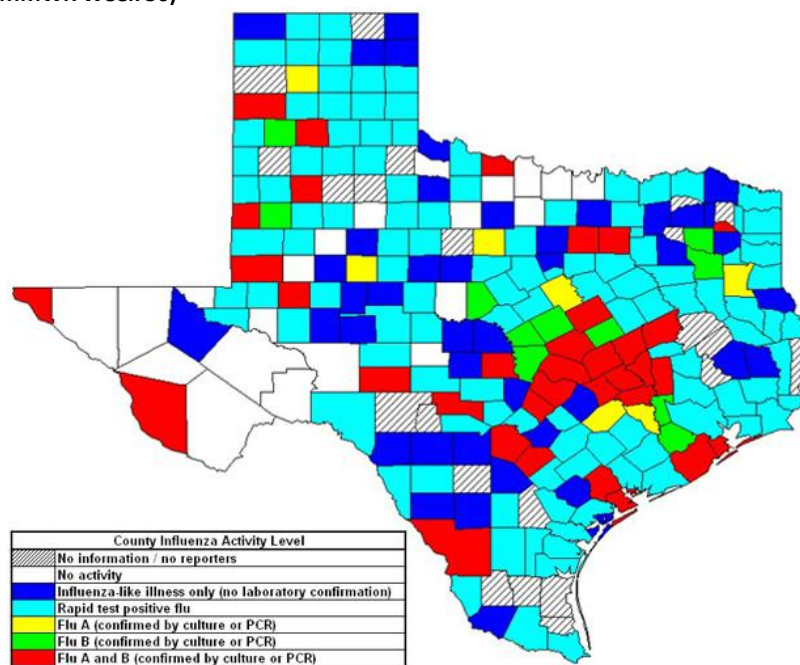
Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths <sup>+</sup>
0-4	<10
5-17	<10
18-49	10
50-64	31
65+	112

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

<sup>+</sup>If cell count is less than 10, the number of P&I deaths is suppressed and <10 is written in the cell

## Statewide Influenza Activity Map

**Figure 5: Texas Map Displaying the Highest Level of Influenza or ILI Activity Reported by County for the Week Ending December 14, 2019 (MMWR Week 50)**



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/>

