

Bexar County Influenza Surveillance Report, 2019-2020 Season; 2019 MMWR Week 46
(November 10, 2019 – November 16, 2019)

Summary

Influenza activity is widespread in San Antonio and Bexar County; activity level remains low. Compared to the previous week, the percentage of patient visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased and there was an increase in reports of specimens testing positive for influenza by the public health and hospital laboratories. There were no influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported this week nor any influenza-associated outbreaks.

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

	Percent Change from Previous Week	Current Week 46	Previous Week 45	Data Cumulative since September 29, 2019 (Week 40)
Percentage of specimens positive for influenza by hospitals and public health laboratory	↑57.8	7.1	4.5	3.1
Percentage of visits due to ILI ⁺	↓26.2	3.1	4.2	2.9
Number of variant/novel influenza infections	No change	0	0	0
Number of pediatric influenza deaths	No change	0	0	0
Influenza activity code ^{**}	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.

⁺Based on ILINet data

^{**}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

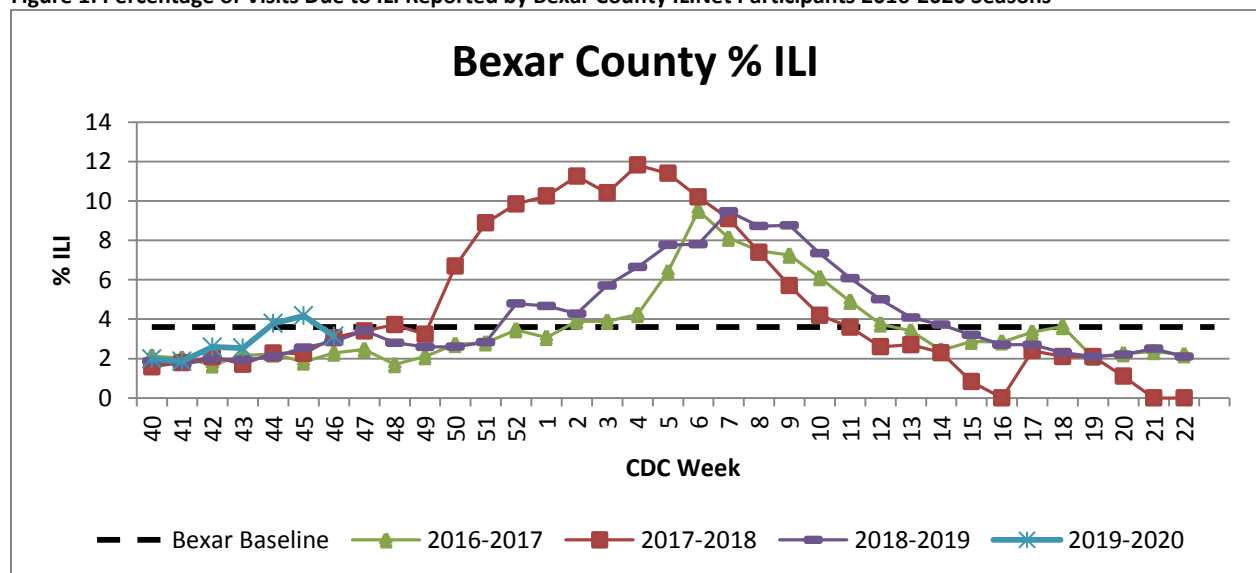
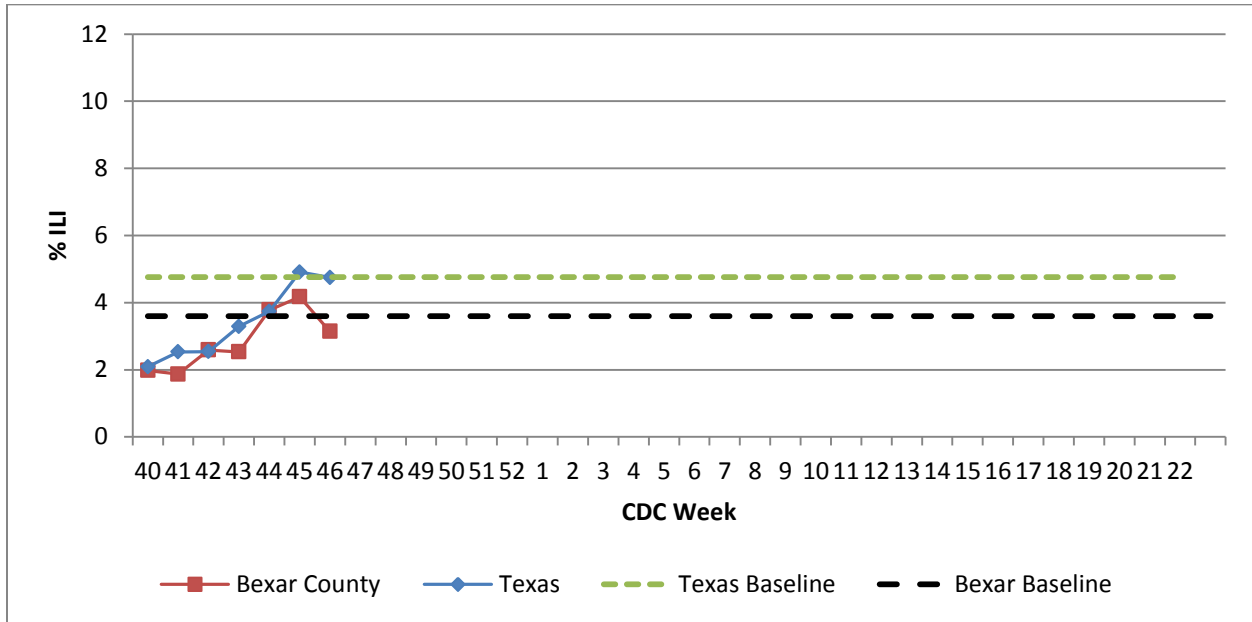


Figure 2: Percentage of Visits Due to ILI Reported by ILINet Participants, Texas and Bexar County, 2019-2020



Laboratory Results

Hospital and Public Health Laboratory Testing

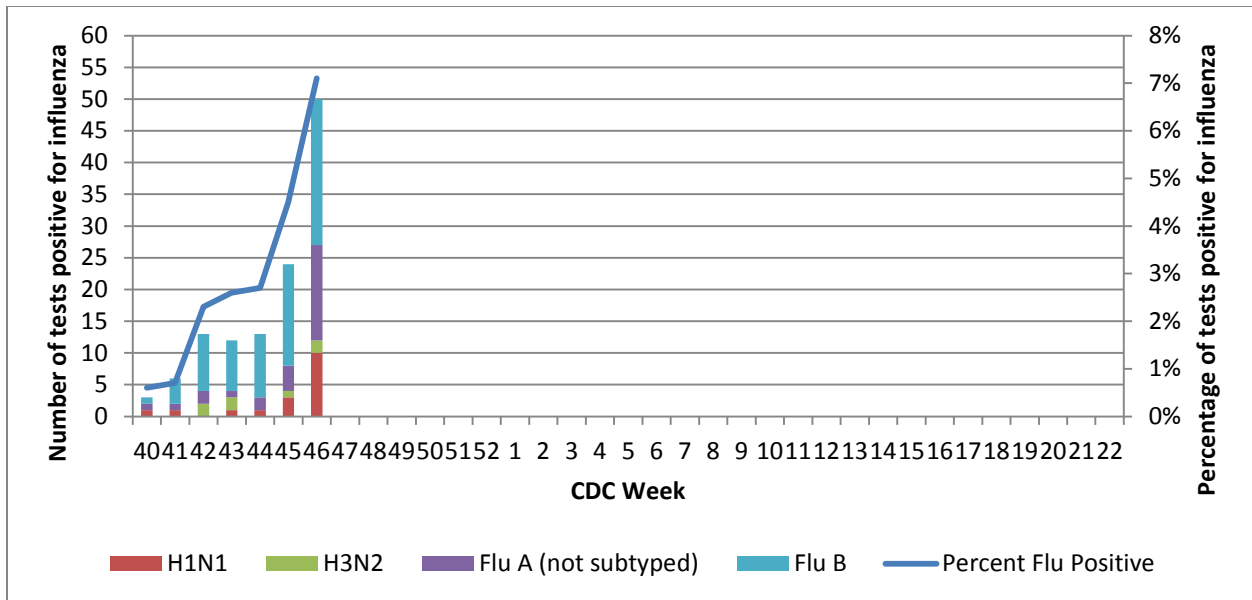
Hospital laboratories voluntarily report influenza tests (antigen, culture, and PCR) to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS). Providers throughout Bexar County also submit specimens for influenza testing (PCR) to the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District’s (Metro 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 46	Previous Week 45	Cumulative since September 29, 2019 (Week 40)
Number of specimens tested	708	646	3438
Number of positive specimens (n, %)	50 (7.1%)	24 (4.5%)	107 (3.1%)
Positive specimens by type/subtype (n, %)			
Influenza Type A	27 (54.0%)	8(33.3%)	46 (43.0%)
Subtyping performed	12 (44.4%)	4 (50.0%)	20 (43.5%)
H1N1	10 (83.3%)	3(75.0%)	13 (65.0%)
H3N2	2 (16.7%)	1(25.0%)	7 (35.0%)
Subtyping not performed	15 (55.6%)	4 (50.0%)	26 (56.5%)
Influenza Type B	23 (46.0%)	16 (66.7%)	65 (60.7%)

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 46	Previous Week 45	Cumulative since September 29, 2019 (Week 40)
Number of providers reporting flu tests	20	20	-
Number of positive specimens	101	109	356
Positive specimens by type/subtype (n, %)			
Influenza Type A, total	41 (40.6%)	32 (29.4%)	116 (32.6%)
PCR	2 (4.8%)	10 (31.3%)	22(19.0%)
Subtyping performed	0 (0.0%)	6 (60.0%)	12 (54.5%)
H1N1	0(0.0%)	5(83.3%)	7(58.3%)
H3N2	0(0.0%)	1 (16.7%)	5(41.7%)
Subtyping not performed	2 (100.0%)	4 (40.0%)	10(45.5%)
Antigen (rapid) test	39 (95.1%)	22 (68.7%)	94(81.0%)
Influenza Type B, total	60 (59.4%)	77 (70.6%)	240 (67.4%)
PCR	2 (3.3%)	17 (22.1%)	202(84.2%)
Antigen (rapid) test	58 (96.7%)	60 (77.9%)	38(15.8%)

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

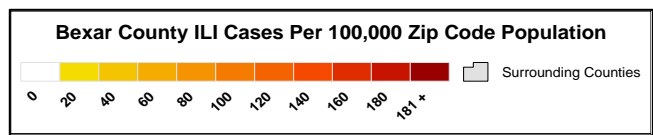
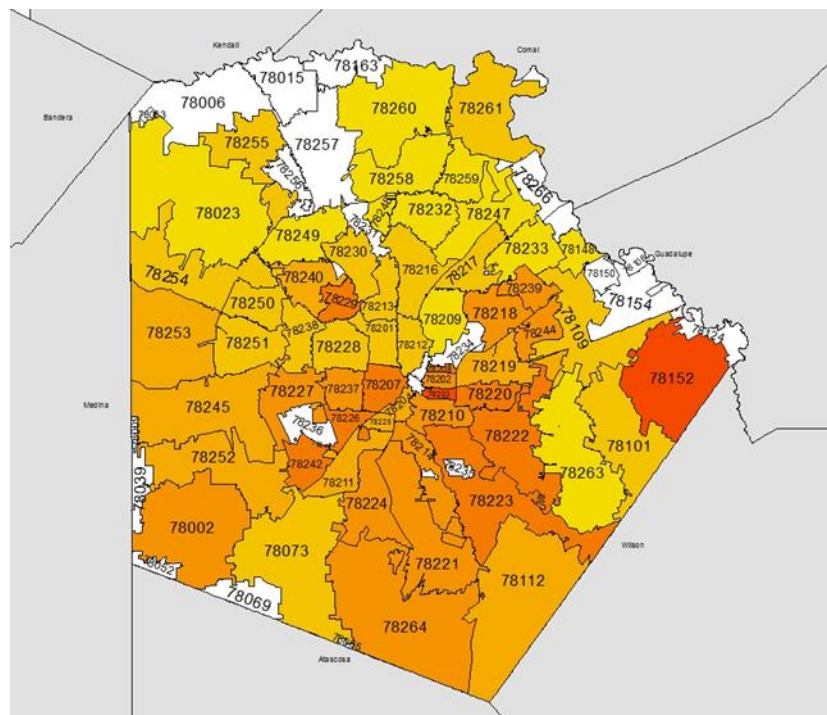
(ESSENCE)

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 46

CDC ILI Age Group	ILI Cases Per Age Group	ILI Percentage Per Age Group
0 – 4 Years	381	45.3
5 – 24 Years	324	38.5
25 – 49 Years	91	10.8
50 – 64 Years	30	3.6
65 +	15	1.8

Figure 4: MMWR Week 46 ESSENCE Reported ILI Cases by Zip Code



Note: Data is not representative of all ILI cases that visited Bexar County hospitals during the reporting week and the number of hospitals reporting varies each week. Bexar County zip code population data is obtained from American Community Survey 2017 5-year estimate.

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 – November 16, 2019 by Age Group

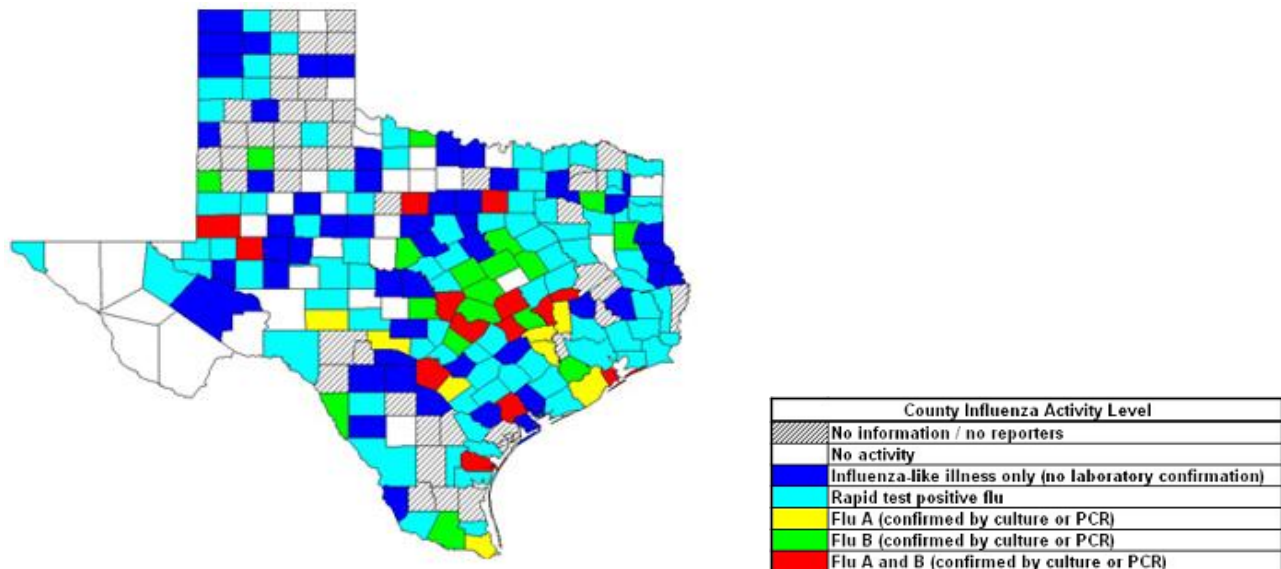
Age Category (years)	Number of P&I Deaths ⁺
0-4	<10
5-17	<10
18-49	<10
50-64	13
65+	66

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

⁺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 November 16, 2019 (MMWR Week 46)



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/>

