



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

Communicable Disease Control Division
 1010 Massachusetts Ave - Boston, MA 02118
 Phone: (617) 534-5611 - Fax: (617) 534-5905

Influenza Report - For the week ending 1/6/2018

10/1/2017 -1/6/2018

Reported Cases (Boston Res.)	#
Influenza A	312
Influenza B	59
Influenza A and B	0
Influenza (<i>type unspecified</i>)	0
TOTAL (season-to-date)	371

ED Surveillance	
This Week % ILI	1.83%
Average % ILI (since 10/1/2017)	1.10%

Summary: As of 1/6/2018, 371 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), with 92 (25%) requiring hospitalization. Two influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date; both persons had multiple underlying medical conditions. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.83% of all ED visits this week.

Note: Boston city data may not parallel aggregate statewide data as other areas of Massachusetts may experience different trends.

Providers should continue offering vaccine to all persons ≥6 months of age through the remainder of the season. Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza and its complications.

Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC by calling (617) 534-5611 or faxing reports to (617) 534-5905.

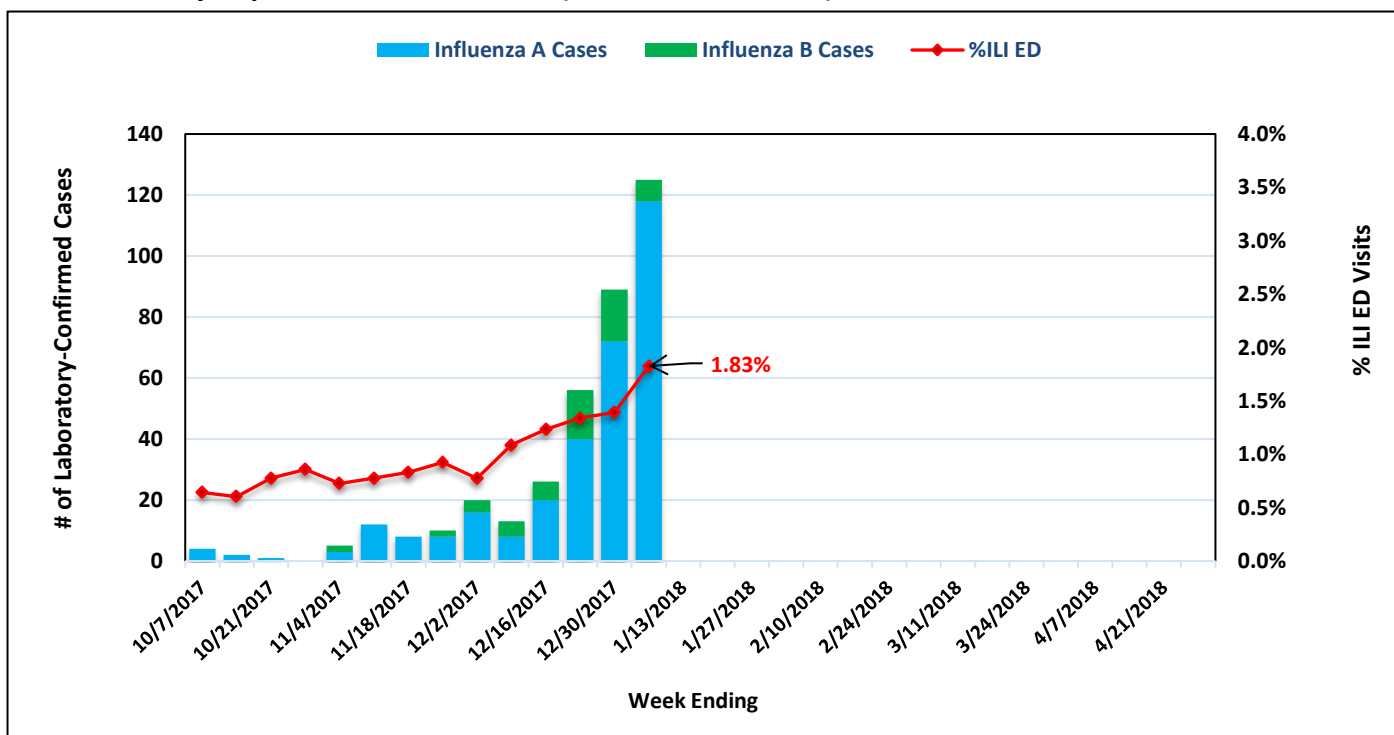
On December 27, 2017, a Health Advisory was released by CDC providing: 1) a notice about increased influenza A(H3N2) activity and its clinical implications; 2) a summary of influenza antiviral drug treatment recommendations; 3) an update about approved treatment drugs and supply this season; and 4) background information for patients about influenza treatment. For more information, see: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00409.asp>

Among all circulating wild-type influenza viruses, including H3N2, no significant antigenic drift has occurred. In addition, the majority of H3N2 viruses collected and tested by the CDC since October 1, 2017 are similar to the egg-grown reference virus representing the virus recommended for use in egg-based Northern Hemisphere vaccines.

Even though it is still possible for some persons who have been vaccinated to get the flu (though NOT from the vaccine itself), studies have shown that prior vaccination during the season can attenuate the severity of illness and result in fewer influenza-associated deaths.

*****VACCINATION IS THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT INFLUENZA*****

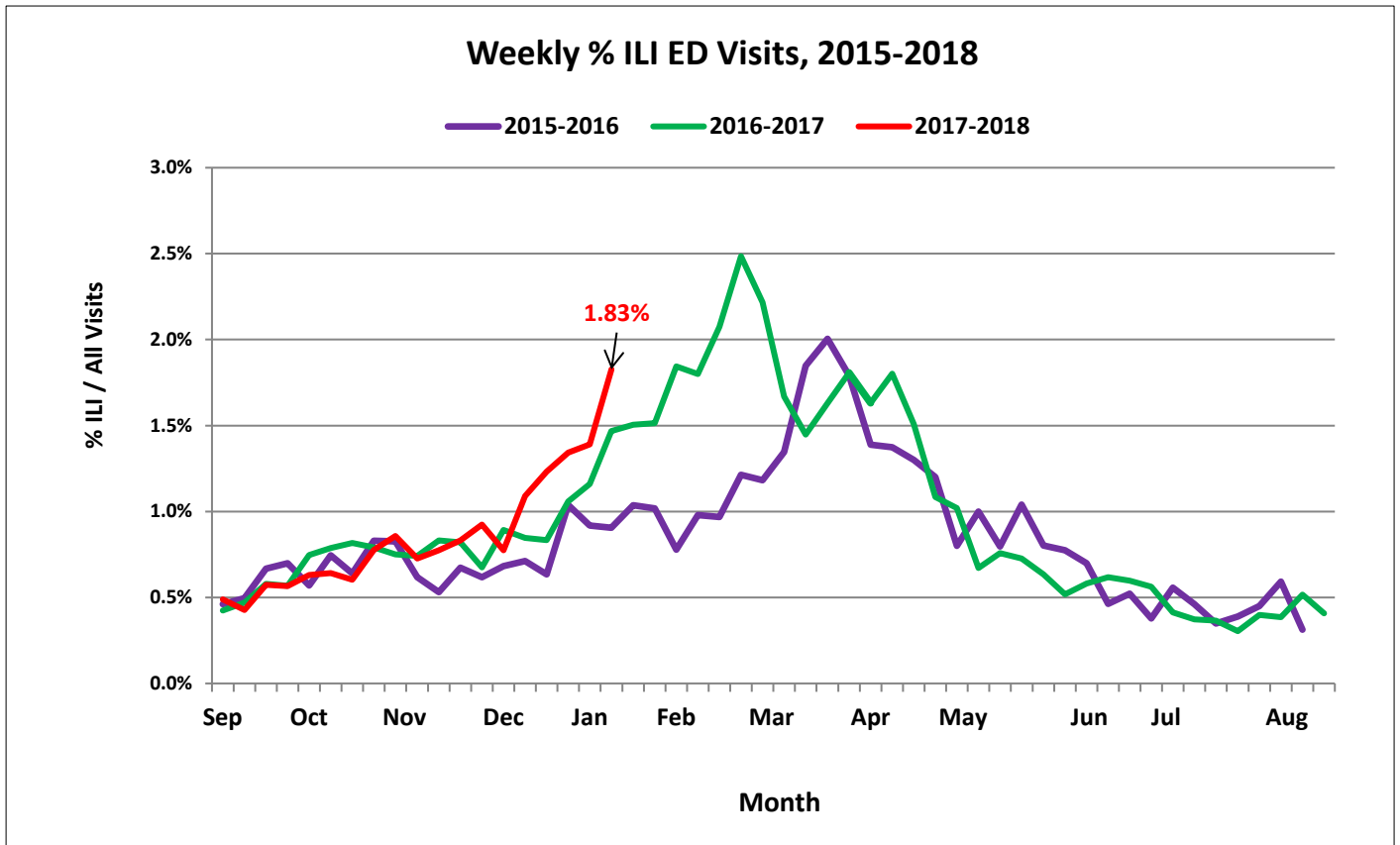
Weekly Reported Influenza Cases (in Boston residents) and % ILI ED Visits, 2017-18 Season





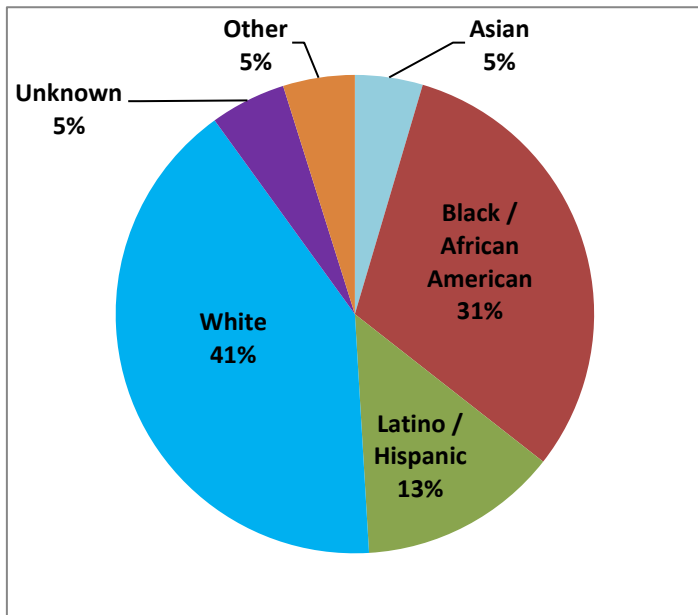
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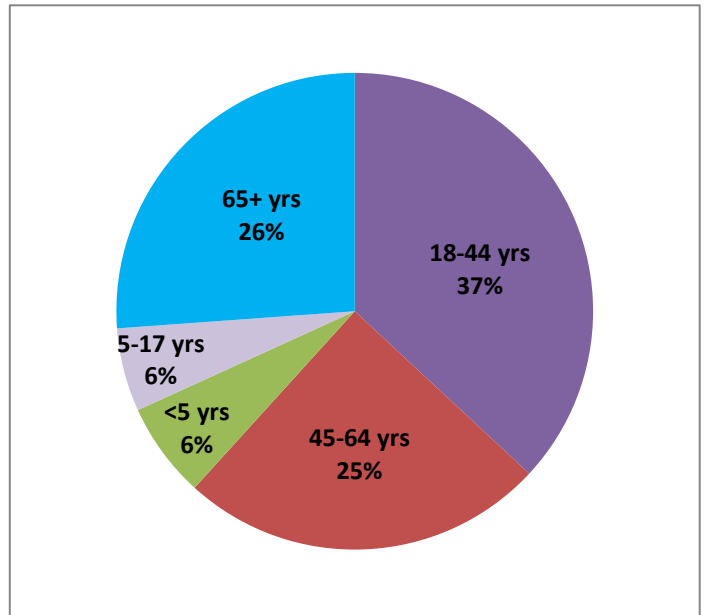


Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as "flu" OR "fever and a cough or sore throat" in the ED chief complaint as captured by the BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.

Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2017 - 1/6/2018, Boston Residents

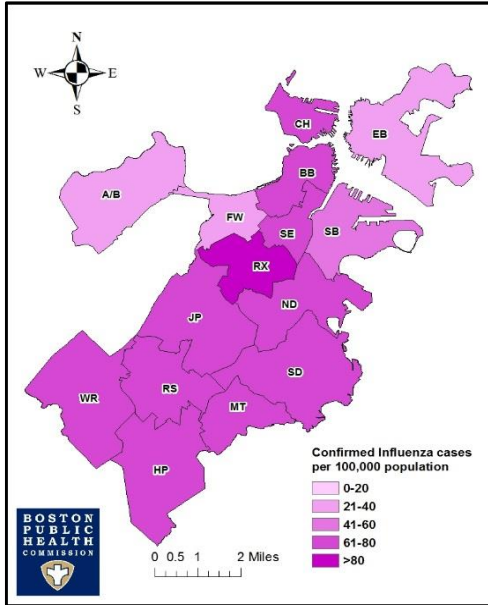


Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2017 - 1/6/2018, Boston Residents

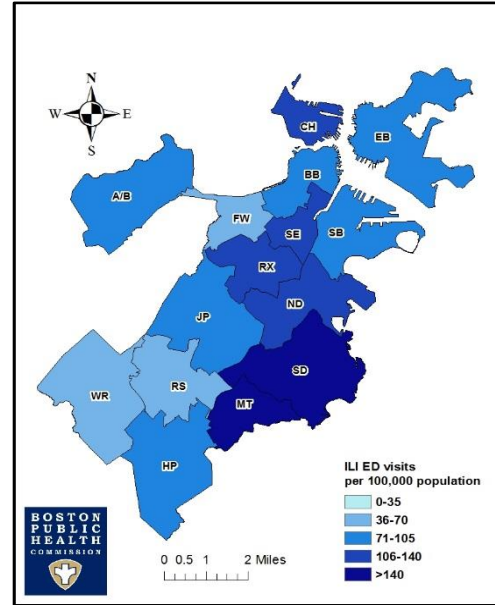


Geographic Distribution

**Rate of Confirmed Influenza Cases
by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population
October 1, 2017 - January 6, 2018**



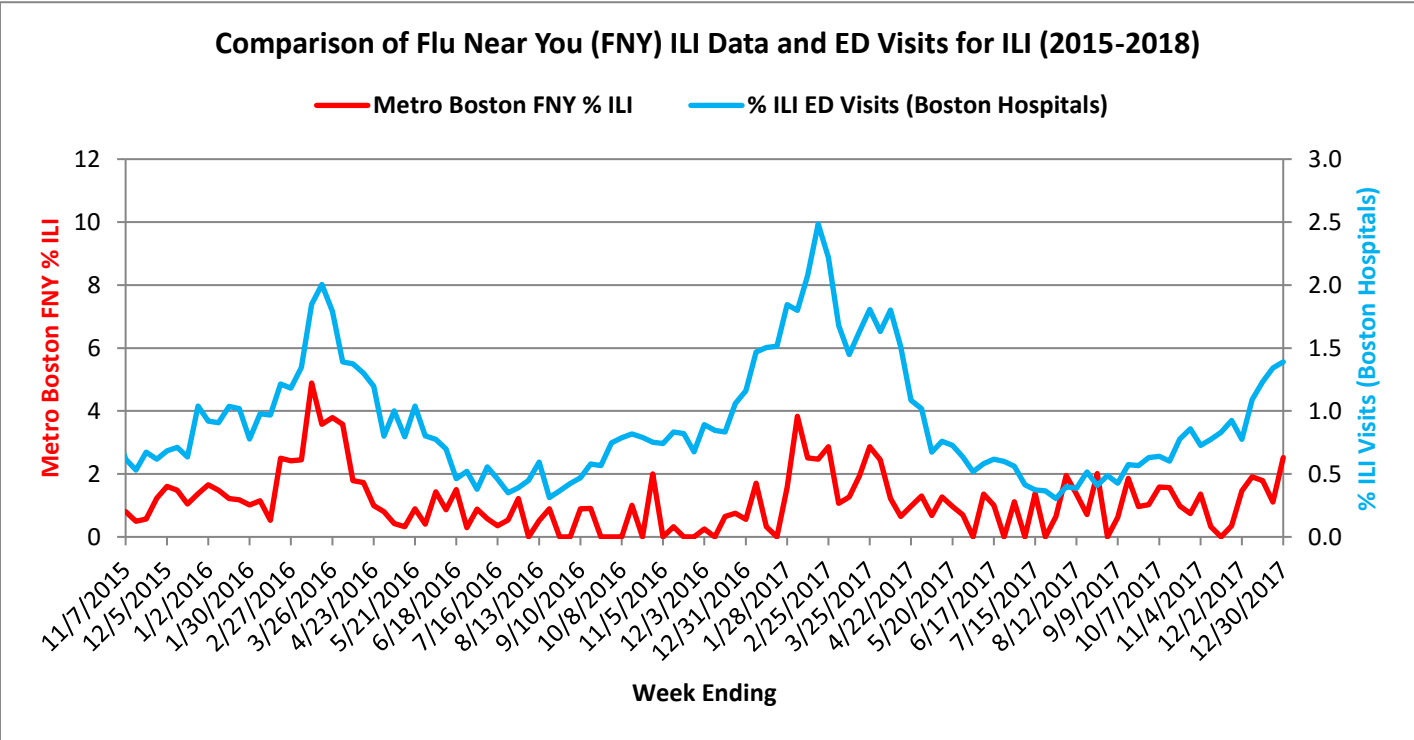
**Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits
by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population
October 1, 2017 - January 6, 2018**



Neighborhood Legend

A/B=Allston/Brighton
BB=Back Bay
CH=Charlestown
EB=East Boston
FW=Fenway
HP=Hyde Park
JP=Jamaica Plain
MT=Mattapan
ND=North Dorchester
RS=Roslindale
RX=Roxbury
SB=South Boston
SD=South Dorchester
SE=South End

Comparison of ILI Using Flu Near You (FNY)* ILI Data and ED Visits for ILI, 2015-2018



*Flu Near You (FNY) compiles weekly data of ILI activity in the United States. The data come from short, weekly internet-based surveys completed by voluntary participants who indicate whether they are healthy or have experienced any of a short list of symptoms.

The public may participate by enrolling in FNY at: <https://flunearyou.org/>