

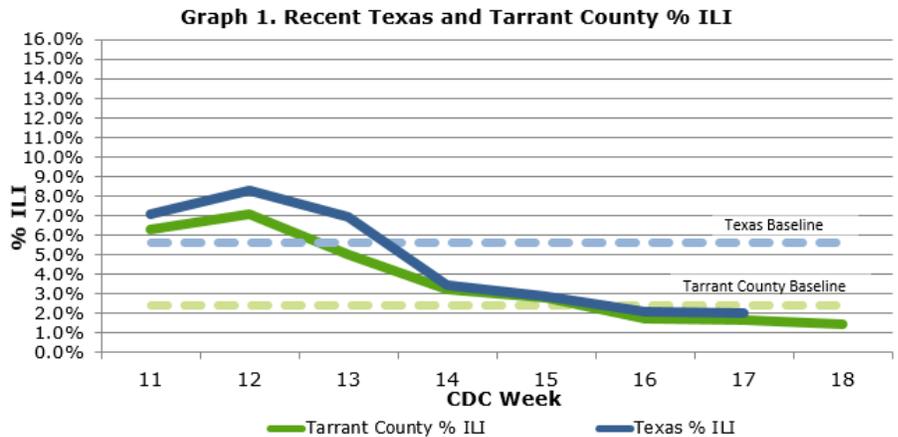
Tarrant County Public Health
Division of Epidemiology and Health Information



Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC Week 18: April 26-May 2, 2020

**Influenza Activity Code:
County and State Levels**

Tarrant County: Week 18
Not Determined
Tarrant County: Week 17
Not Determined
Texas: Week 17
Sporadic



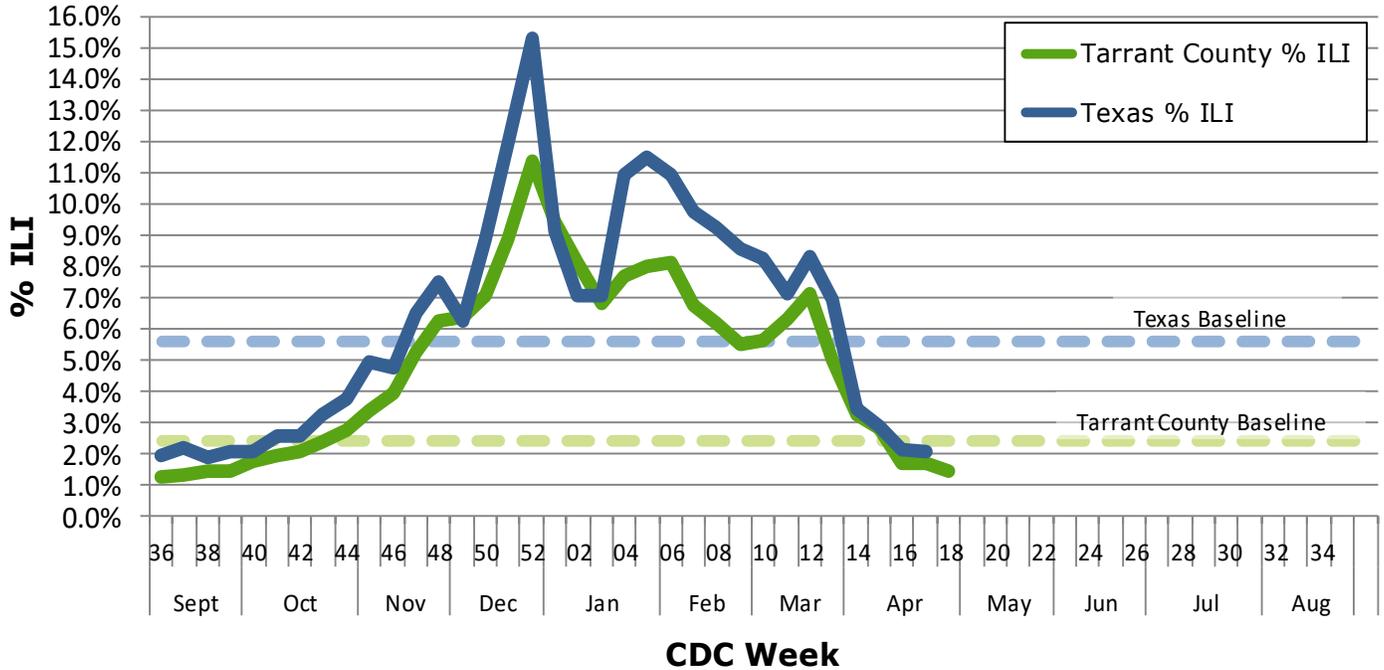
NOTE: The COVID-19 outbreak unfolding in the United States may affect healthcare seeking behavior which in turn would impact ILI data.

Respiratory Virus Activity Summary

- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Tarrant County decreased from 1.7% in week 17 to 1.4% in week 18 and is currently below the 2019-2020 Tarrant County baseline (2.4%).
- Due to school closures, no absenteeism data is reported for week 18.
- The percentage of rapid flu test positives in Tarrant County increased from 0.8% in week 17 to 1.8% in week 18.
- Based on data from the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics, the percentage of patients hospitalized following ER visits who were diagnosed with influenza remained the same at 0.1% in week 17 and in week 18.
- During the 2019-2020 influenza season, as of week 18, 4 Tarrant County influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported. As of week 17, 19 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported in Texas, with a total of 170 reported nationwide for the 2019-2020 season.
- During the 2019-2020 influenza season, 0 influenza outbreaks have been reported in Tarrant County schools and 5 localized influenza outbreaks have been reported within institutions in Tarrant County.
- As of March 7, 2020, influenza and seasonal respiratory virus testing for surveillance purposes is suspended at the North Texas Regional Laboratory to prioritize COVID-19 testing. Cumulatively this season (Sept. 29, 2019-Mar. 7, 2020), the North Texas Regional Laboratory at Tarrant County Public Health has tested 214 surveillance specimens and of these, 129 have been positive for influenza.
- In Texas during week 17, the proportion of outpatient visits for ILI, 2.1%, was below the state baseline of 4.8%.
- Nationally during week 17, 0.2% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (1.8%) was below the national baseline (2.4%). The proportion of deaths in week 17 attributed to pneumonia and influenza from the National Center for Health Statistics (9.3%) was above the epidemic threshold (6.8%).

Influenza Like Illness (ILI): Local and State Levels

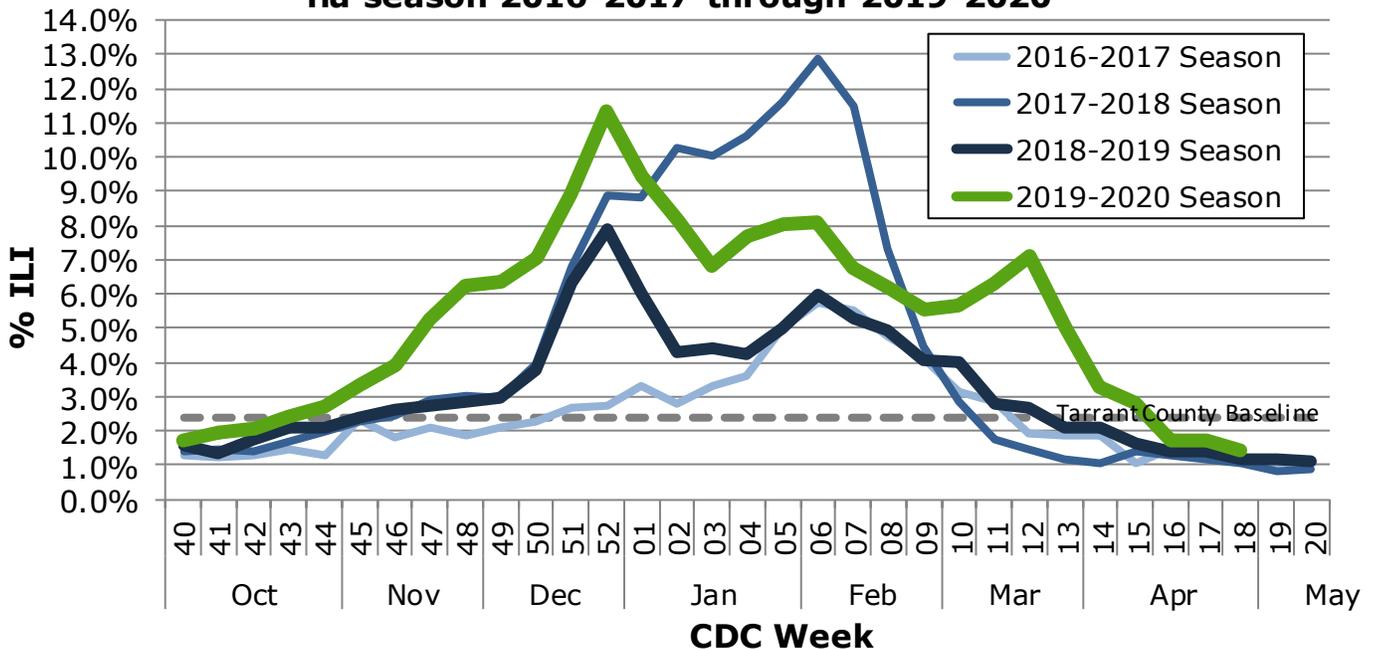
Graph 2. Texas and Tarrant County % ILI



In week 18, 1.4% of visits to health care providers were due to ILI. ILI levels are currently below the county established baseline of 2.4% and are lower than the state of Texas levels from the week prior. Age data is not available for week 18.

NOTE: Tarrant County ILI activity is assessed using information provided by surveillance participants and the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). For week 18, 16 Hospitals and 1 Business. ILI information to Tarrant County Public Health. Texas ILI activity is assessed using information provided by a network of providers. For week 17, 84 providers reported information to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Graph 4. Tarrant County % of patient visits due to ILI during flu season 2016-2017 through 2019-2020



Influenza Test Results

Table 1. Influenza Test Results, Tarrant County

CDC Week Number	16 (Apr 12-18)	17 (Apr 19-25)	18 (Apr 26-May 2)
# Influenza Tests Performed	576	512	442
% Influenza Positive	2.4%	0.8%	1.8%
# Influenza A Positive	7	0	3
% Influenza A Positive	50.0%	0.0%	37.5%
# Influenza B Positive	7	4	5
% Influenza B Positive	50.0%	100.0%	62.5%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0	0	0
% Non-differentiated Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

NOTE: Tarrant County influenza test results are reported weekly by influenza surveillance participants. For CDC week 18, influenza test results were reported by 14 Hospitals.

NOTE: As of March 7, 2020, influenza and seasonal respiratory virus testing for surveillance purposes is suspended at the North Texas Regional Laboratory to prioritize COVID-19 testing.

Table 2. Influenza Results¹ for Sept. 29, 2019—Mar. 7, 2020

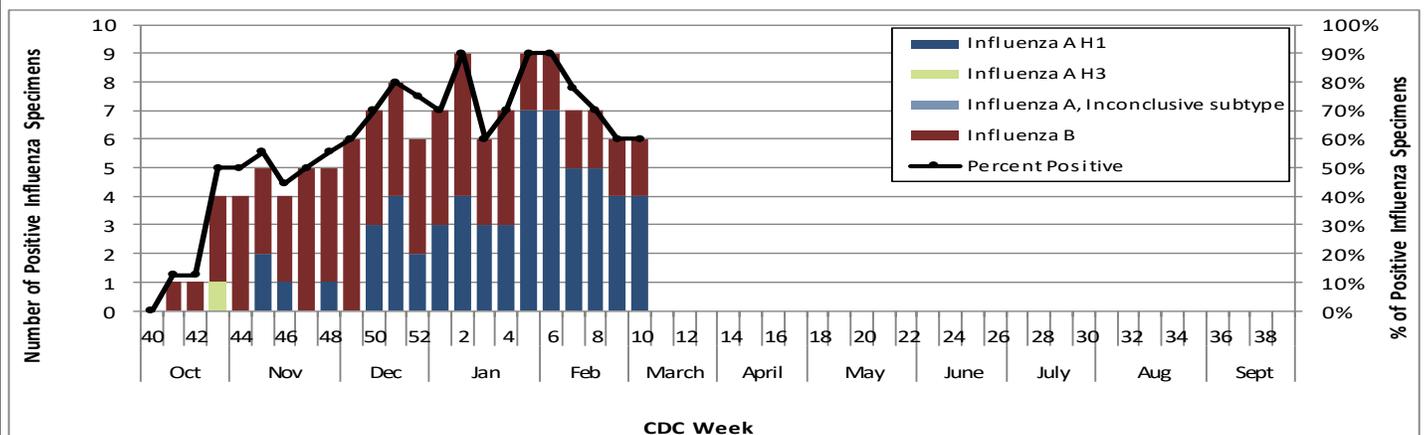
Influenza A	59
Influenza A H1	58 (98.3%)
Influenza A H3	1 (1.7%)
Influenza A, Inconclusive subtype	0 (0.0%)
Influenza A, Unsubtypeable ²	0 (0.0%)
Influenza B	70
Influenza B Yamagata ³	0 (0.0%)
Influenza B Victoria ³	68 (100.0%)
Influenza B, Inconclusive	0 (0.0%)

¹ Laboratory results based on real-time PCR analysis; information is for the 2019-2020 season.

² Influenza A subtype not determined; further analysis pending

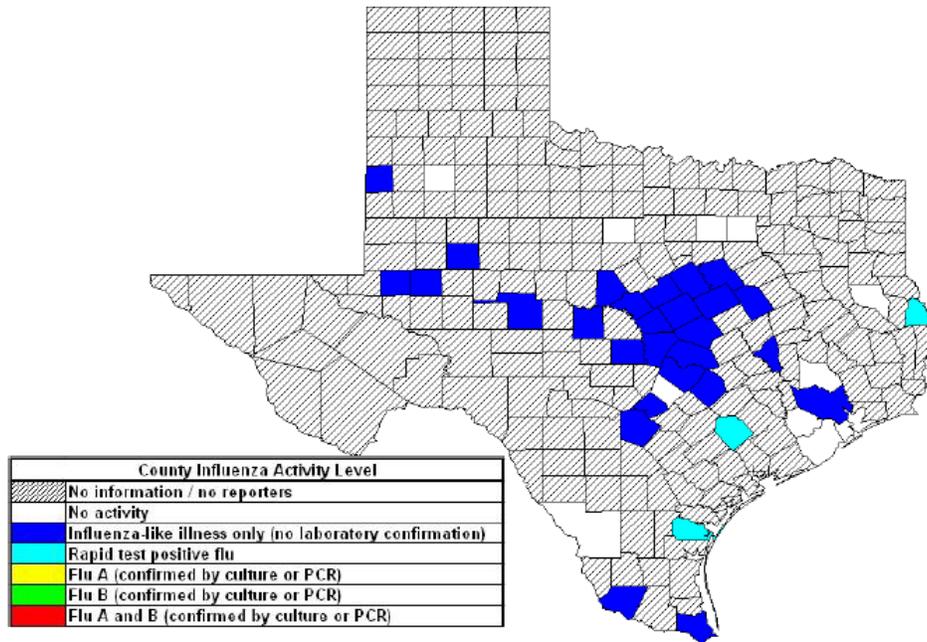
³ Influenza B genotyping pending for 2 specimens.

Graph 5. Influenza Results¹ for Sept. 29, 2019—Mar. 7, 2020



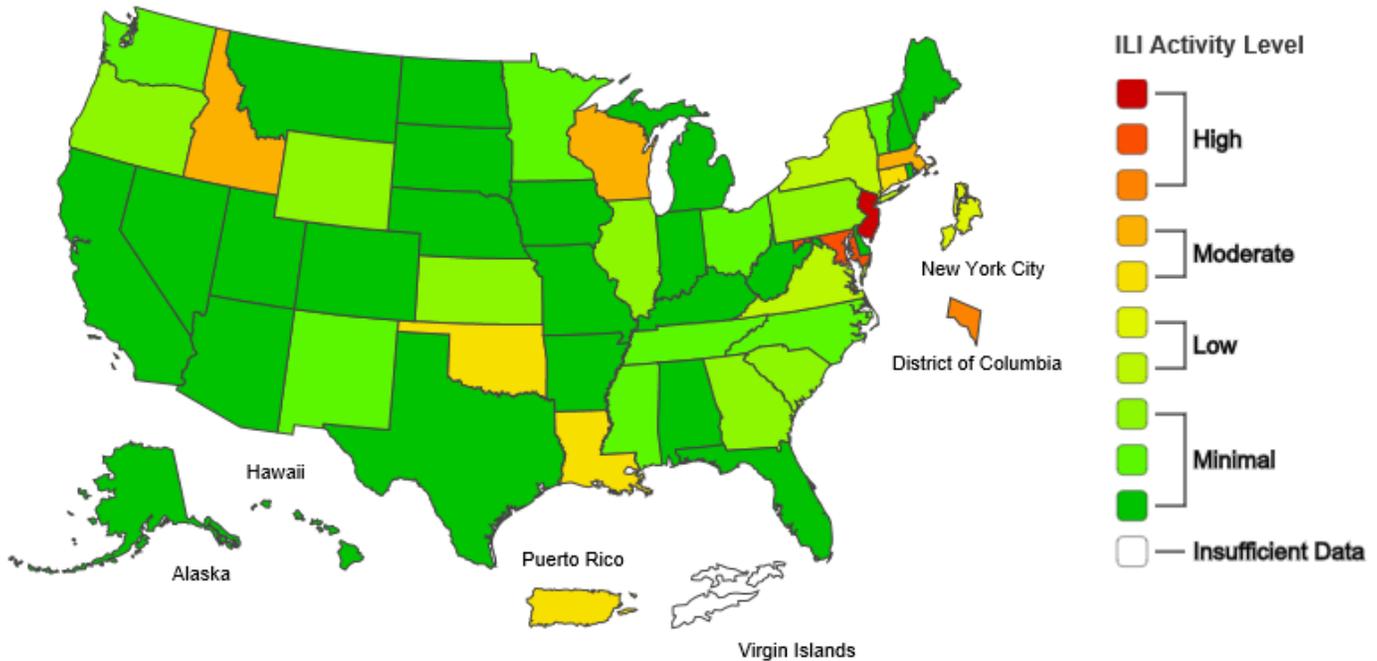
Texas and National Influenza and ILI Activity

Map 2: Texas County Specific Influenza Activity, CDC Week 17



Influenza activity level corresponds to current MMWR week only and does not reflect previous weeks' activity. The majority of influenza cases are not reportable by law to the Texas Department of State Health Services. This map contains data from sentinel sites and does not represent all influenza cases in the state. Positive laboratory results are reported according to specimen collection date or date received in the lab if the former is unknown. <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2017/>

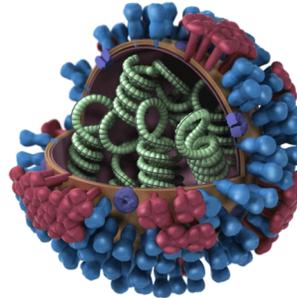
Map 3: ILINet Activity Indicator Map, CDC Week 17



Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of ILI activity by state. Activity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels. Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore, may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

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*The Tarrant County Influenza
Surveillance Weekly Report* is
available on the Tarrant County Public
Health web site at:

flu.tarrantcounty.com

**If you have questions or comments
regarding influenza surveillance,
please contact:**

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NOTE:

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever (temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) plus a cough OR a sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

Tarrant County reporting quadrants consist of Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast regions within the boundaries of Interstate 35 and Interstate 30.

Tarrant County ILI baselines were determined using a similar method as the Centers for Disease Control Prevention Regional ILI baselines and Texas Department of State Health Services Texas baseline. Regional ILI baselines are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>

Additional information regarding Tarrant County, Texas and national ILI activity can be accessed at flu.tarrantcounty.com

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/IDCU/disease/influenza/surveillance/2019-2020.aspx>

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

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