



# 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 12/30/2017

10/1/2017 -12/30/2017

Reported Cases (Boston Res.)	#
Influenza A	189
Influenza B	51
Influenza A and B	0
Influenza (type unspecified)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>

ED Surveillance	
This Week % ILI	1.39%
Average % ILI (since 10/1/2017)	0.92%

**Summary:** As of 12/30/2017, 240 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), with 64 (27%) 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 1.39% of all ED visits this week.

**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.**

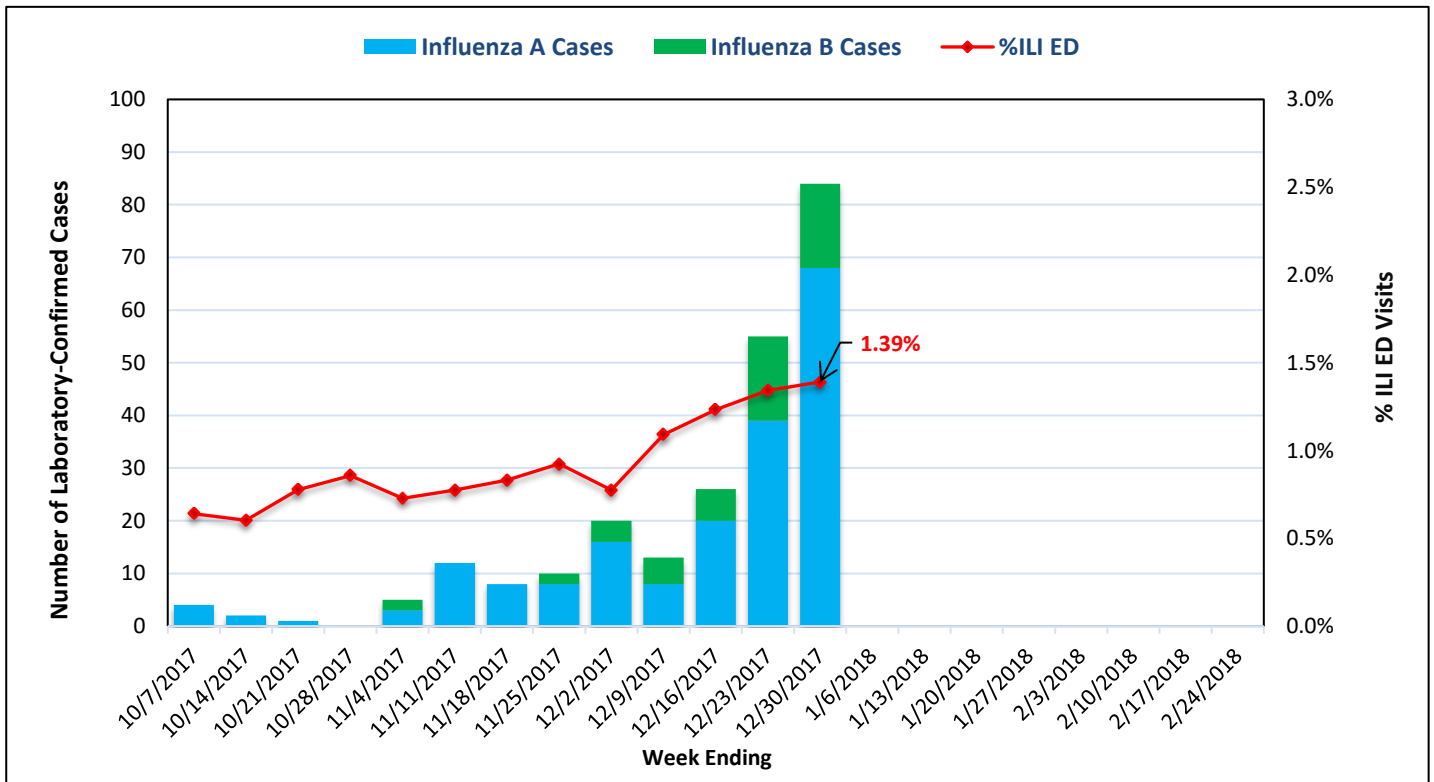
**Cases of influenza diagnosed in Boston and confirmed by any laboratory test must be reported to BPHC by calling (617) 534-5611 or faxing reports to (617) 534-5905.**

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>

The CDC has indicated that the majority of the influenza viruses collected from the US from October 1, 2017 to December 23, 2017 were characterized antigenically and genetically as being similar to the cell-grown reference viruses representing the 2017-8 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine viruses. *As the season progresses, we will continue to monitor for vaccine effectiveness.*

Characterization of the geographic spread of influenza within a state *does not* equate to intensity of influenza activity. Boston city data may not parallel statewide data as other areas of Massachusetts may experience different trends.

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

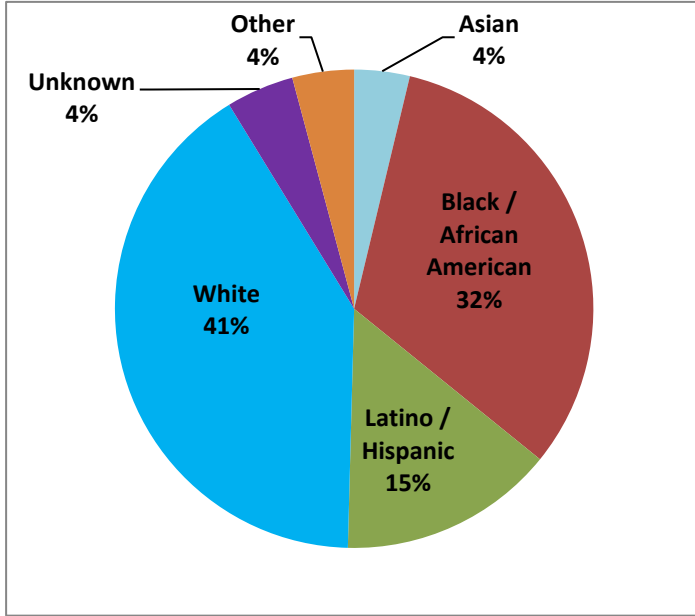




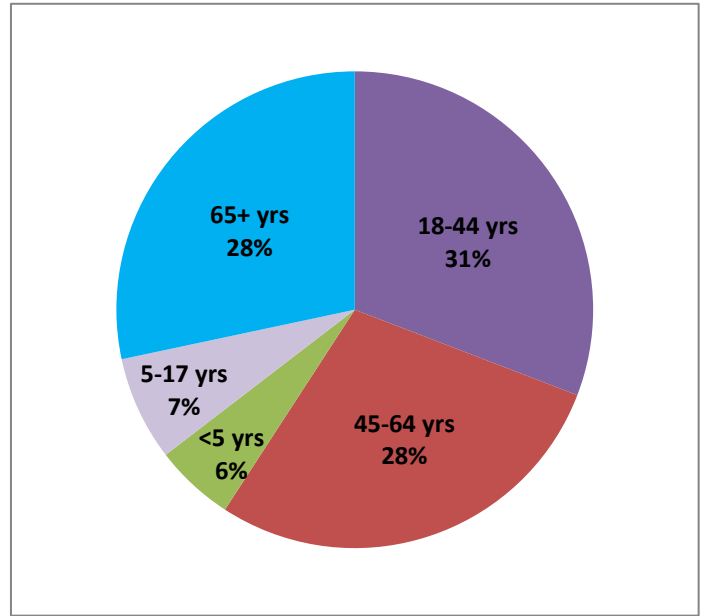
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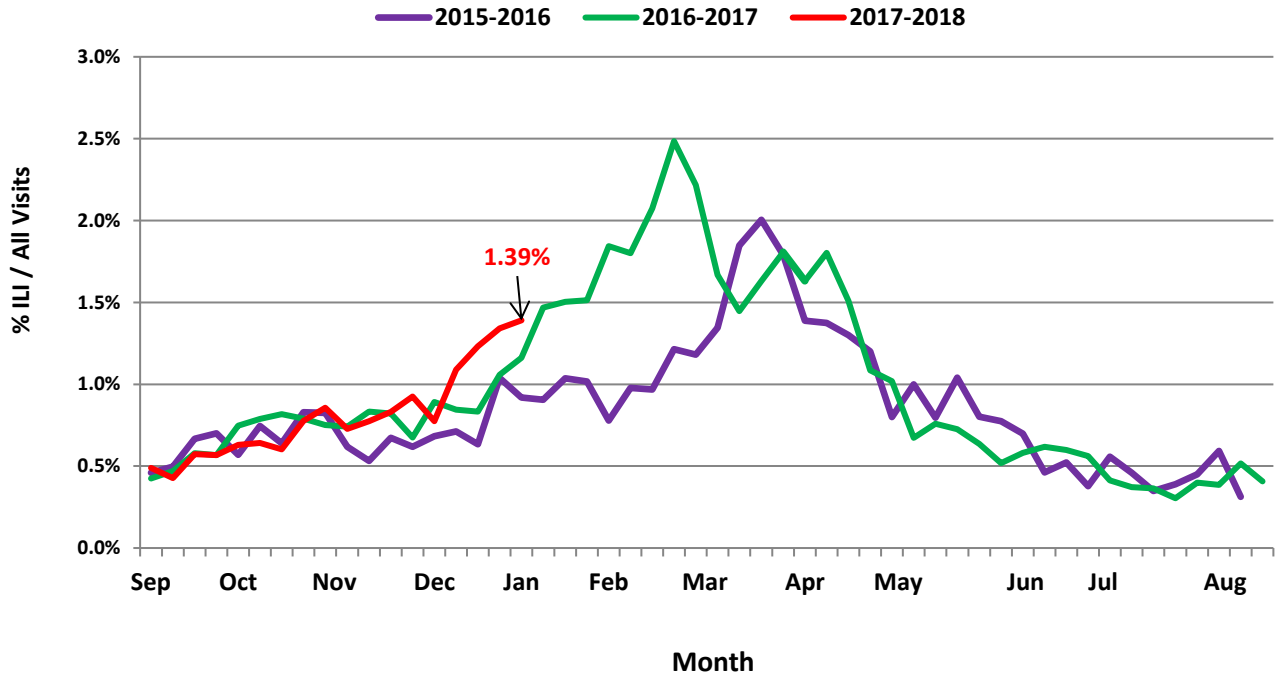
**Race/Ethnicity of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2017 - 12/30/2017, Boston Residents**



**Age Distribution of Confirmed Influenza Cases, 10/1/2017 - 12/30/2017, Boston Residents**



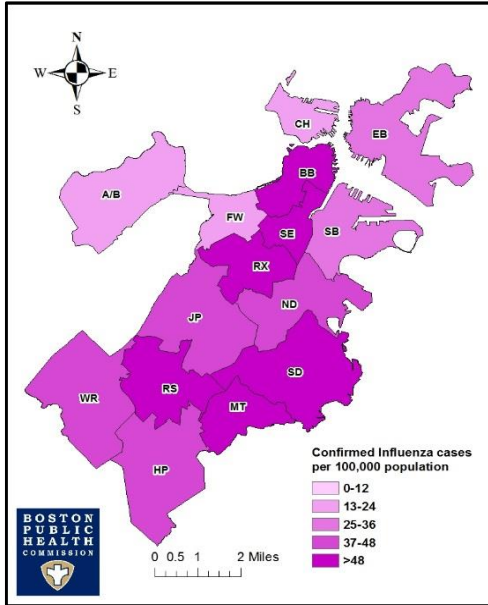
**Weekly % ILI ED Visits, 2015-2017**



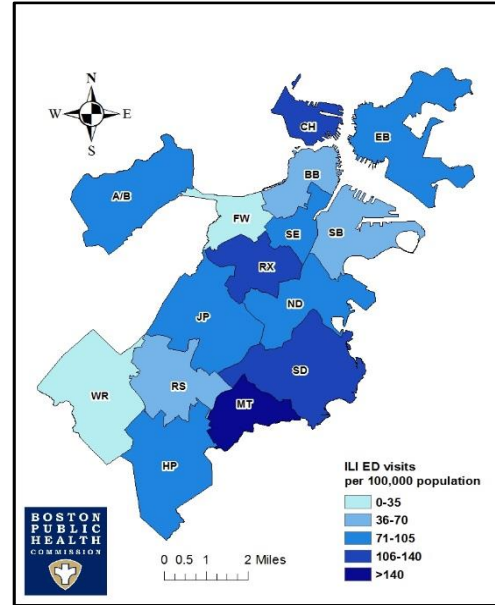
*Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as "flu" OR "fever and a cough or sore throat" in the ED chief complaint as captured by the BPHC Syndromic Surveillance System.*

**Geographic Distribution**

**Rate of Confirmed Influenza Cases  
by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population  
October 1, 2017 - December 30, 2017**



**Rate of ILI Syndrome ED Visits  
by Neighborhood per 100,000 Population  
October 1, 2017 - December 30, 2017**

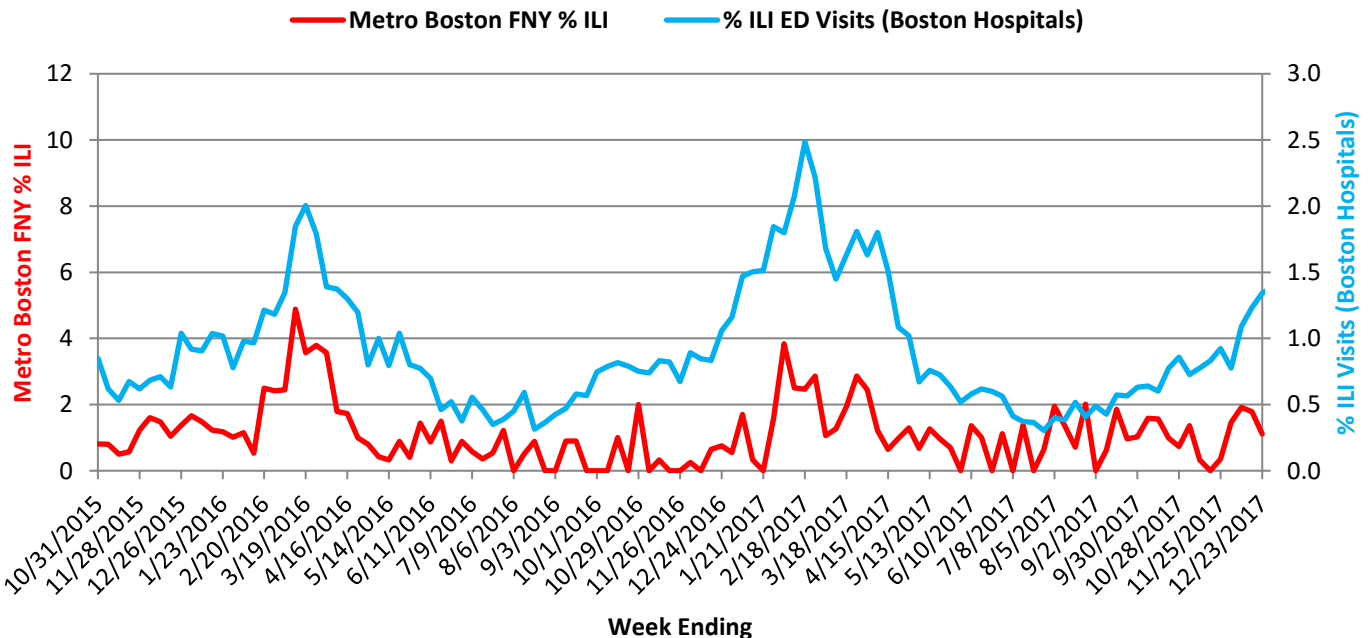


**Neighborhood Legend**

*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, 2015-2017**

**Comparison of Flu Near You (FNY) ILI Data and ED Visits for ILI (2015-2017)**



\*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/>