



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

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

Boston Influenza Report - For the Week Ending 12/15/2018 (MMWR Week 50)

9/30/2018-12/15/2018 (MMWR Week 50)

Reported Cases (Boston Residents)	# (% of total)
Influenza A	158 (87%)
Influenza B	23 (13%)
Influenza A and B	0
Influenza (type unspecified)	0
TOTAL (season-to-date)	181

Boston ED ILI Surveillance*	
This Week ILI% (Week 50)	1.42%
Last Week ILI% (Week 49)	0.94%
State/National ILI Surveillance**	
Last Week Massachusetts ILI% (Week 49)	1.62%
Last Week National ILI% (Week 49)	2.24%

Season-To-Date Hospitalization (through MMWR WK 50)		
SEASON	# HOSPITALIZED	% HOSPITALIZED
2018-2019	22	12
2017-2018	26	26

Summary: As of 12/15/2018, a total of 181 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/30/2018. One influenza-associated death has been reported to date. The death occurred in an elderly person with underlying medical conditions. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.42% of all ED visits this week. Geographic distribution of flu activity in MA is widespread. Intensity of ILI in the State is minimal.

Flu season often doesn't peak until February.

Providers should continue to offer vaccine, particularly to children, through the remainder of the season.

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.

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

**Massachusetts and CDC employ a different methodology than the City of Boston to calculate %ILI. Both Massachusetts and National ILI data are calculated using ILInet outpatient surveillance data from sentinel sites. For more information go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>.

Weekly Reported Influenza Cases (in Boston Residents) and % ILI ED Visits, 2018-2019 Season

