



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 3/14/2020 (MMWR Week 11)

9/29/2019-3/14/2020 (MMWR Week 11)

Reported Cases (Boston Residents)	# (% of total)
Influenza A	2857(57.6%)
Influenza B	2084 (42.0%)
Influenza A and B	19 (0.4%)
Influenza (type unspecified)	0
TOTAL (season-to-date)	4960

Boston ED ILI Surveillance*	
This Week ILI% (Week 11)	4.12%
Last Week ILI% (Week 10)	3.44%
State/National ILI Surveillance**, +	
This Week Massachusetts ILI% (Week 11)	4.64%
This Week National ILI% (Week 11)	5.83%

Season-To-Date Hospitalization (through MMWR WK 11)		
SEASON	# HOSPITALIZED	% HOSPITALIZED
2019-2020	440	9
2018-2019	427	16

Summary: As of 3/14/2020, a total of 4,960 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/29/2019. Four hundred and forty (9%) have been hospitalized. Since the beginning of the season, three influenza-associated deaths in older Boston residents with multiple medical conditions have been reported. Nationally and statewide, only pediatric flu-related deaths are reportable. No flu-related pediatric deaths have been identified in Boston residents. Emergency Department (ED) visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 4.12% of all ED visits this week, an increase of 0.68% from the prior week. While %ILI increased, the number of lab-confirmed cases decreased. This may be an indication of an increase in persons seeking assessments and testing for COVID-19 who perhaps would not have otherwise sought healthcare. Geographic distribution of influenza activity in Massachusetts is *widespread*. Intensity of ILI in the State is *high*.

Providers should continue to offer vaccine to all persons ≥6 months of age until May.

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.

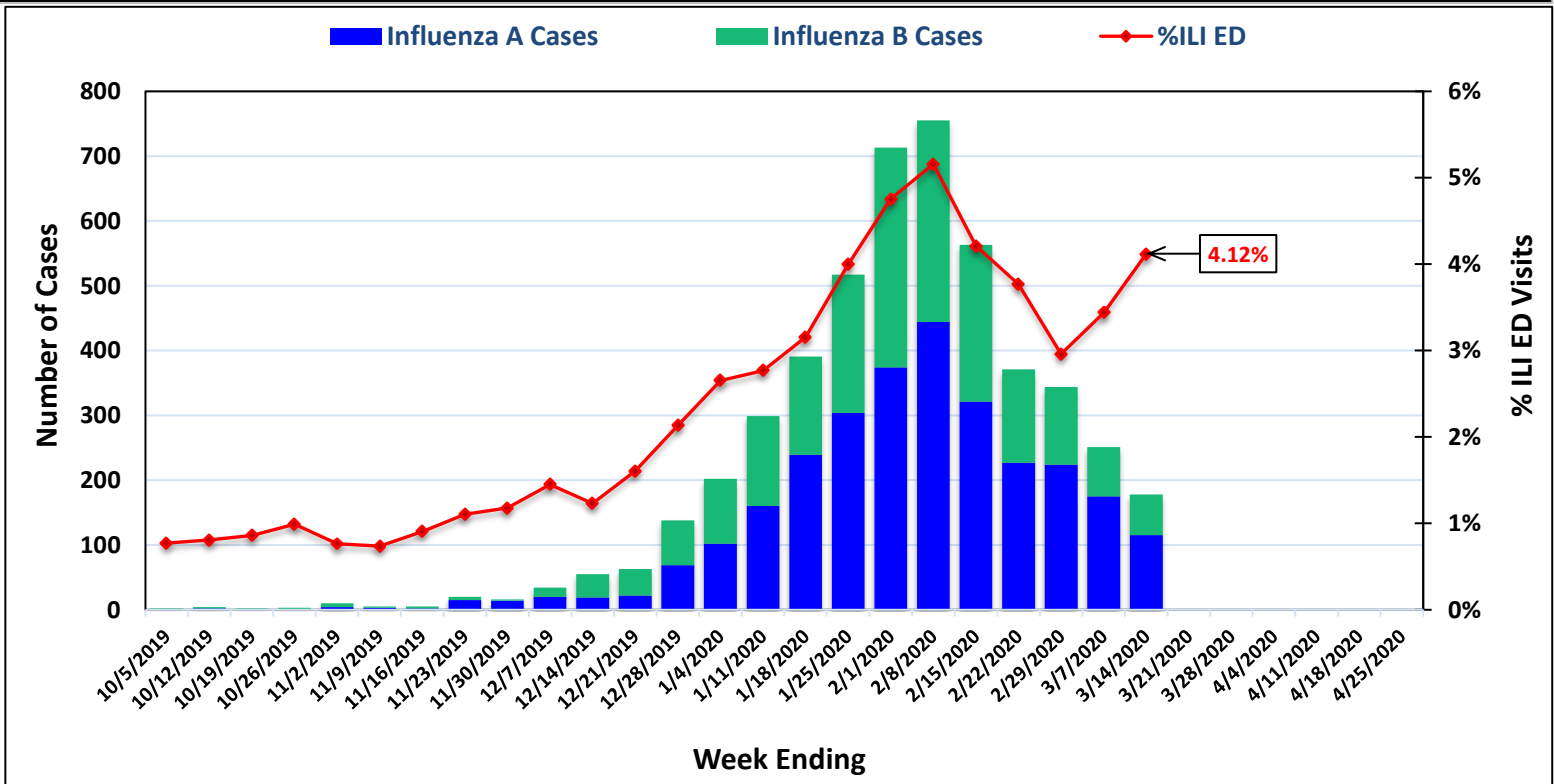
[For case report forms Click Here.](#)

*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 Click Here.](#)

+State & national ILI data obtained from CDC's FluView Report. [Click Here for FluView.](#)

Figure 1. Weekly Reported Influenza Cases (in Boston Residents) and % ILI ED Visits, 2019-2020 Season



For the week ending 3/14/2020, ILI accounted for 4.12% of ED visits, an increase of 0.68% from the prior week.

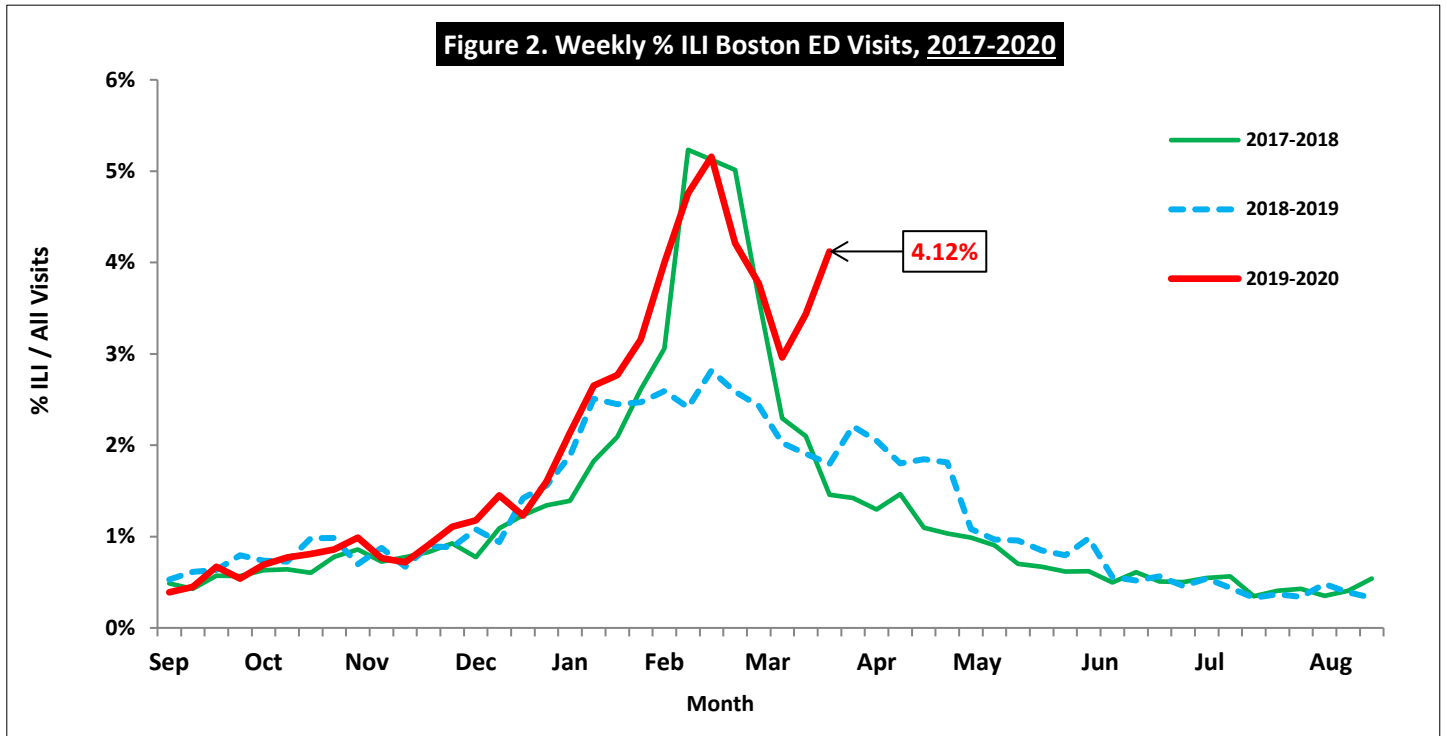


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Weekly ILI ED visits are shown from the 2017-2018 season to present. **For the week ending 3/14/2020, ILI accounted for 4.12% of ED visits, an increase of 0.68% from the prior week.**