



BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION (BPHC)

Communicable Disease Control Division

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Boston Influenza Report - For the Week Ending 12/14/2019 (MMWR Week 50)

9/29/2019-12/14/2019 (MMWR Week 50)

Reported Cases (Boston Residents)	# (% of total)
Influenza A	80 (51%)
Influenza B	74 (48%)
Influenza A and B	2 (1%)
Influenza (type unspecified)	0
TOTAL (season-to-date)	156

Boston ED ILI Surveillance*	
This Week ILI% (Week 50)	1.23%
Last Week ILI% (Week 49)	1.45%
State/National ILI Surveillance**	
This Week Massachusetts ILI% (Week 50)	1.85%
This Week National ILI% (Week 50)	3.94%

Season-To-Date Hospitalization (through MMWR WK 50)		
SEASON	# HOSPITALIZED	% HOSPITALIZED
2019-2020	25	16
2018-2019	22	12

Summary: As of 12/14/2019, a total of 156 cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza in Boston residents have been reported to the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) since 9/29/2019. Twenty-five cases (16%) have been hospitalized. No influenza-associated deaths have been reported to date. Emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) comprised 1.23% of all Emergency Department (ED) visits this week. Geographic distribution of influenza activity in Massachusetts is *widespread*. Intensity of ILI in the State is *low*.

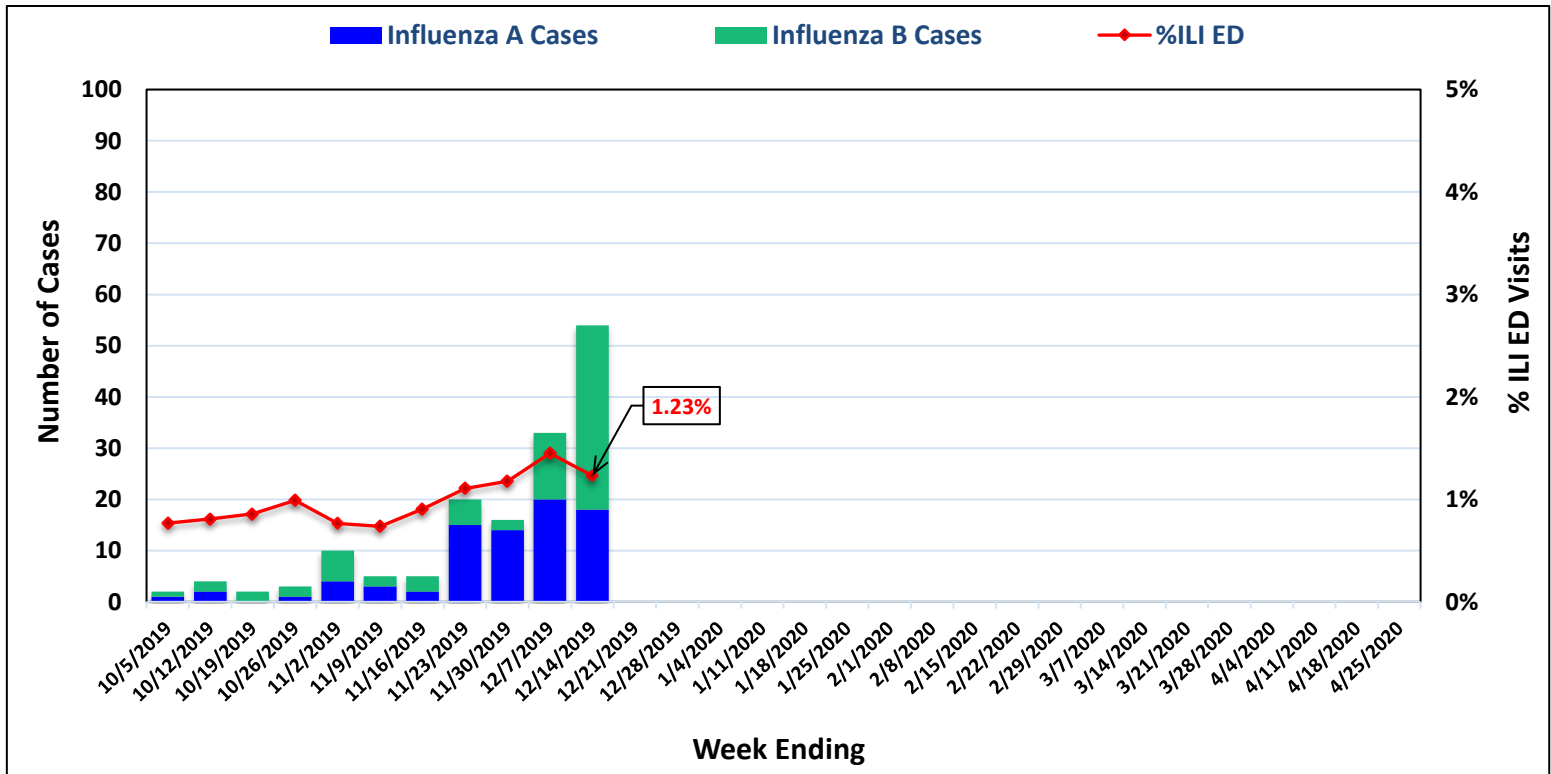
Providers should continue to offer vaccine to all persons ≥6 months of age until May.

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.](#)

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



For the week ending 12/14/2019, ILI accounted for 1.23% of ED visits, a decrease of 0.22% from the prior week.