



## **INFLUENZA VIRUS SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY UPDATE**

### **Week ending November 17, 2001-Week 46**

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**National report:** During week 46 (November 11-17, 2001), 5 specimens tested by the World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories across the United States were positive for influenza. Since September 30, a total of 6,171 specimens for influenza viruses have been tested and 50 (0.8%) were positive. Of the 50 isolates identified, 48 were influenza A viruses and 2 were influenza B viruses. Twenty of the influenza A viruses were subtyped, all were influenza A (H3N2). Influenza A isolates have been identified in Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin. The influenza B isolates were identified in Michigan and Texas. The proportion of patient visits to sentinel physicians for influenza-like illness (ILI) overall was 1.2%, which is less than the national baseline of 1.9%. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza as reported by the vital statistics offices of 122 U.S. cities was 6.6% during week 46. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.3% for this time. Four state and territorial health departments (Alaska, Colorado, New York and Ohio) reported regional influenza activity (defined as influenza outbreaks in one or several counties with < 50% of the state's combined population). Sporadic activity was reported from 19 states (Alabama, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming), 24 states reported no influenza activity.

**Florida:** Influenza activity remains low in Florida and less than one percent of patients seeking care by physicians in the influenza sentinel surveillance met the case definition for ILI (> 100 F + cough and or sore throat) during week 46. Influenza-like illness activity was detected in 12 counties from Escambia to Miami Dade. Higher flu activity than expected for this time of year (>2%) was reported by physicians in Brevard, Escambia, Palm Beach and Polk counties. Positive rapid influenza antigen tests were reported from Dade (2), Marion (1) and Okaloosa (2) counties this week. Between September 4 and November 27, influenza A (H2N3) was isolated from 5 patients residing in Broward, Collier and Palm Beach counties. In addition, positive rapid antigen tests were reported from Duval County (1), Marion (1), Miami-Dade (6) Okaloosa (2) and Volusia (2) Counties.