Tarrant County Public Health
Division of Epidemiology and Health Information

Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report
CDC Week 36: September 04–10, 2011

Influenza Activity Code, County and State Levels

Tarrant County: Week 36	Tarrant County: Week 35	Texas: Week 35*
No Activity	No Activity	Not Determined

Respiratory Virus Activity Summary

- The percentage of reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in Tarrant County ***slightly increased*** from 0.6% in week 35 to 0.8% in week 36 and is currently below the 2010-2011 regional baseline (4.9%).

- The percentage of all cause absenteeism was **4.2%** during week 36 in Tarrant County. Absenteeism due to ILI and school nurse office visits due to ILI were **1.0% and 1.3%** respectively during week 36 in Tarrant County.

- The percentage of flu screen positive tests in Tarrant County ***remain unchanged***, 0.0% in weeks 35 and 36.

- During the 2010-2011 influenza season, **2** Tarrant County influenza-associated pediatric deaths and **0** influenza-associated pregnant/post-partum deaths have been reported.

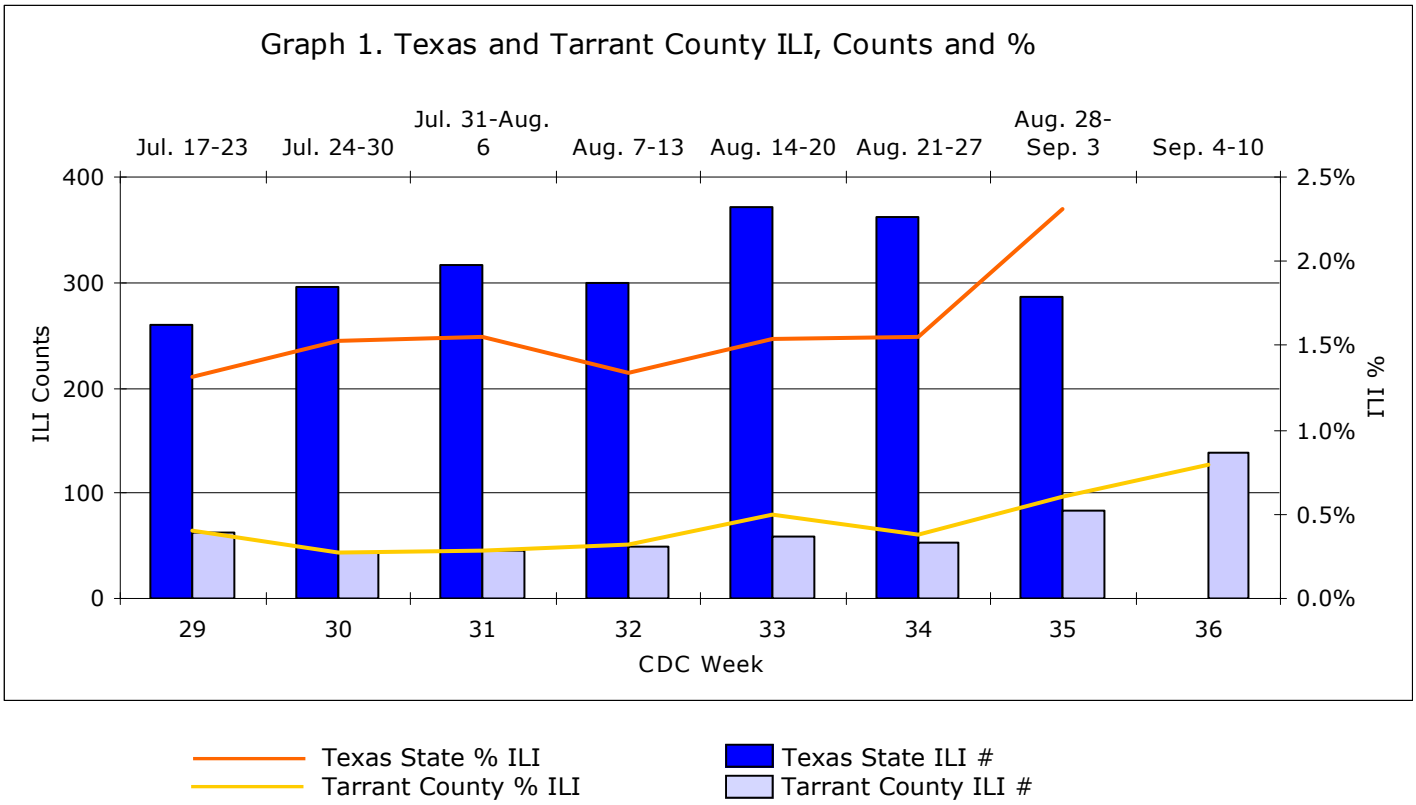
- Since last report, **9** specimen results were received from The North Texas Regional Laboratory. The following types and numbers of respiratory viruses were detected in theses specimens: Rhinovirus was detected in two specimens, human parainfluenza virus was detected in one specimen and co-infection of rhinovirus and adenovirus was detected in two specimens.

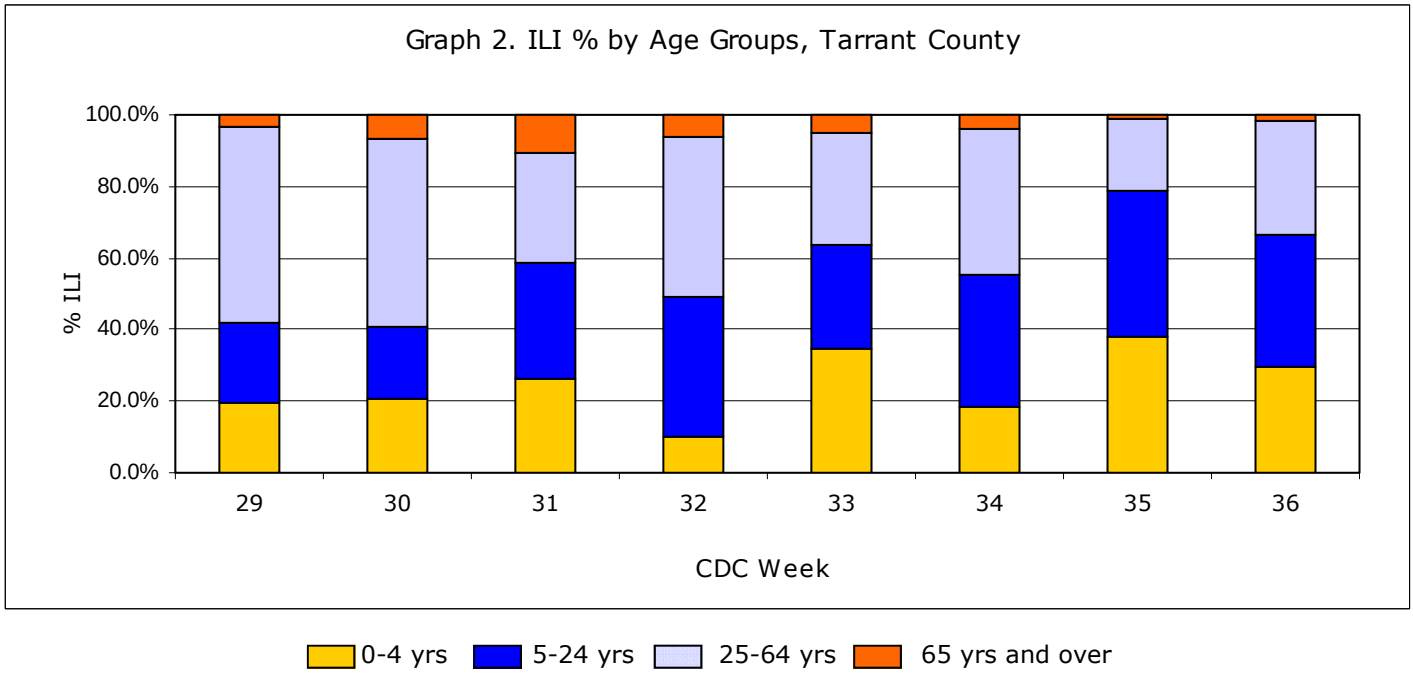
- Cumulatively this season, the North Texas Regional Laboratory at Tarrant County Public Health has tested **399** specimens.

- At the national level during week 35, 1.3% of specimens tested and reported to the CDC were positive for influenza. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI (0.7%) was ***below*** the national baseline (2.5%), and the proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (5.8%) was ***below*** the epidemic threshold (6.4%).

**Note: Texas Department of State Health Services discontinued the determination of state-wide influenza activity levels beginning on May 22, 2011 for the remainder of the 2010-2011 influenza season. Activity level reporting will recommence at the beginning of the 2011-2012 influenza season.*

Eight-Week Influenza Like Illness (ILI): Local and State Levels





In week 36, 0.8% of visits to health care providers were due to ILI. ILI levels are currently below the regional established baseline of 4.9% and lower than state of Texas levels. In Tarrant County, of 138 patients presenting with ILI the majority (37.0%) were between 5-24 years of age. Those 65 years and older accounted for the lowest percentage of health care visits due to ILI (1.4%).

NOTE: Tarrant County ILI activity is assessed using information provided by surveillance participants and the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE). Texas ILI activity is assessed using information provided by a network of physicians. For week 36 29 surveillance participants reported ILI information to Tarrant County Public Health. For week 35, 30 physicians reported information to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Influenza Confirmatory and Screening Test Results: Tarrant County

Table 1. North Texas Regional Laboratory: Respiratory Virus Results[1]

	Current Week	**2010-2011 Season**
Number of Specimens Tested	**9**	**399**
Positive Specimens	5 (55.5%)	180 (45.1%)
Influenza A	0 (0.0%)	73 (41.7%)
Influenza A H1[2]	0 (0.0%)	24 (32.9%)
Influenza A H3	0 (0.0%)	49 (67.1%)
Influenza A, Inconclusive subtype	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Influenza A, Unsubtypeable[3]	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
Influenza B	0 (0.0%)	25 (14.3%)
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	0 (0.0%)	19 (10.8%)
Adenovirus	2 (40.0%)	16 (9.0%)
Human Metapneumovirus	0 (0.0%)	12 (6.9%)
Parainfluenza-1	1 (20.0%)	6 (3.3%)
Parainfluenza-2	0 (0.0%)	7 (4.0%)
Parainfluenza-3	0 (0.0%)	6 (3.4%)
Rhinovirus[4]	4 (80.0%)	26 (14.4%)
Inconclusive[5]	0 (0.0%)	3 (1.7%)

[1] *Laboratory results based on real-time PCR analysis; information is for the 2010-2011 season.*
[2] *As of May 23, 2010, 2009 H1N1 influenza and seasonal influenza A/H1 are no longer reported differentially*
[3] *Influenza A subtype not determined; further analysis pending.*
[4] *Rhinovirus testing initiated on April 20, 2011.*
[5] *Inconclusive for influenza A and influenza B.*

NOTE: 2 specimens tested positive for both influenza A/H3 and adenovirus, 1 specimen tested positive for both influenza B and respiratory syncytial virus, 1 specimen tested positive for both influenza A/H3 and respiratory syncytial virus, 1 specimen tested positive for both influenza A/H1 and respiratory syncytial virus, 2 specimens tested positive for both adenovirus and respiratory syncytial virus, 1 specimen tested positive for influenza A/H1, adenovirus, and parainfluenza-2, 1 specimen tested positive for both rhinovirus and parainfluenza-3, 1 specimen tested positive for both rhinovirus and parainfluenza-1 and 2 specimens tested positive for both rhinovirus and adenovirus.

Table 2. Influenza Screening Test Results– *Tarrant County*

CDC Week Number	**34 (Aug. 21-27)**	**35 (Aug. 28–Sept. 03)**	**36 (Sept. 04–10)**
# Influenza Tests Performed	23	24	68
% Influenza Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
# Influenza A Positive	0	0	0
% Influenza A Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
# Influenza B Positive	0	0	0
% Influenza B Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
# Non-differentiated Positive	0.0	0.0	0.0
% Non-differentiated Positive	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

School Absenteeism and Influenza Like Illness (ILI)

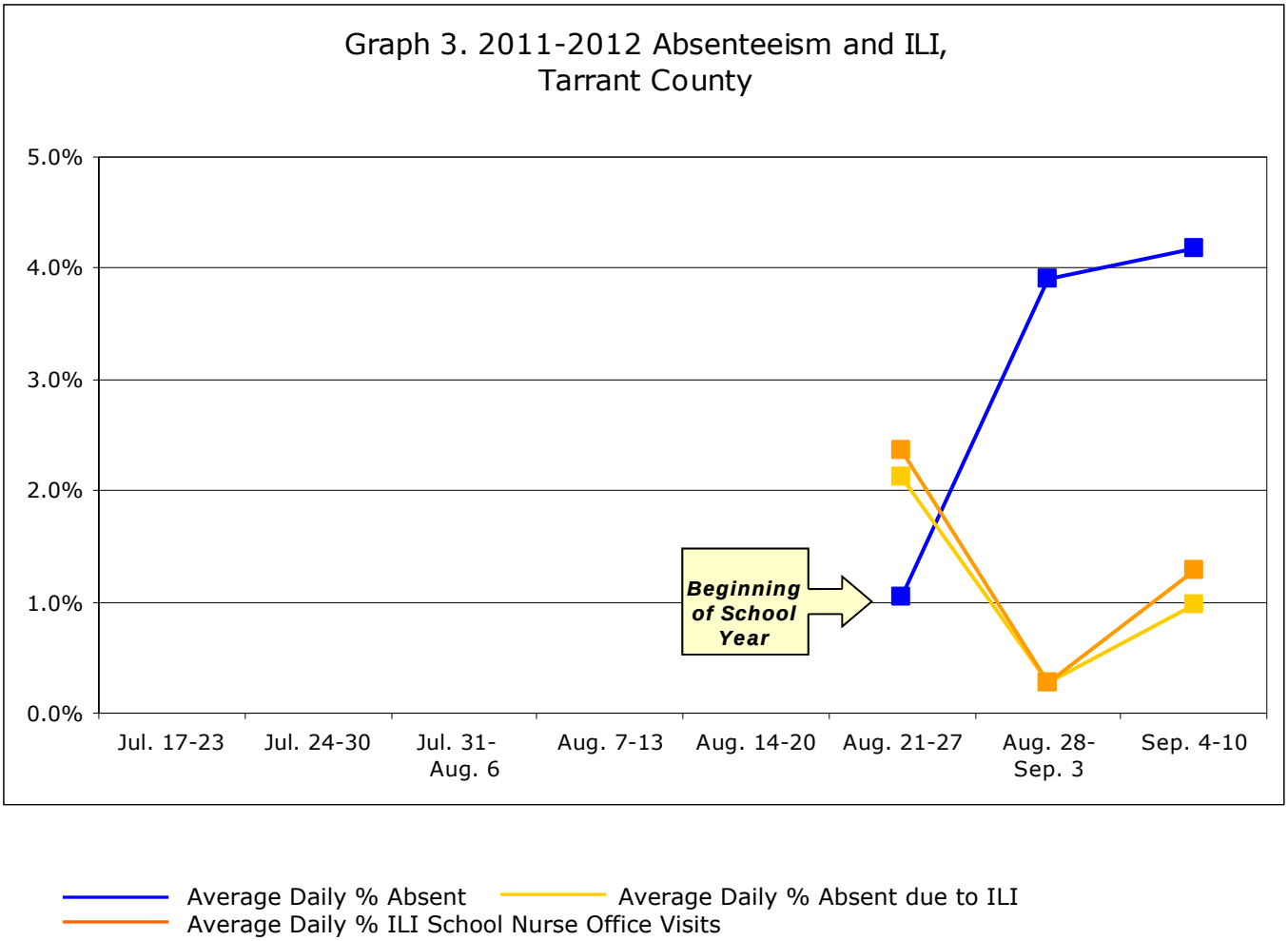


Table 3. Weekly Influenza Like Illness (ILI) and Absenteeism, %

CDC Week Number	34 (Aug. 21-27)	35 (Aug. 28-Sept. 3)	36 (Sept. 4-10)	*Baseline*
School Average Daily % Absent	1.1%	3.9%	4.2%	**4.1%**
School Average Daily % ILI Absent	2.1%	0.3%	1.0%	***
School Average % ILI seen in nurse's office	2.4%	0.3%	1.3%	***

NOTE: Tarrant County absenteeism and student ILI is collected from 17 school districts located within Tarrant County. For week 36, 5 school districts provided general absenteeism data, 3 school districts provided data regarding absenteeism due to ILI, and 3 school districts provided data regarding nurses' office visits due to ILI.

****Baseline percentage for absenteeism due to ILI and proportion of school nurses office visits due to ILI not yet established.*

The Tarrant County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report is available on the Tarrant County Public Health web site at:
www.tarrantcounty.com/flu

If you have questions or comments regarding influenza surveillance, please contact:

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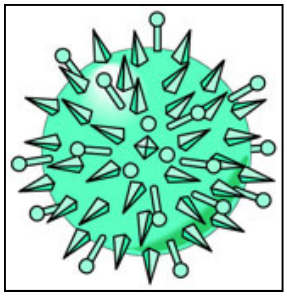

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NOTE:

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever (temperature ≥ 100°F) plus a cough OR a sore throat, in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

Tarrant County reporting quadrants consist of Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast regions within the boundaries of Interstate 35 and Interstate 30.

Regional ILI baselines are determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and can be accessed at http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm#SGSI

Absenteeism baseline is the average weekly absenteeism experienced during April-May during the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years. Some data points may be excluded due to holidays and inclement weather.

Additional information regarding Tarrant County and statewide activity codes can be accessed at www.tarrantcounty.com/flu and http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/influenza/surveillance/2010/

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