



Flu Watch

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology

Week Ending October 15, 2011 (MMWR Week 41)

All data are provisional and may change as more reports are received.

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MMWR Week 41 at a Glance:

Influenza Activity Level: No activity

Note: Activity level definitions are found on page 7

ILI Activity Status (South Carolina baseline is 2.05%*): Below baseline in the Upstate (.13%), Midlands (.10%), and along the Coast (0%). The state ILI percentage is .10%. These data reflect reports from 14 (43.8%) providers.

Note: See map of counties on page 3 for regional descriptions

SC Viral Isolate and RT-PCR Activity: No positive specimens were reported by any lab.

Positive Rapid Flu Test Activity: Ten positive rapid tests were reported. Twenty-eight positive rapid tests have been reported this season.

Hospitalizations: One lab confirmed hospitalization was reported. *Lab confirmation includes positive rapid tests, culture, PCR, DFA, or IFA.*

Deaths: No lab confirmed deaths were reported. *Lab confirmation includes positive rapid tests, culture, PCR, DFA, or IFA.*

**Note: Additional charts and/or graphs will be presented as the season progresses and more data are available.

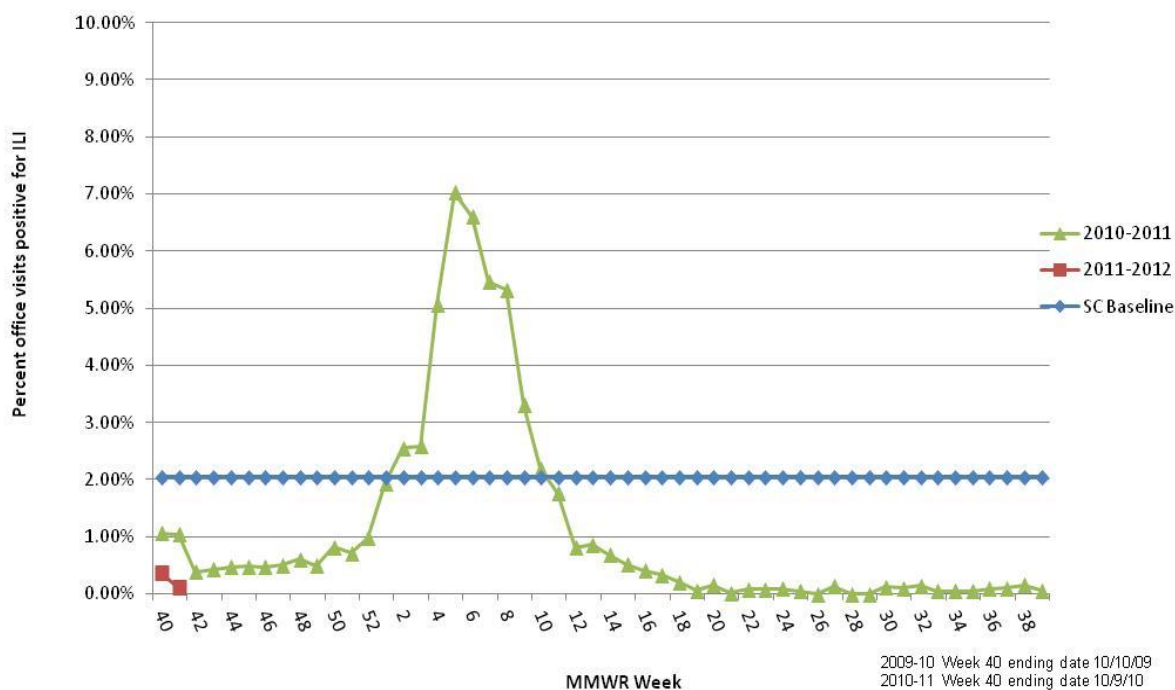
Summary of ILI Activity, Positive Confirmatory Tests, and Influenza Associated Hospitalizations and Deaths

	<i>Current week</i>	<i>Previous week</i>	<i>Change From previous week</i>
Percent of visits to ILINet providers for ILI	.10	.37%	▼.27
Number of positive confirmatory tests	0	0	0
Number of lab confirmed flu hospitalizations	1	0	▲ 1
Number of lab confirmed flu deaths	0	0	0

I. ILINet Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

During MMWR week 41, .11% of patient visits to SC ILINet providers were due to ILI. This is below the state baseline (**2.05%**). This ILI percentage compares to 1.04 % this time last year. Reports were received from providers in 12 counties, representing 6 of the 8 regions.

**Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by Sentinel Providers in South Carolina
2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Influenza Seasons**

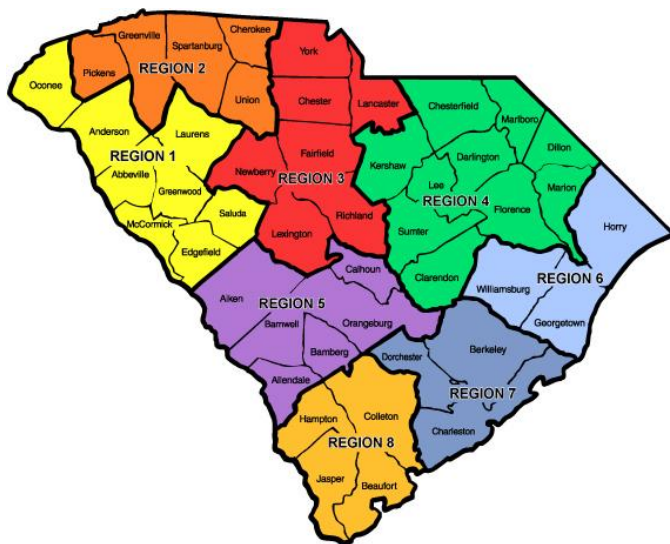


*The SC baseline is the mean percentage of patient visits for ILI during non-influenza weeks (weeks when percent of positive lab tests was below 20%) for the previous three seasons plus two standard deviations.

**Reported Influenza-Like Illness by Sentinel Providers
October 9, 2011 - October 15, 2011**

County	ILI %	County	ILI %
Abbeville	---	Greenwood	NR
Aiken	0%	Hampton	NR
Allendale	---	Horry	NR
Anderson	0%	Jasper	NR
Bamberg	---	Kershaw	0%
Barnwell	---	Lancaster	---
Beaufort	NR	Laurens	NR
Berkeley	0%	Lee	---
Calhoun	---	Lexington	NR
Charleston	NR	Marion	---
Cherokee	---	Marlboro	---
Chester	---	McCormick	NR
Chesterfield	---	Newberry	---
Clarendon	---	Oconee	---
Colleton	---	Orangeburg	---
Darlington	---	Pickens	0%
Dillon	NR	Richland	.25%
Dorchester	NR	Saluda	0%
Edgefield	---	Spartanburg	.46%
Fairfield	.40%	Sumter	NR
Florence	0%	Union	---
Georgetown	NR	Williamsburg	---
Greenville	0%	York	0%

NR: No reports received
 ---: No enrolled providers



Geographic Region	ILI %	# of Reporters
Upstate-Regions 1 -2	.13	7
Midlands-Regions 3-5	.10	6
Coastal-Regions 6-8	0	1

*County ILI percentages are affected by the number of reporting providers within that county.

II. Virologic Surveillance

Positive confirmatory influenza test results Current MMWR Week (10/9/11 - 10/15/11)*

	BOL	Other clinical labs
Number of specimens tested	1	NA
Number of positive specimens	0	0
Influenza A unsubtype		
Influenza A H1N1		
Influenza A H3N2		
Influenza B		
Other		

Includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA

During MMWR week 41, no positive specimens were reported.

Positive confirmatory influenza test results Cumulative (10/2/11 - 10/15/11)*

	BOL	Other clinical labs
Number of specimens tested	1	NA
Number of positive specimens	0	0
Influenza A unsubtype		
Influenza A H1N1		
Influenza A H3N2		
Influenza B		
Other		

Includes culture, RT-PCR, DFA, and IFA

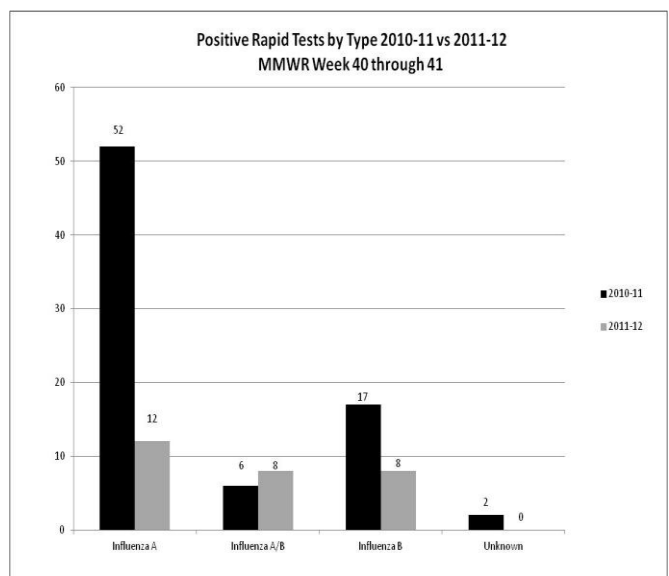
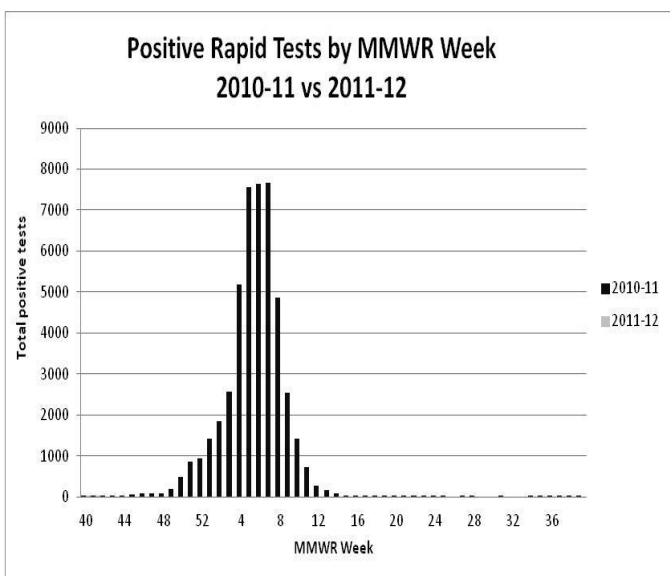
*All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

III. Positive Rapid Antigen Tests

During MMWR week 41, 10 positive rapid antigen test were reported. Of these, there were 7 influenza A and 3 influenza B. During this time last year, 23 had been reported.

Positive Rapid Flu Tests by County Current Week 10/9/11 – 10/15/11

County	Positive Tests	County	Positive Tests	County	Positive Tests
Abbeville		Dillon		Lexington	
Aiken		Dorchester		Marion	
Allendale		Edgefield		Marlboro	
Anderson		Fairfield		McCormick	
Bamberg		Florence		Newberry	
Barnwell		Georgetown	1	Oconee	
Beaufort		Greenville	3	Orangeburg	
Berkeley		Greenwood		Pickens	1
Calhoun		Hampton		Richland	2
Charleston	2	Horry		Saluda	
Cherokee		Jasper		Spartanburg	
Chester		Kershaw		Sumter	1
Chesterfield		Lancaster		Union	
Clarendon		Laurens		Williamsburg	
Colleton		Lee		York	
Darlington					



IV. Influenza hospitalizations and deaths

During MMWR week 41, one lab confirmed* influenza hospitalization was reported. No lab confirmed deaths were reported.

	Total number*	
Number of Hospitals Reporting (current week)	36	
	<i>Current MMWR (10/9 - 10/15/11)</i>	<i>Cumulative (since 10/3/10)</i>
Hospitalizations	1	1
Deaths	0	0

*These data are provisional. Lab confirmation for hospitalizations and deaths includes culture, PCR, DFA, IFA, and rapid test.

V. Influenza activity levels

Activity Level	ILI activity/Outbreaks		Laboratory data
No activity	Low	And	No lab confirmed cases
Sporadic	Not increased	And	Isolated lab-confirmed cases
	OR		
Local	Not increased	And	Lab confirmed outbreak in one institution
	Increased ILI in 1 region; ILI activity in other regions is not increased	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with increased ILI
Regional	OR		
	2 or more institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in 1 region; ILI activity in other regions is not increased	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab evidence of influenza in region with the outbreaks; virus activity is no greater than sporadic in other regions
Widespread	Increased ILI in 2-3 regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
	OR		
Widespread	Institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in 2-3 regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the affected regions
	Increased ILI and/or institutional outbreaks (ILI or lab confirmed) in at least 4 of the regions	And	Recent (within the past 3 weeks) lab confirmed influenza in the state.

VI. South Carolina Influenza Surveillance Components

South Carolina influenza surveillance consists of mandatory and voluntary reporting systems for year-round influenza surveillance. These networks provide information on influenza virus strain and subtype and influenza disease burden.

Mandatory Reporting

Positive confirmatory test reporting

Positive influenza culture, PCR, DFA, and IFA results from commercial laboratories should be reported to DHEC within 7 days electronically via CHES or using a DHEC 1129 card.

Positive rapid antigen test reporting

Summary numbers of positive rapid influenza tests and influenza type identified should be sent to the regional health department by fax or email before noon on Monday for the preceding week.

Influenza death reporting

Lab confirmed influenza deaths in adults should be reported to DHEC within 7 days. Lab confirmed influenza deaths in children under age 18 should be reported within 24 hours. These include results from viral culture, PCR, rapid flu tests, DFA, IFA or autopsy results consistent with influenza. Hospitals should report deaths to their regional health department by noon on Monday for the preceding week.

Influenza hospitalizations

DHEC requires weekly submission of laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations. Hospitals should report these to their regional health department by noon on Monday for the preceding week.

For additional information about ILINet or to become an ILINet provider, contact the Acute Disease Epidemiology influenza surveillance coordinator at springcb@dhec.sc.gov.

Voluntary Networks

Laboratory Viral Isolate Network

Viral isolate surveillance is essential for identifying circulating influenza strain subtype information, and the identification of new strains that may need to be included in the next year's influenza vaccine. Participating providers receive culture media, packaging, processing and shipping labels in order to submit a subset of specimens to the Bureau of Labs (BOL).

Influenza-Like Illness (ILINet) Sentinel Providers Network

ILINet focuses on the number of patients presenting with influenza-like symptoms in the absence of another known cause. ILI is defined as fever (temperature of $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) plus a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of another known cause. Providers submit weekly reports to the CDC of the total number of patients seen in a week and the subset number of those patients with ILI symptoms by age group.

South Carolina Disease Alerting, Reporting & Tracking System (SC-DARTS)

SC-DARTS is a collaborative network of syndromic surveillance systems within South Carolina. Currently our network contains the following data sources: SC Hospital Emergency Department (ED) chief-complaint data, Poison Control Center call data, Over-the-Counter (OTC) pharmaceutical sales surveillance, and CDC's BioSense Biosurveillance system. The hospital ED syndromic surveillance system classifies ED chief complaint data into appropriate syndrome categories (ex: Respiratory, GI, Fever, etc.). These syndrome categories are then analyzed using the cumulative sum (CUSUM) methodology to detect any significant increases. Syndromic reports are distributed back to the hospital on a daily basis.

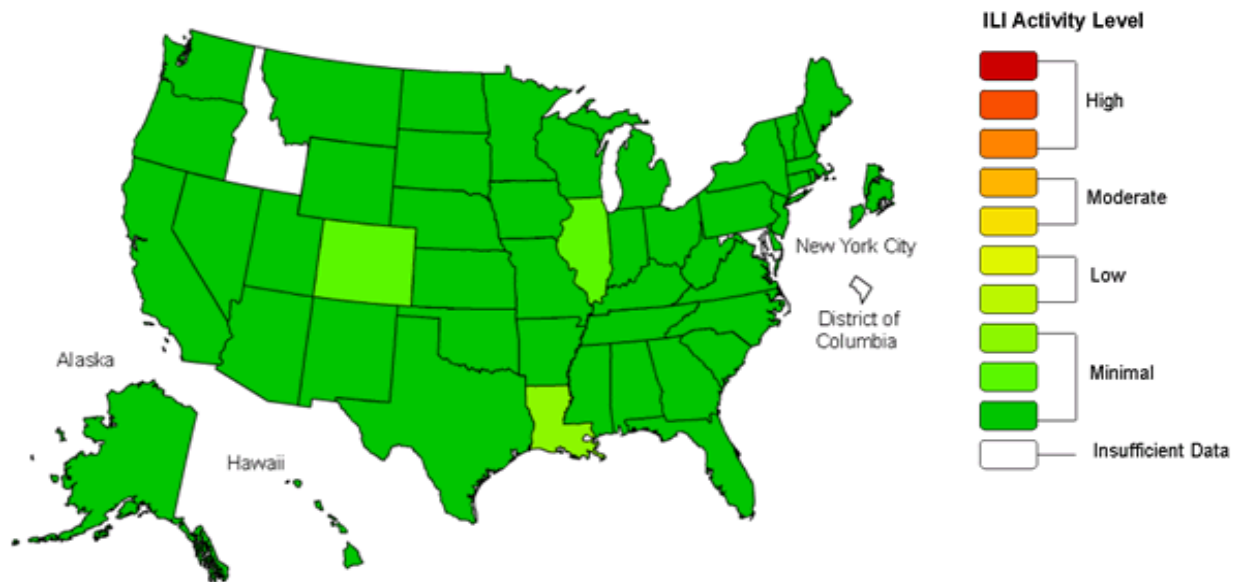
VII. National Surveillance MMWR Week 40 (10/2-10/8)

During week 40 (October 2-8, 2011), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of the 1,343 specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division, 16 (1.2%) were positive for influenza.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.0%, which is above the national baseline of 2.4%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Forty-eight states and New York City experienced minimal ILI activity and the District of Columbia and two states had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 20 states was reported as sporadic; Guam and 29 states reported no influenza activity, and one state did not report.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>.

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet 2011-12 Influenza Season Week 40 ending Oct 08, 2011



*This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.

*Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a state, and therefore, may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the whole state.