



# Florida Department of Health in Broward County

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# EPI EXAMINER

## A Monthly Epidemiology Report

August, 2016

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### Disease Summary:

In August, 2016, a total of 556 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were eighty-one cases of salmonellosis, one case of amebic encephalitis, three cases of meningitis (bacterial or mycotic), five cases of acute hepatitis B, four cases of acute hepatitis C, nine cases of possible rabies exposure, fifty-one cases of Zika virus disease and infection (non-congenital), and one case of vibriosis (other *Vibrio* species). These were higher than the averages of the same month in the previous five years.

### Food Recalls:

There were 5 food recalls reported in Florida for the month of August, 2016.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Grassfields Cheese LLC	Organic cheeses: Gouda, Onion 'n Garlic, Country Dill, Leyden, Edam, Lamont, Cheddar, Chili Cheese, Fait Fras, Polkton Corners and Crofters	08/04/2016	STEC
Rabbit Creek Products	Bread, muffin and brownie mixes	08/11/2016	E. coli O121
Cambridge Farms, LLC	3 Brands of Frozen, cut	08/19/2016	Listeria
Country Fresh, LLC	Various fresh-cut vegeta-	08/26/2016	Listeria
Snyder's-Lance, Inc.	Diamond of California®	08/30/2016	Salmonella

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) throughout the year provides free immunizations for children who are uninsured or underinsured in order to decrease vaccine-preventable diseases. These vaccines are paid for by the Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Every year during the month of August, DOH-Broward organizes a two week and two day back to school event to help immunize children and prepare them for school.

This year at The 2016 Back-to-School Immunization Campaign, DOH-Broward, serviced a total of 3,203 children in two weeks and two days to help them return to school from their summer break. The event was held at the Lauderhill Mall at 1267 NW 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, August 8<sup>th</sup>—23<sup>rd</sup> Monday through Friday from 9am to 1pm and on Thursdays until 6pm and on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm.

DOH-Broward immunized 2,587 children and provided a total of 8,069 vaccines. In addition, DOH-Broward provided a total of 616 “680-Immunization forms” (immunization records required for school) for students that were up to date with their vaccinations. This year, DOH-Broward offered vaccines such as Polio, MMR, Varicella (Chickenpox), Hepatitis B, D-tap, T-dap, Td, HIB, HPV9, PCV13, and Meningococcal (MCV4).

DOH-Broward worked tirelessly, months in advance to prepare for this event. Flyers and promotional materials were delivered to schools and external stakeholders to help notify the community about this event. Together with the generous support of the community, the health department was able to provide a much needed service to the community. Parents were encouraged to bring their child’s immunization records to the event. In order for children to be vaccinated, each child was accompanied by a legal guardian or parent. Our data entry specialist then recorded the information into our Florida Shots Immunization Registry system. Parents from all over the world brought in their immunization records from other countries. The data entry staff was prepared with vaccination translation materials to help translate vaccines into the Florida Shots System. Certified translators were also contacted to help the translation process at the event.



Source: <http://www.afmfc.com/748/>

Table 1 . Provisional Cases\* of Selected Notifiable Disease, Broward County, Florida, August, 2016

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	August		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)		August		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)	
	2016	2015		2016	2015	2016	2015		2016	2015
<b>A. Enteric Infections</b>										
Campylobacteriosis	7	16	21.6	95	135	402	322	298.2	2471	2492
Cryptosporidiosis	2	11	6	11	27	68	170	151.4	325	541
E.Coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing Infection**	7	4	4	40	29	73	42	48.6	430	296
Giardiasis, Acute	6	9	10.6	55	50	114	106	125.2	773	665
Salmonellosis	81	66	52.4	324	310	803	692	748.8	3596	3610
Shigellosis	11	5	12.8	91	59	91	157	178.8	583	1505
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>										
Amebic Encephalitis	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.6	1	1
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	3	0	0.6	7	3	14	12	11.8	83	87
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Invasive Disease:										
Drug Resistant	1	2	2.8	23	25	7	9	16.8	145	110
Drug Susceptible	4	0	1.8	50	21	13	5	13.8	320	174
<b>C. Viral Hepatitis</b>										
Hepatitis A	1	2	0.8	4	2	15	15	10.4	79	81
Hepatitis B, Acute	5	2	0.8	28	19	62	48	29.8	427	337
Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen In Pregnant Women	6	2	2.4	44	28	29	42	37.4	286	309
Hepatitis C, Acute	4	0	0.2	18	4	27	22	15.8	192	117
<b>D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses</b>										
Chikungunya Fever	2	0	1.4	4	22	3	13	16.6	11	101
Dengue Fever	1	0	2	10	5	10	7	14.6	50	31
Malaria	1	1	1.4	7	7	12	3	8.2	45	24
Rabies, Possible Exposure	9	0	1.2	67	4	294	322	259.8	2163	2279
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	51	0	0	104	0	285	0	0	622	0
<b>E. Others</b>										
Lead Poisoning	4	3	1.6	26	35	73	78	64.2	542	535
Legionellosis	3	5	3	13	21	37	41	29	192	200
Varicella (Chickenpox)	3	1	2.2	41	23	48	42	43.2	530	491
Vibriosis (Other Vibrio Species)	1	0	0	2	0	8	1	1	15	6

\* Confirmed, Probable, Suspect and Unknown Cases based on date of report as reported in Merlin.

† Mean of the number of cases of the same month in the previous five years

\*\* Includes E. coli O157:H7; shiga-toxin positive, serogroup non-O157; and shiga-toxin positive, not serogrouped

Highlighted diseases/conditions are higher than expected for the current month in Broward

The Merlin system is Florida's state repository of reportable disease case reports, including automated notification of staff about individual cases of high priority diseases. Data is extracted using event date which is usually the date of onset of illness, and when that is unknown, event date may be date of lab report, or date of diagnosis.

The Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community Based Epidemics (ESSENCE) was developed by Johns Hopkins University and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. It is a syndromic surveillance tool used to monitor potential bio-terrorism threats and reportable diseases. Chief complaint data is transmitted daily to the ESSENCE system from participating hospital emergency rooms. DOH-Broward monitors a total of 17 reporting hospitals in Broward County. ESSENCE groups the chief complaint data into twelve syndrome groups, including: botulism-like, exposure, fever, gastrointestinal (GI), hemorrhagic, influenza-like-illness (ILI), neurological, rash, respiratory, shock/coma, injury, and other. ESSENCE creates automatic warnings or alerts for the monitoring of the twelve syndrome groups by comparing statistical differences in observed and predicted disease based on a 28-day average. Specialized queries have also been developed to monitor Florida state reportable diseases in Broward County. When an observed value is statistically higher at the  $p < .05$  level, a yellow warning flag is generated.

Figure 1. ESSENCE Daily Emergency Department Visits, Broward, August 2016

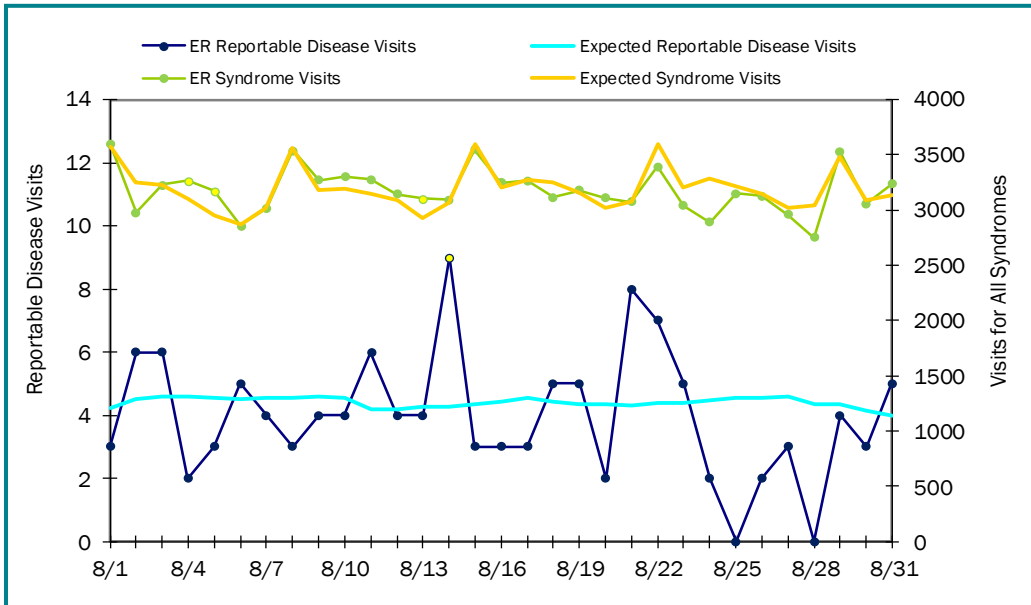


Figure 1. There is one warning and zero alerts for E.R reportable disease visits; and three warnings and zero alerts for E.R syndromic visits.  
Warning - Yellow data point  
Alert - Red data point

Table 2. ESSENCE Chief Complaint Alerts and Warnings for Reportable Disease and Chief Complaint Syndromes, August 2016

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	None	14	Botulism-like Illness	None	None
Vaccine Preventable Diseases <sup>1</sup>	None	7, 8	Exposure	None	21
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	None	None
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	None	14	Gastrointestinal Illness	None	5, 7, 21
Varicella (chicken pox)	None	None	Hemorrhagic Illness	14	8, 17, 18
Vector Borne Diseases	None	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	None	None
Chikungunya	None	None	Injury	None	29
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	29	15
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	13, 14	1, 12, 15, 16, 22
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	13	29
Zika Infection	1, 2, 4, 5	3, 6, 25	Shock/Coma	None	22
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	None	13, 29	Other Illness	None	20, 21, 31
General Enterics <sup>2</sup>	None	5, 7, 21			
Vomit and Diarrhea	29	30			

<sup>1</sup> Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio

<sup>2</sup> Cryptosporidium, cyclospora, shigellosis, shigella, salmonellosis, salmonella, ciguatera, campylobacteriosis, cholera, E. coli, and vibrio

Influenza activity remains low nationwide. In Florida, Influenza Like Illness (ILI) visits have increased slightly statewide. There have been no positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks and data suggests that the season peaked in week 10 in Broward County. Broward flu activity is sporadic.

Figure 2. ESSENCE ILI Visits, Broward, 2015-2016

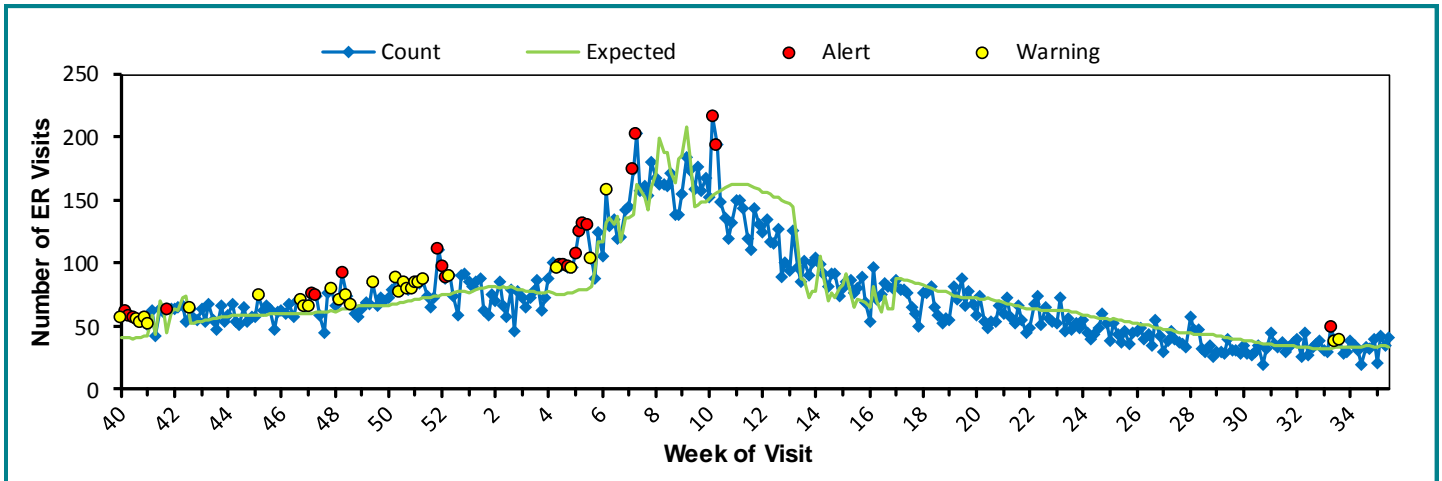


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2015-2016

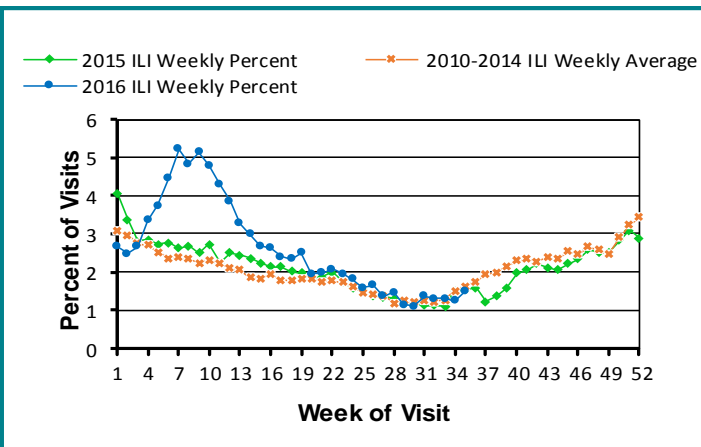
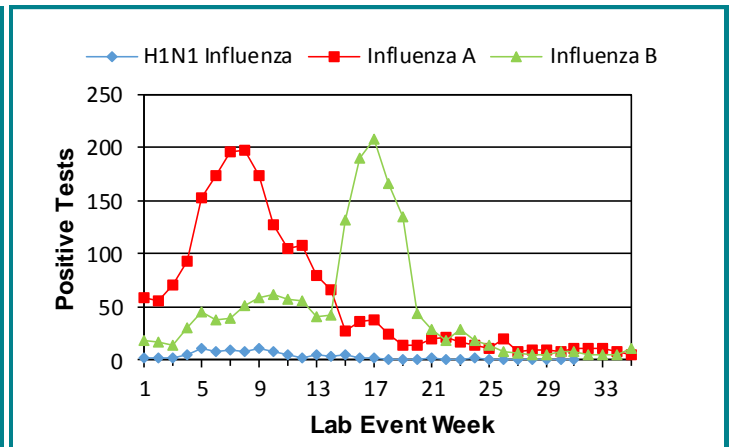


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2016



**Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data**

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was increasing slightly for the month of August (week 31 to week 35) with one alert and two warnings (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was slightly decreasing to the weekly average for the last five years (Fig. 3). According to Merlin Flu Lab Reports, the number of positive tests for Influenza A was found to be slightly higher than the number of positive tests for Influenza B (Fig. 4).

**Influenza Prevention Recommendations**

Florida Department Health in Broward County recommends that everyone take precautions to prevent the spread of influenza. The flu is a contagious disease, caused by the influenza virus, and spreads to others when infected persons cough, sneeze or talk. Common symptoms of the flu include: fever (usually high), headache, extreme tiredness, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (more common among children than adults). Influenza vaccines have protected millions of people safely for decades. The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine as the first and best way to protect against influenza. This recommendation is the same even during years when the vaccine composition (the viruses the vaccine protects against) remains unchanged from the previous season. Everyone 6 months and older is encouraged to get vaccinated against the flu even if they got vaccinated last season.

**Other recommendations include:**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick, keep sick children home and check with a health care provider, as needed.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, if possible.

