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EPI EXAMINER

A Monthly Epidemiology Report

October, 2016

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Disease Summary:

In October 2016, a total of 435 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were thirteen cases of hepatitis B (surface antigen in pregnant women), one case of hepatitis C (perinatal), nine cases of possible rabies exposure, one case of vibriosis (other *Vibrio* species), one case of congenital Zika virus disease and infection, and twenty-seven cases of non-congenital Zika virus disease and infection. 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 October 2016.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Nestlé USA	Nestlé Drumstick Club 16 count Variety Pack and 24 count Vanilla Pack Ice Cream Cones	10/07/2016	Listeria
Blue Bell Ice Cream	Half gallon & pint-sized of Blue Bell Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough & Blue Bell Cookie Two Step, Gallon-sized of Blue Bell Blue Monster, Blue Bell Chocolate Chip Cookie, & Blue Bell Krazy Kookie Dough, all made with a chocolate chip cookie dough ingredient supplied by Aspen Hills, Inc.	10/11/2016	Listeria
Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Company	Select ice cream products made with a chocolate chip cookie dough ingredient supplied by Aspen Hills, Inc.	10/11/2016	Listeria
Publix	Publix Premium Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Ice Cream	10/12/2016	Listeria
ICAPP	Certain Lots of Frozen Strawberries	10/31/2016	Hepatitis A

All data are provisional.

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

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	October		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)		October		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)	
	2016	2015		2016	2015	2016	2015		2016	2015
A. Enteric Infections										
Campylobacteriosis	7	8	16.4	116	161	277	272	227.2	3019	3047
E.Coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing Infection**	7	2	2.6	56	37	55	28	35.2	539	367
Giardiasis, Acute	6	9	9	69	65	80	97	110.8	944	875
Salmonellosis	60	56	62.2	445	431	826	752	896.8	5251	5186
Shigellosis	10	4	14.8	108	73	112	136	182.2	788	1792
Typhoid Fever (Salmonella Serotype Typhi)	1	0	0.2	4	0	1	0	0.8	15	6
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias										
H. Influenzae Invasive Disease, < 5 years old	1	0	0.2	2	9	1	3	1.6	21	30
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Invasive Disease, < 6 years old:										
Drug Resistant	0	2	0.6	2	5	5	4	4.8	24	32
Drug Susceptible	1	1	0.8	7	3	2	7	3.4	36	31
C. Viral Hepatitis										
Hepatitis A	1	1	1.2	6	4	7	7	10.8	97	96
Hepatitis B, Acute	3	5	3.2	39	24	57	41	31.8	563	421
Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen In Pregnant Women	12	1	2.8	66	32	27	30	30.2	345	376
Hepatitis C, Acute	3	1	0.8	23	5	24	22	15.2	236	154
Hepatitis C, Perinatal	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	15	0
D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses										
Dengue Fever	1	0	1	14	5	8	13	15.4	68	48
Lyme Disease	1	2	0.4	18	8	31	16	13.2	321	154
Malaria	1	1	0.8	8	9	4	5	4.6	60	32
Rabies, Possible Exposure	9	0	0.8	90	4	292	276	221.4	2725	2783
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Congenital	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	0
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	27	0	0	158	0	128	0	0	937	0
E. Others										
Lead Poisoning	4	4	6.2	30	46	82	89	87.8	679	728
Legionellosis	3	5	2.6	20	29	41	40	30.4	279	271
Varicella (Chickenpox)	2	6	2.4	48	41	32	55	56.6	622	639
Vibriosis (Other Vibrio Species)	1	0	0	2	1	3	1	0.6	17	8

* 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, October 2016

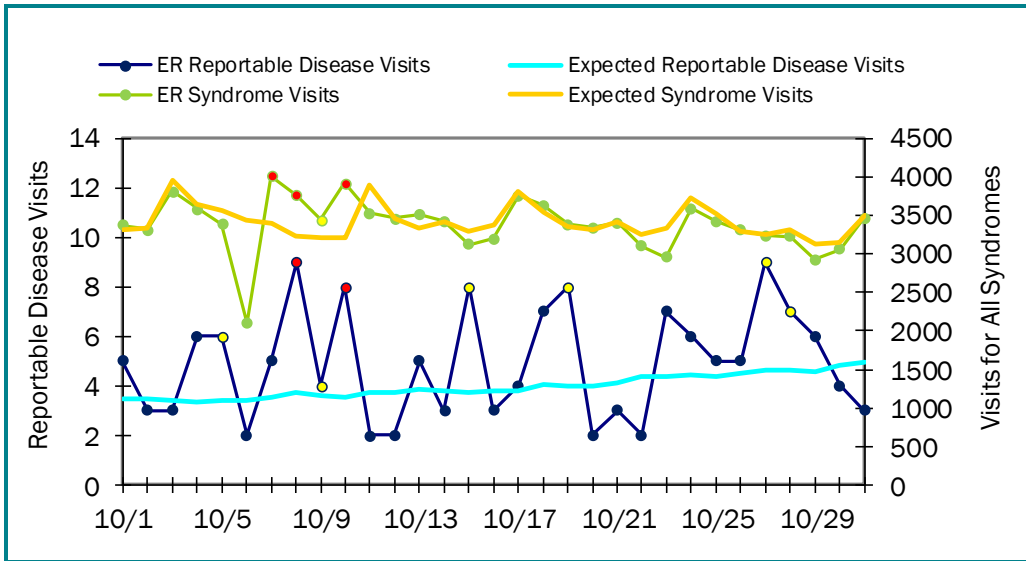


Figure 1. There are six warnings and two alerts for E.R reportable disease visits; and one warning and three alerts for E.R syndromic visits.
Warning - Yellow data point
Alert - Red data point

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

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	8, 10	5, 9, 15, 19, 27,	Botulism-like Illness	None	None
Vaccine Preventable Diseases ¹	None	6	Exposure	10, 19	15
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	3, 7	4
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	None	None	Gastrointestinal Illness	7, 8, 10	13
Varicella (chicken pox)	4, 9	None	Hemorrhagic Illness	None	None
Vector Borne Diseases	None	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	None	3, 4, 7
Chikungunya	7	22	Injury	8	17, 18
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	8, 10	None
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	9	7, 8, 10
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	7, 8, 10	None
Zika Infection	None	None	Shock/Coma	None	4
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	2	None	Other Illness	7, 9, 10	8
General Enterics ²	2	None			
Vomit and Diarrhea	None	7, 8			

¹ Varicella, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio

² 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 decreased slightly statewide. There have been no positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks and emergency department (ED) and urgent care center (UCC) visits for ILI remained low, and are slightly below levels observed in previous seasons at this time. Broward flu activity is sporadic.

Figure 2. ESSENCE ILI Visits, Broward, 2016-2017

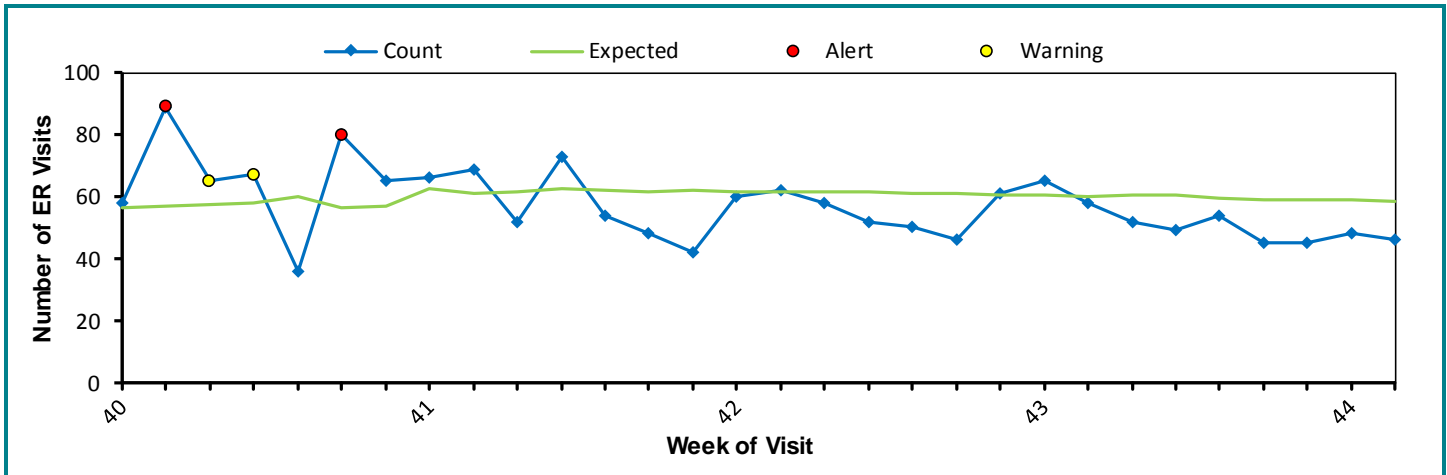
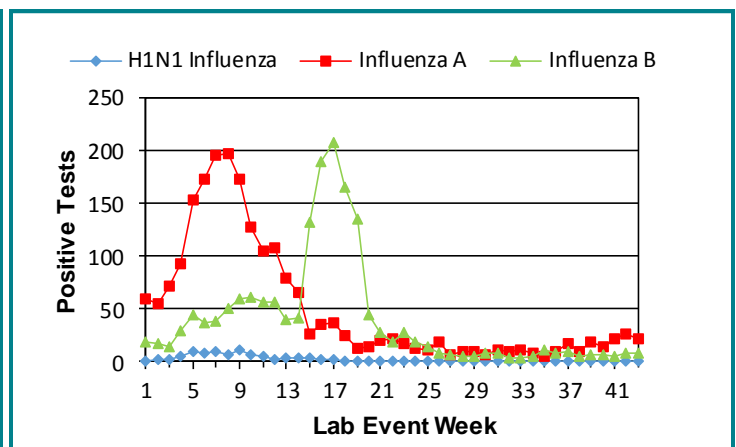
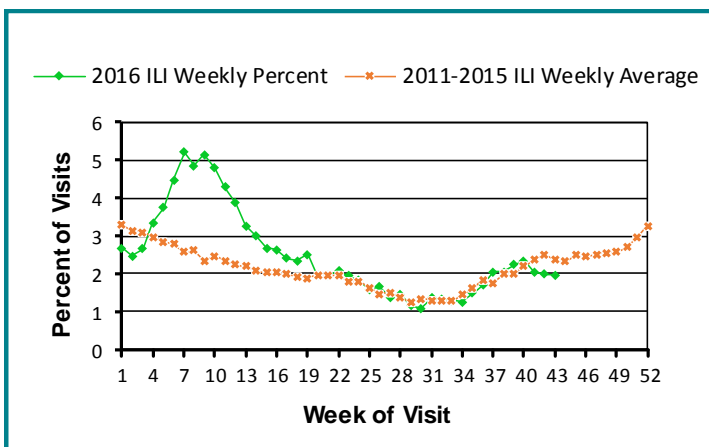


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2016

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 decreasing slightly and are slightly below expected levels observed in previous seasons at this time for the month of October (week 40 to week 43) with two alerts and two warnings. (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was slightly decreasing and was lower than 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.

