



# Florida Department of Health in Broward County

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# EPI EXAMINER

## A Monthly Epidemiology Report

November, 2016

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### Disease Summary:

In November 2016, a total of 322 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were eight cases of Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* infection, one case of *H. influenzae* invasive disease (younger than 5 years of age), two cases of hepatitis A, two cases of malaria, seventeen cases of possible rabies exposure, and eight 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 nine food recalls reported in Florida for the month of November 2016.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
OLMA-XXI, Inc.	Two Smoked Fish Products	11/04/2016	Listeria
McConnell's Fine Ice Creams	Selected, 16 oz. (pint size) packages of ice cream	11/04/2016	Listeria
ISB Food Group, LLC	L.A. Creamery Honeycomb Ice Cream And L.A. Creamery Salted Caramel Ice Cream	11/09/2016	Listeria
Agave Dream	Several Flavors, Pint Sized Containers of Ice Cream	11/11/2016	Listeria
Weight Watchers	Weight Watchers Smart Ones Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Sundae	11/14/2016	Listeria
Ashby's Sterling Ice Cream	Peanut Butter Landslide Ice Cream	11/14/2016	Listeria
4C Foods Corp	4C Grated Cheese, Homestyle Grated Cheese, and Cento Grated Cheese	11/15/2016	Salmonella
Sabra Dipping Company	Certain hummus products	11/19/2016	Listeria
Taylor Farms, Inc.	Vegetable Products: Bistro Boxes & Snack Trays containing Sabra hummus	11/22/2016	Listeria

All data are provisional.

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

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	November			Cumulative (YTD)		November			Cumulative (YTD)	
	2016	2015	Mean†	2016	2015	2016	2015	Mean†	2016	2015
<b>A. Enteric Infections</b>										
Campylobacteriosis	7	11	11.8	123	172	269	254	201.8	3289	3301
Cryptosporidiosis	1	3	3.2	18	49	52	53	48	548	823
E.Coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing Infection**	8	6	4.2	64	43	64	31	35.6	602	398
Giardiasis, Acute	3	16	10	72	81	89	86	88.2	1036	961
Salmonellosis	46	48	40.8	491	479	543	606	625.8	5794	5792
Shigellosis	6	6	10	114	79	96	117	149	884	1909
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>										
H. Influenzae Invasive Disease, < 5 years old	1	0	0	3	9	6	6	2	28	36
Meningococcal Disease	1	0	0.6	2	3	3	0	3.8	15	21
<b>C. Viral Hepatitis</b>										
Hepatitis A	2	0	0.2	8	4	15	5	8	112	101
Hepatitis B, Acute	2	3	2	40	27	57	45	32	622	466
Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen In Pregnant Women	7	8	5.2	73	40	46	35	31.2	392	411
<b>D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses</b>										
Dengue Fever	1	2	1.2	15	7	7	17	11.4	75	65
Lyme Disease	1	0	0.2	19	8	31	18	12.4	352	172
Malaria	2	0	0.4	10	9	7	3	3.2	67	35
Rabies, Possible Exposure	17	3	1.2	107	7	314	258	225.6	3039	3041
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	8	0	0	168	0	232	0	0	1172	0
<b>E. Others</b>										
Lead Poisoning	4	4	11.2	33	50	91	51	64.4	769	779
Legionellosis	3	4	2.6	23	33	53	22	22.8	332	293
Pertussis	1	0	0.4	9	15	17	16	30.6	308	307

\* 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 bioterrorism 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, November 2016

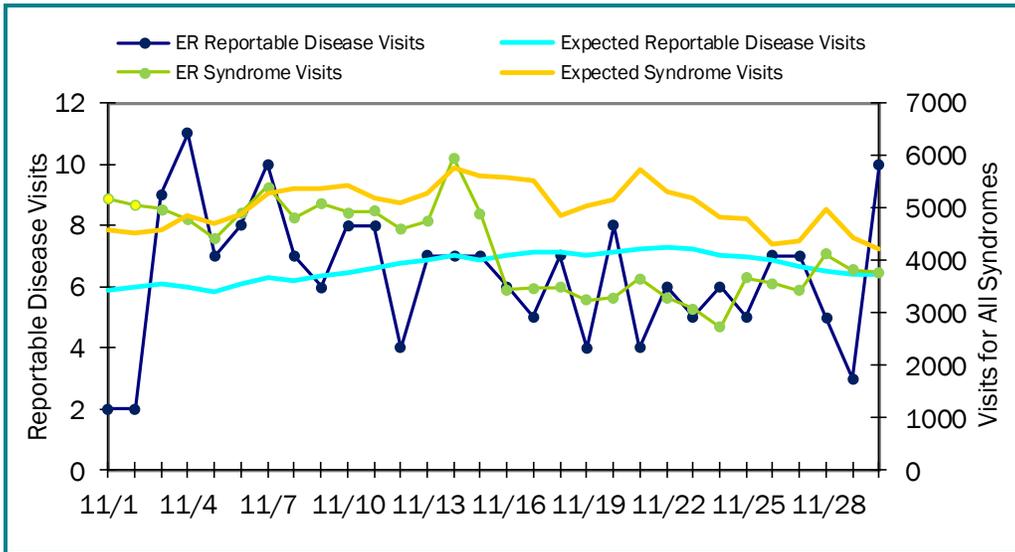


Figure 1. There are zero warnings and zero alerts for E.R reportable disease visits; and two warnings and zero alerts for E.R syndromic visits.  
Warning - Yellow data point  
Alert - Red data point

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

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	None	None	Botulism-like Illness	14	1, 2, 3, 4
Vaccine Preventable Diseases <sup>1</sup>	7, 8	10	Exposure	None	None
Hepatitis A and B	None	24	Fever	3	1, 2, 4, 6, 15
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	8, 10	20	Gastrointestinal Illness	None	None
Varicella (chicken pox)	None	4	Hemorrhagic Illness	11, 12, 13, 29	3
Vector Borne Diseases	9	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	3, 7, 9	6, 8, 10, 13, 14
Chikungunya	None	None	Injury	None	None
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	None	None
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	None	3, 4, 14
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	7, 14	6
Zika Infection	1	11, 19	Shock/Coma	4, 10, 11, 12	3, 5, 6, 7
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	4	3, 5, 6, 7	Other Illness	None	None
General Enterics <sup>2</sup>	4	3, 5, 6, 7			
Vomit and Diarrhea	7	1, 14			

<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 continues to circulate at low levels nationally. In Florida, Influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity has increased slightly, but remains at low levels across the state. There have been no positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks in Broward County and emergency department (ED) visits for ILI remained low, and are slightly below levels observed in previous seasons at this time. Broward flu activity is mild.

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

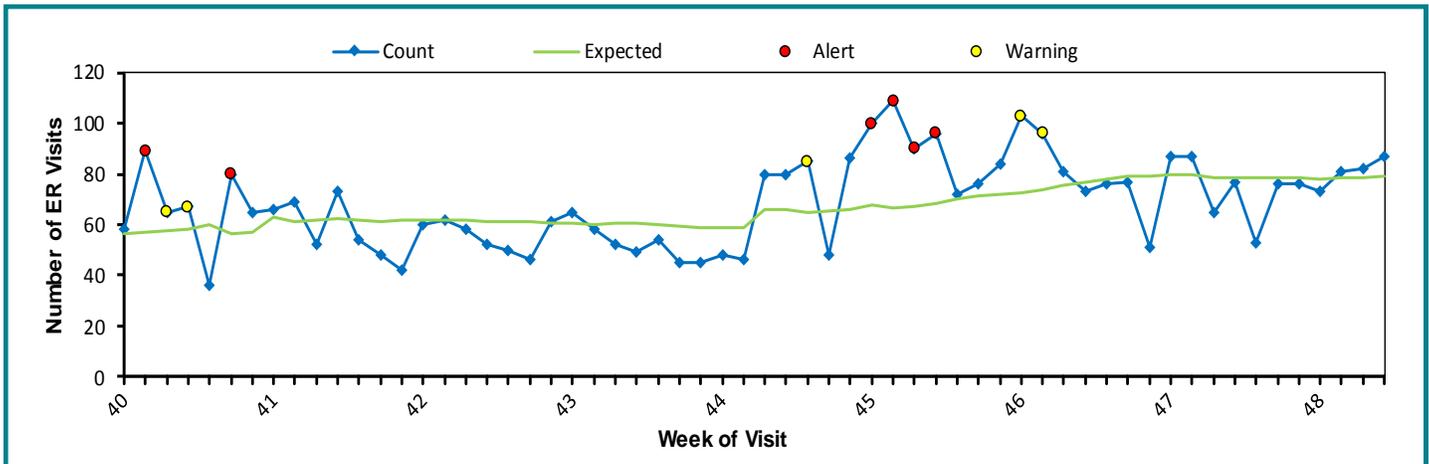


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2016

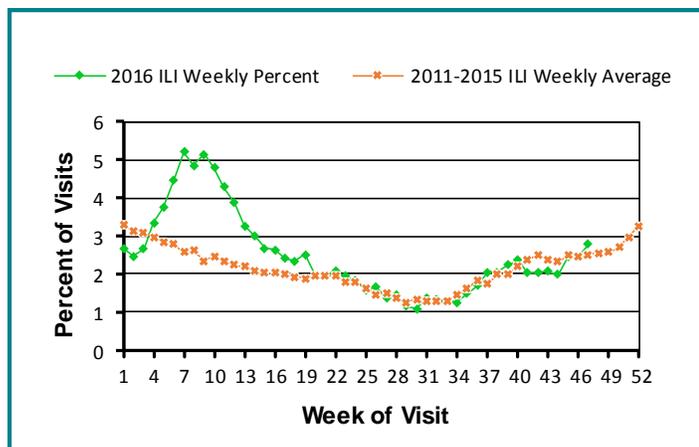
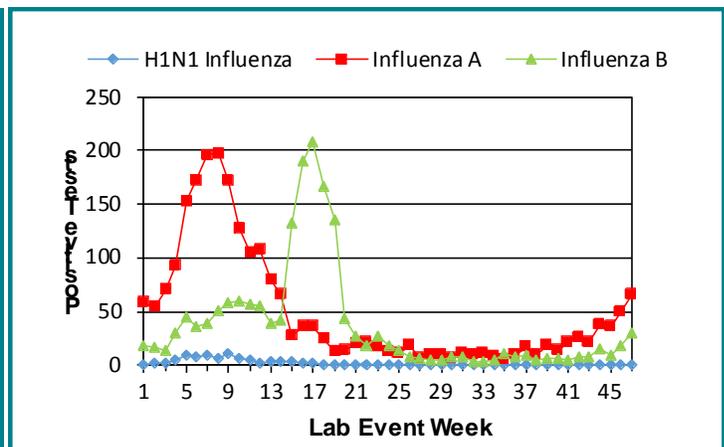


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2016



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was increasing slightly and was similar to expected levels observed in previous seasons at this time for the month of November (week 44 to week 47) with four alerts and three warnings. (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was increasing but 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 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.

