



# Florida Department of Health in Broward County

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# EPI EXAMINER

## A Monthly Epidemiology Report

February, 2017

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### Disease Summary:

In February, a total of 456 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were five cases of Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* infection, two cases of drug-susceptible invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (younger than 6 years of age), five cases of acute hepatitis B, two cases of Lyme disease, fifteen cases of possible rabies exposure, sixteen cases of non-congenital Zika virus disease and infection, one case of mercury poisoning, five cases of pertussis, fourteen cases of varicella (chickenpox), and one case of vibriosis (*Vibrio cholerae* type non-O1). These were higher than the averages of the same month in the previous five years.

### Food Recalls:

There were 10 food recalls reported in Florida for the month of February 2017.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Barberi International Inc.	Sunmba Frozen Ajiaco (vegetable mix)	02/01/17	Listeria
Country Fresh	Various Cooking & Snacking Products	02/13/17	Listeria
MDS Foods, Inc.	Various cheese products	02/13/17	Listeria
Sargento	Select Cheese Products	02/14/17	Listeria
Century Packing Corp.	Chicken Sausage Products Due To Mis-branding FL School Distribution	02/15/17	MSG Allergen
Canadian Marketplace PC Organics	Various Baby Food Pouches	02/15/17	Clostridium botulinum
Dutch Valley Food Distributors, Schlabach Branch	Assorted Cheese Items	02/17/17	Listeria
MDS Foods, Inc.	Various cheese products - Expanded Recall	02/20/17	Listeria
Ready Pac Foods Inc.	Chicken salad product w/ cheese	02/22/17	Listeria
Gourmet Classic Salads, Inc.	Ready-To-Eat Meat and Poultry Products	02/28/17	Listeria

All data are provisional.

Table 1 . Provisional Cases\* of Selected Notifiable Disease, Broward County, Florida, February 2017

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	February		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)		February		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)	
	2017	2016		2017	2016	2017	2016		2017	2016
<b>A. Enteric Infections</b>										
Campylobacteriosis	14	12	11.2	33	23	315	279	220.8	612	541
Cryptosporidiosis	3	2	1.8	7	2	19	41	37.6	46	85
E.Coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing Infection**	5	2	1.8	9	7	45	54	38.2	88	99
Giardiasis, Acute	5	4	5	10	12	74	78	76	167	149
Salmonellosis	26	26	23.8	73	61	280	265	245.6	570	644
Shigellosis	6	6	13.6	13	11	60	60	112	128	135
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>										
Meningitis, Bacterial or Mycotic	1	1	0.8	3	3	8	13	10.8	18	25
Streptococcus Pneumoniae Invasive Disease, < 6 years old:										
Drug Resistant	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	3.8	7	7
Drug Susceptible	2	0	0	3	1	8	4	4	10	11
<b>C. Viral Hepatitis</b>										
Hepatitis A	1	1	0.4	3	1	14	8	7.8	26	18
Hepatitis B, Acute	5	2	2.2	10	6	40	51	33.2	88	97
Hepatitis B, Surface Antigen In Pregnant Women	8	2	4.8	18	8	33	28	33.4	69	67
Hepatitis C	1	0	0.2	1	2	24	23	14.2	47	48
<b>D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses</b>										
Lyme Disease	2	1	0.2	3	3	81	8	7.4	109	17
Rabies, Possible Exposure	15	0	0.8	36	1	223	221	212	455	425
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	16	6	1.2	20	6	49	38	7.6	105	44
<b>E. Others</b>										
Lead Poisoning	11	6	3.6	16	9	59	61	68.4	122	86
Legionellosis	1	1	1.2	6	4	33	20	16.2	72	44
Mercury Poisoning	1	0	0	2	0	6	2	0.6	8	4
Pertussis	5	1	0.8	7	2	26	34	38	40	69
Varicella (Chickenpox)	14	6	2.8	20	15	78	108	75.2	129	181
Vibriosis (Vibrio cholerae Type Non-O1)	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.4	1	0

\* 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 are 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, February 2017

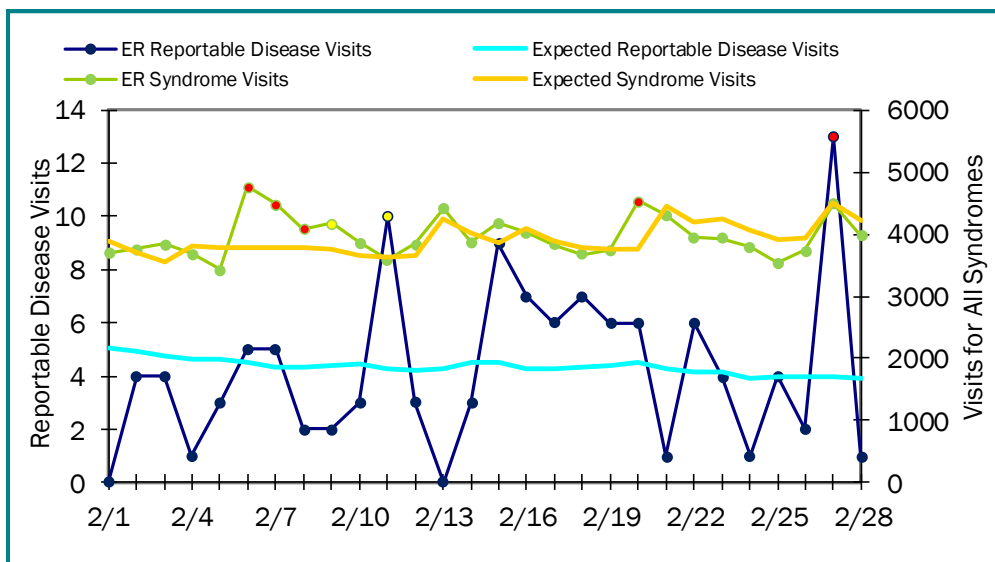


Figure 1. There are one warning and one alert for E.R reportable disease visits; and one warning and four alerts for E.R syndromic visits.

Warning - Yellow data point  
Alert - Red data point

Table 2. ESSENCE Chief Complaint Alerts and Warnings for Reportable Disease and Chief Complaint Syndromes, February 2017

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	27	11	Botulism-like Illness	None	2
Vaccine Preventable Diseases <sup>1</sup>	None	None	Exposure	27	11, 17
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	6, 7, 8, 20	5, 15, 19, 21
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	None	None	Gastrointestinal Illness	6	7, 8, 9, 13, 20
Varicella (chicken pox)	22	None	Hemorrhagic Illness	7, 8	22
Vector Borne Diseases	20	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	6, 7, 8, 20	9, 15
Chikungunya	None	None	Injury	None	13
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	6	7, 8
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	26	6, 7, 12, 20
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	6, 7, 8	9, 20
Zika Infection	None	None	Shock/Coma	None	3
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	None	1	Other Illness	7, 20	6
General Enterics <sup>2</sup>	None	1			
Vomit and Diarrhea	6, 7, 8, 9	20			

<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

During the month of February, Influenza and ILI activity increased nationally to levels above those observed in previous seasons at this time. Florida reported widespread Influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity throughout the month with elevated activity expected for several more weeks. There was one positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks in Broward County, determined to be type A subtype H3. Broward influenza activity is moderate.

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

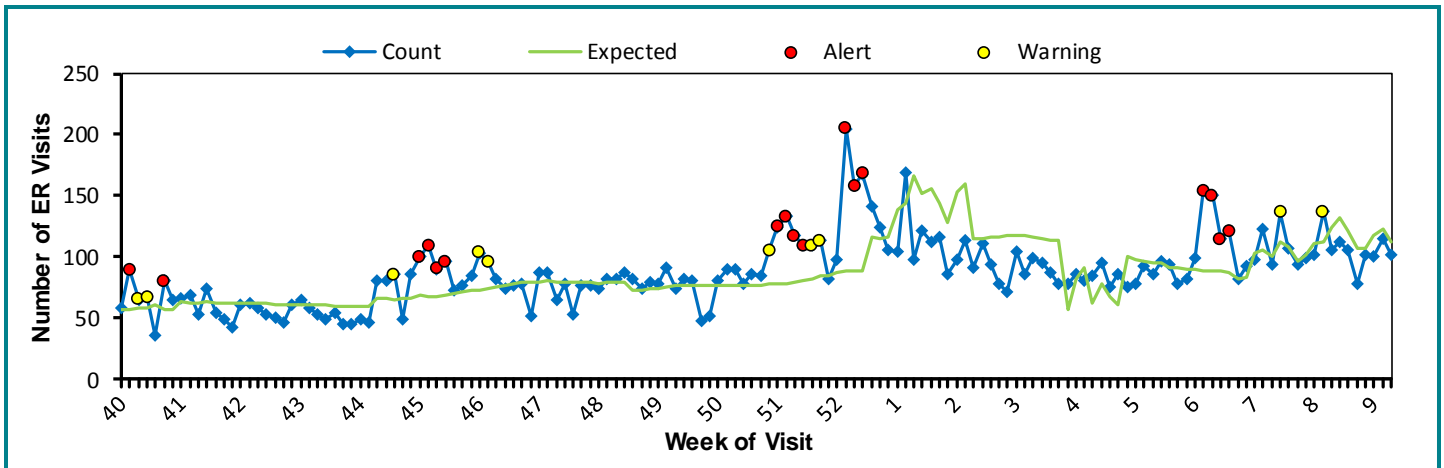


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2016-2017

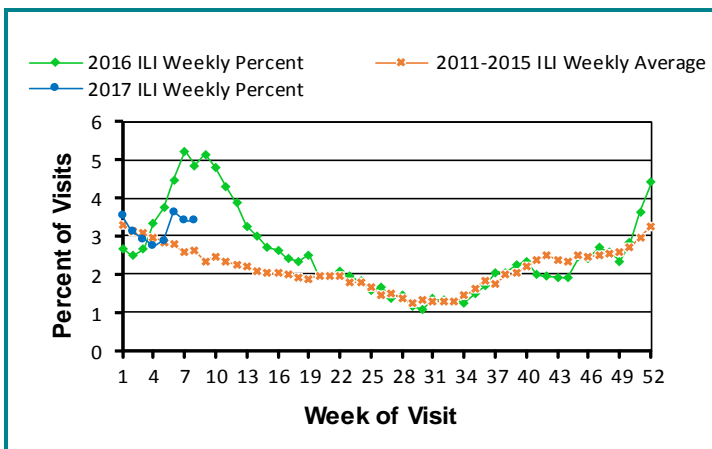
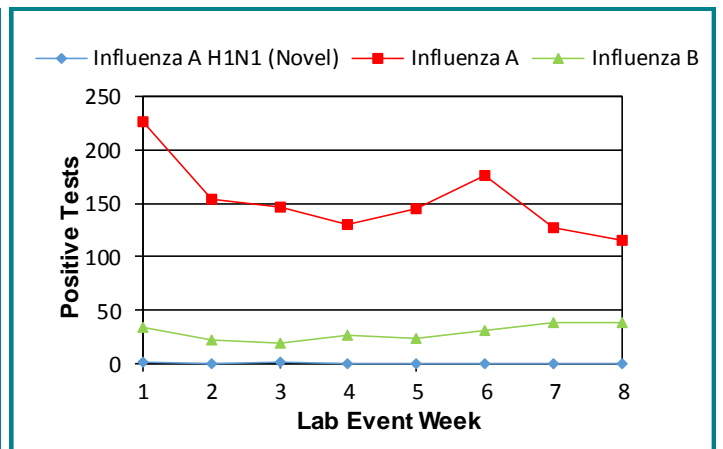


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2017



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was increasing and was above the number of expected visits at this time for the month of February (week 5 to week 8) with four alerts and two warnings. (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was increasing but was significantly below the weekly average for the last five years (Fig. 3). According to Merlin Flu Lab Reports, the number of positive tests for Influenza A greatly exceeded 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.

