



Florida Department of Health in Broward County

780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315 Office: (954) 467-4700 Fax: (954) 467-4870 <http://broward.floridahealth.gov/>

Epidemiology Program Office

Office: (954) 467-4700 Ext. 5582

Confidential fax: (954) 467-4870

Director

Paula M. Thaqi, M.D., M.P.H.

Director of Communicable Diseases

Patrick Jenkins, M.P.H.

(954) 467-4700 Ext. 5575

Epidemiology Supervisor

Nicole Castillo, M.P.H., Ext. 5581

Surveillance Contacts

Food & Waterborne Diseases

Erica Hedmann, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., Ext. 5583

Epidemiology & HIV/AIDS Data Requests

Xiaoran (Ivy) Ye, M.P.H., Ext. 5564

Syndromic Surveillance

Enas Mohamed, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., Ext. 5574

Influenza Surveillance

Patrice Fernandez, M.P.H., Ext. 5577

Immunization Outreach

(954) 467-4700

HIV/AIDS Surveillance

Martha Duarte, M.H.S.A., Ext. 5560

Perinatal HIV/AIDS Surveillance

Yvette Gonzalez, M.P.H., Ext. 5541

Perinatal Hepatitis B Surveillance

Jacqueline Ricketts, M.S., Ext. 5621

STD Surveillance

Uchekukwu Echefu, B.S., Ext. 5740

Tuberculosis

Clayton Weiss, M.P.H., Ext. 3329

To report a disease or request information call (954) 467-4700

Epidemiology Ext. 5581

HIV/AIDS Ext. 5560

STD Ext. 3311

STD Fax (954) 467-5919

Tuberculosis Ext. 3329

EPI Examiner Ext. 5564

EPI EXAMINER

A Monthly Epidemiology Report

June, 2017

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Disease Summary: In June, a total of 458 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were three cases of cyclosporiasis, five cases of hepatitis A, three cases of acute hepatitis B, one case of hepatitis E, one case of possible herpes B virus exposure, three cases of animal rabies, two cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, one case of Hansen’s disease (leprosy), four cases of mercury poisoning, one case of influenza-associated pediatric mortality, one case of acute pesticide-related illness and injury, and ten cases of varicella (chickenpox). These were higher than the averages of the same month in the previous five years.

Food Recalls: There were 13 food recalls reported in Florida, June 2017.

Brand Names	Food	Date	Health Risk
Global Garlic Inc.	Queso Freso/Whole Milk Cheese	06/05/2017	Listeria
Kroger	12 oz. packages of Simple Truth Dry Roasted Macadamia Nuts	06/14/2017	Listeria
Gomacro	Limited Number of Macrobars and Thrive Bars	06/14/2017	Listeria
Wildway LLC	Certain Grain-Free Granola Products	06/14/2017	Listeria
New England Natural Bakers	Evoke Organic Classic Swiss & Athlete Fuel	06/15/2017	Listeria
Bulletproof 360, Inc.	Collagen Protein Bars and Bites	06/15/2017	Listeria
Willis Ocean Inc	Uneviscerated Scomber Fish	06/16/2017	Clostridium Botulinum
Chic-A-Peas, LLC	Chic-a-Peas Baked Crunchy Chickpeas 2 oz. packages	06/16/2017	Listeria
NOW Health Group Inc.	Ellyndale® Nutty Infusions™	06/16/2017	Listeria
Supreme Cuisine	Meat and Poultry Fat and Lard Products	06/17/2017	Packaging defect may cause spoilage
United Natural Trading LLC	Products Containing Organic and Natural Chopped Dates	06/20/2017	Listeria
House of Thaller	Selected Pine Nut Hummus Products	06/21/2017	Listeria
Publix	Publix Tropical Medley Mix	06/26/2017	Listeria

All data are provisional.

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

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	June		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)		June		Mean†	Cumulative (YTD)	
	2017	2016		2017	2016	2017	2016		2017	2016
A. Enteric Infections										
Campylobacteriosis	22	19	19.4	107	71	460	341	310	2092	1729
Cryptosporidiosis	4	3	4	21	9	36	29	45	190	209
Cyclosporiasis	3	0	0	3	0	21	3	2.2	22	4
E.Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing Infection**	8	9	5	41	31	66	58	45.4	326	281
Giardiasis, Acute	7	8	7.4	44	42	83	111	88.8	531	576
Salmonellosis	65	63	49.6	241	193	666	587	535.4	2295	2208
Shigellosis	13	14	17.2	60	63	170	92	194.6	582	416
B. Viral Hepatitis										
Hepatitis A	5	0	0.2	16	3	26	7	8.8	125	51
Hepatitis B, Acute	3	0	1	26	21	72	58	38.6	353	322
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	11	4	5.2	53	31	49	34	39.4	245	213
Hepatitis C, Acute	2	4	1.6	11	10	37	30	17.6	169	142
Hepatitis E	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0.2	4	3
C. Vector Borne, Zoonoses										
Ciguatera Fish Poisoning	2	1	1	2	1	3	1	3.2	17	1
Herpes B Virus, Possible Exposure	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0.4	7	0
Lyme Disease	3	3	0.8	11	7	21	16	9.4	169	49
Rabies, Animal	3	0	0	3	0	12	8	3.6	37	35
Rabies, Possible Exposure	9	16	3.4	92	43	320	317	277	1612	1599
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	2	13	2.6	31	38	27	71	14.2	200	236
D. Others										
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	2	0	0.2	6	6	33	29	14	108	132
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	1	0	0	1	0	3	1	0.8	13	11
Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0.2	13	6
Lead Poisoning	2	2	1.8	30	19	99	78	69.6	561	386
Legionellosis	7	2	2.8	22	9	41	26	20.8	203	124
Mercury Poisoning	4	1	0.4	9	1	6	2	1	23	14
Pertussis	1	0	1.2	11	7	45	23	46.4	195	173
Pesticide-Related Illness and Injury, Acute	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	6.2	15	4
Varicella (Chickenpox)	10	3	2	61	30	42	50	45.4	360	440

* 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, June 2017

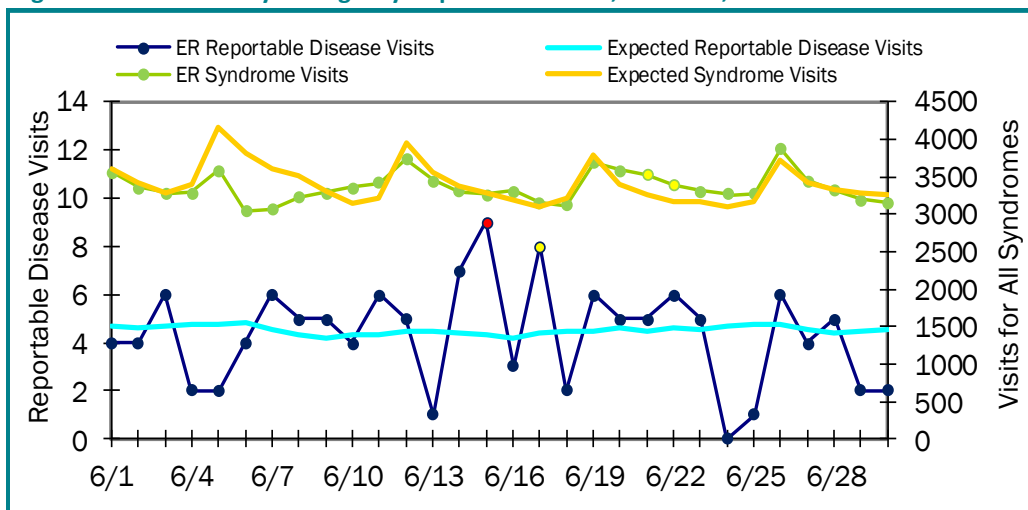


Figure 5. There are one warning and one alert for E.R reportable disease visits; and two warnings and zero alerts for E.R syndromic visits.
Warning - Yellow data point
Alert - Red data point

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

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	15	17	Botulism-like Illness	22	12, 21, 26, 27, 28
Vaccine Preventable Diseases ¹	3	5	Exposure	None	9, 15, 19, 22, 23
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	None	3, 21
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	12, 15, 16	None	Gastrointestinal Illness	None	11
Varicella (chicken pox)	None	None	Hemorrhagic Illness	None	None
Vector Borne Diseases	None	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	None	None
Chikungunya	None	None	Injury	20, 21, 26	None
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	26	12, 13, 20, 22
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	None	None
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	None	None
Zika Infection	None	None	Shock/Coma	None	5, 12
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20	1, 15	Other Illness	None	20, 21, 22
General Enterics ²	13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20	1, 15			
Vomit and Diarrhea	None	3			

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

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

During the month of June, Influenza and ILI activity continued to circulate at low levels nationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified an antigenically drifted influenza B Victoria lineage strain circulating nationally, and in Florida, that is different from the strain of influenza B Victoria lineage contained in the current 2016-17 influenza vaccination. Statewide activity has remained low, which is typical for this time of year. Florida reported local Influenza Like Illness (ILI) activity with the peak of the season to have passed in week 8. There were no positive influenza tests detected by the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories in recent weeks in Broward County. Broward influenza activity peaked in week 52 and remains sporadic.

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

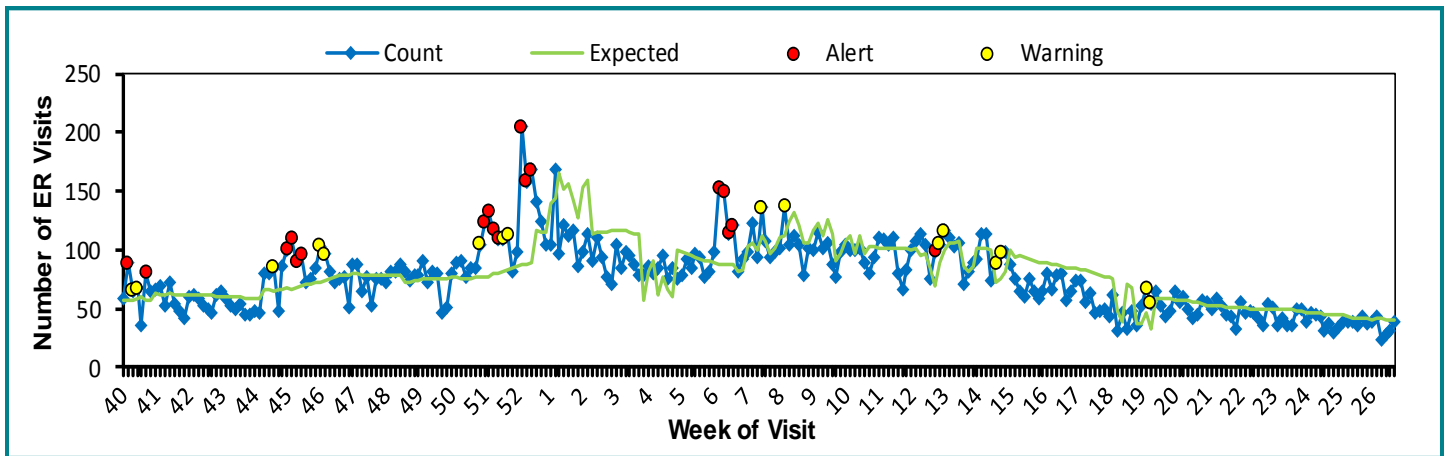


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2016-2017

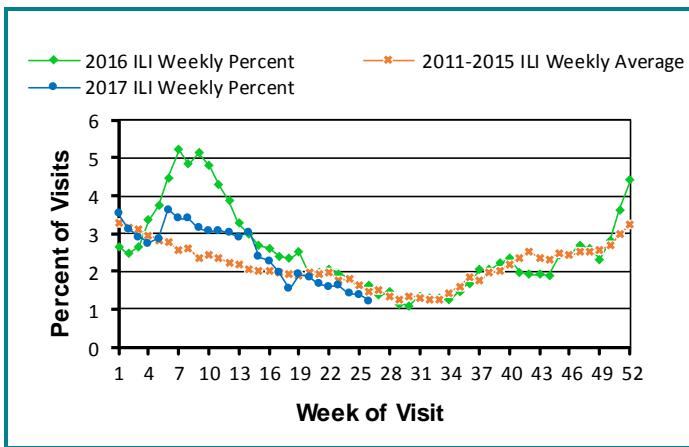
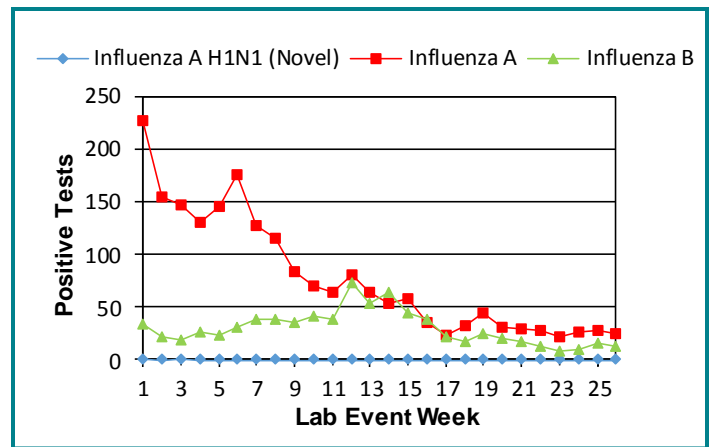


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2017



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was decreasing and was below the number of expected visits at this time for the month of June (week 22 to week 26) with zero alerts and zero warnings (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was decreasing and was 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 has plateaued and was similar to the number of positive tests for Influenza B. Overall, the number of positive test results are decreasing as expected for the month of June (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.

