



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 Soddors, 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

Uchekukwu Echefu, Ext. 5740

Test and Treat

Sonya Richards, Ext. 5759

Tuberculosis

Mario Carranza, Ext. 3329

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

Epidemiology Ext. 5581

HIV/AIDS Ext. 5560

STD Ext. 5740

STD Fax (954) 467-5919

Tuberculosis Ext. 3329

EPI Examiner Ext. 5564

EPI EXAMINER

A Monthly Epidemiology Report

November, 2017

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Disease Summary:

In November, a total of 461 cases of various diseases were reported to the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Among them, there were fifty-four cases of salmonellosis, sixteen cases of hepatitis B among pregnant women, four cases of acute hepatitis C, one case of possible herpes B virus exposure, one case of West Nile virus non-neuroinvasive disease, three cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, two cases of mercury poisoning, and four cases of mumps.

Food Recalls:

There was one food recall reported in Florida for the month of November 2017.

Brand Name	Food	Recall Date	Health Risk
Giant/Martin's, Stop&Shop	Store Brand Frozen Whole Kernel Sweet Corn	11/16/2017	Listeria
Yorgo's Foods Inc	All Flavored and Unflavored Food Products (Hommus; Tahini Sauces; Yogurt Dip, Salads, Tzatziki, Grape Leaves; Taboule)	11/16/2017	Listeria

Link to food recalls: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/food-and-waterborne-disease/florida-food-recalls.html>

All data are provisional.

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

	BROWARD COUNTY					FLORIDA				
	November			Cumulative		November			Cumulative	
	2017	2016	Mean†	2017	2016	2017	2016	Mean†	2017	2016
A. Enteric Infections										
Campylobacteriosis	15	7	10.8	231	123	334	269	216.4	3965	3283
Cryptosporidiosis	3	1	3.2	34	18	53	50	53.4	507	546
E.Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing Infection**	1	8	5.2	56	63	48	61	41	592	566
Giardiasis, Acute	10	3	9	90	72	80	88	83.8	923	1034
Salmonellosis	54	44	42.2	607	485	734	537	606	6050	5766
Shigellosis	5	6	10.6	103	114	92	96	121.8	1213	880
B. CNS Diseases & Bacteremias										
Meningococcal Disease	1	1	0.6	2	2	2	3	3.4	22	15
Strep pneumoniae Invasive Disease										
Drug-Susceptible	1	0	0.2	6	7	5	5	4	29	41
C. Viral Hepatitis										
Hepatitis A	1	2	0.6	35	8	26	14	9.4	249	110
Hepatitis B, Acute	2	2	2.2	50	41	59	64	41.6	711	643
Hepatitis B, Pregnant Women	16	6	5.4	102	72	42	44	34.8	437	388
Hepatitis C, Acute	4	0	1	23	23	37	14	15.8	365	274
D. Vector Borne, Zoonoses										
Chikungunya Fever	1	0	1.6	2	2	1	0	11	3	9
Dengue Fever	1	0	1.2	3	13	6	3	11	26	60
Herpes B Virus, Possible Exposure	1	0	0	5	0	4	0	0.2	18	0
Malaria	1	1	0.4	5	8	4	5	2.8	51	62
Rabies, Animal	1	0	0.4	1	0	2	3	7	27	55
Rabies, Possible Exposure	18	17	4.6	162	107	310	313	246.6	3120	3035
West Nile Virus Non-Neuroinvasive Disease	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0.6	4	2
Zika Virus Disease and Infection, Non-Congenital	2	8	1.6	46	165	29	230	46	357	1170
E. Others										
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	3	0	0	62	6	94	15	16.6	764	241
Lead Poisoning	2	4	2	40	34	52	88	67.2	883	762
Legionellosis	1	3	3	47	23	52	53	28.6	469	332
Mercury Poisoning	2	0	0	17	3	6	3	1.8	46	19
Mumps	4	0	0	11	3	13	0	0.4	90	23
Varicella (Chickenpox)	4	0	3.4	85	48	60	49	43.4	594	671

* 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.

All data are provisional.

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 2017

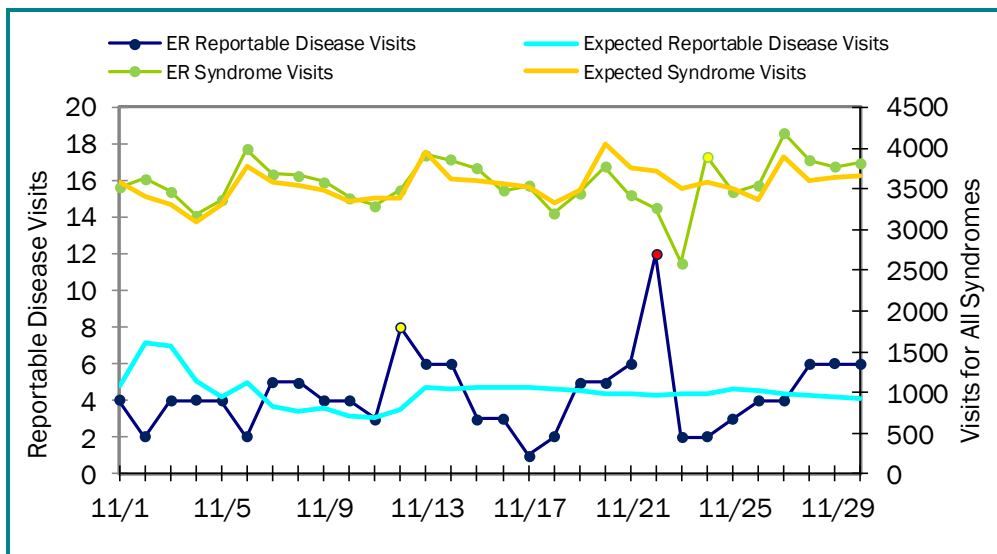


Figure 5. There are one warning and one alert for E.R reportable disease visits; and one warning and zero alert for E.R syndromic visits.

Warning - Yellow data point
Alert - Red data point

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

Disease	Alert Dates	Warning Dates	Syndrome	Alert Dates	Warning Dates
All Reportable Disease Query	22	12	Botulism-like Illness	None	3, 30
Vaccine Preventable Diseases ¹	10	12	Exposure	None	12, 22
Hepatitis A and B	None	None	Fever	12, 26, 27	5, 7, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 28
Meningitis (may not be bacterial)	None	30	Gastrointestinal Illness	None	2, 6, 14, 15, 27
Varicella (chicken pox)	None	None	Hemorrhagic Illness	None	20, 30
Vector Borne Diseases	None	None	Influenza-like Illness (ILI)	24, 26, 28, 29, 30	15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 25, 27
Chikungunya	None	None	Injury	None	29
Dengue	None	None	Neurological	None	7, 9
Encephalitis	None	None	Rash	27	25, 28, 29
Malaria	None	None	Respiratory	27	13, 14, 15, 24, 26, 28, 29
Zika Infection	None	None	Shock/Coma	2, 3, 14	4, 7
Gastrointestinal Illnesses	3, 8, 9, 10, 12	None	Other Illness	None	27
General Enterics ²	3, 8, 9, 10, 12	None			
Vomit and Diarrhea	None	14, 15, 26, 27			

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 November, Influenza and ILI activity has continued to increase but has remained below the national baseline. Statewide, activity has been steadily increasing over the last few weeks. 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, 2017-2018

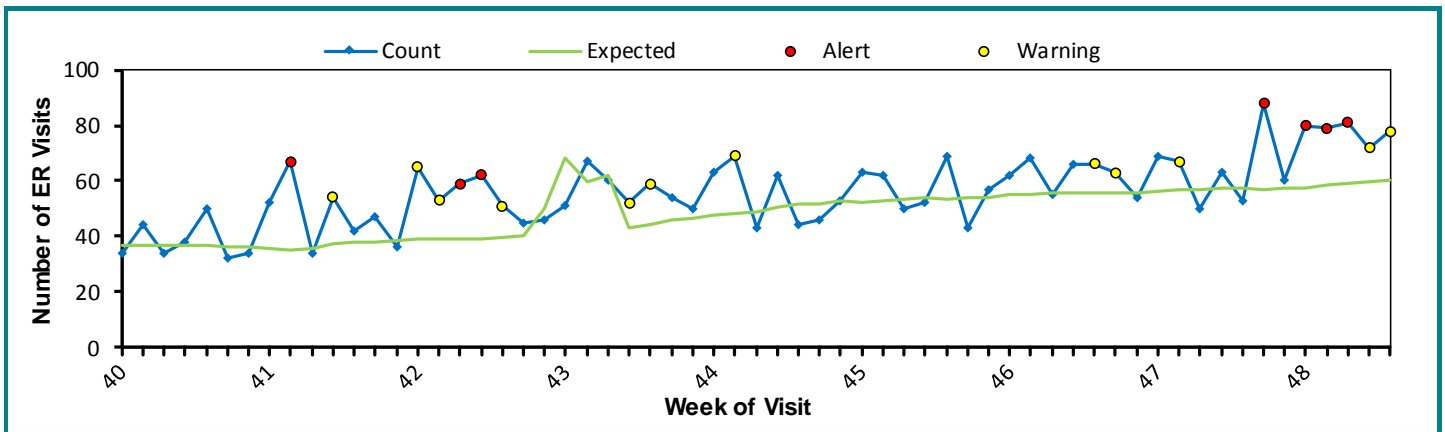


Figure 3. ESSENCE Reported ILI Visits, Broward, 2017

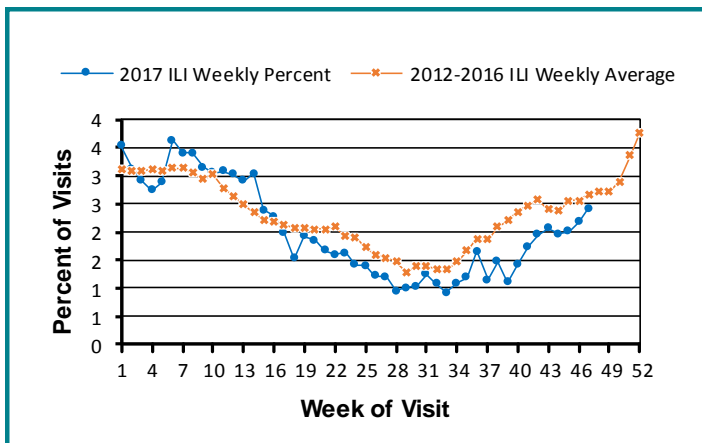
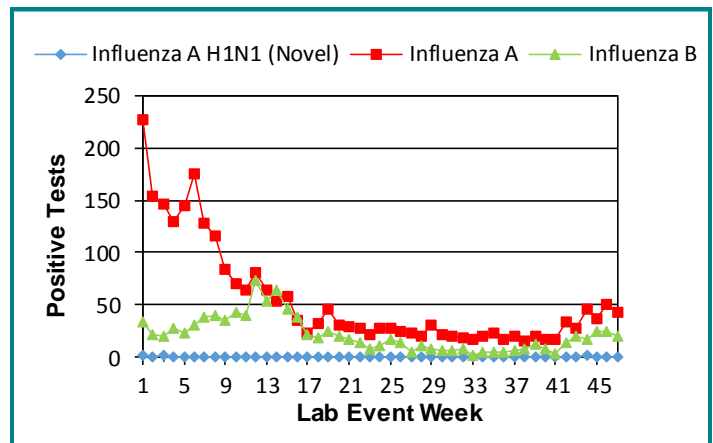


Figure 4. Merlin Reported Circulating Flu Types, Broward, 2017



Summary of Influenza and Respiratory Diseases Data

The number of visits to the emergency department for ILI was similar to previous weeks and was slightly above the number of expected visits at this time for the month of November (week 44 to week 47) with four alerts and five warnings (Fig. 2). The percentage of emergency department visits due to ILI was increasing, and is at lower levels when compared 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 has slightly increased. Positive results for Influenza B were increasing, compared to the month of October (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.



Test and Treat, Broward County, 2017

Test and Treat Program Totals as of: May 1st - December 6th, 2017		
TOTAL NUMBER REFERRED TO TEST AND TREAT	719	
Total Enrolled:	636	88%
Newly diagnosed:	272	43%
Previous positives:	364	57%
REFUSED:	37	5%
Total on ART:	567	89%
Total not on ART:	69	11%
INELIGIBLE:	46	6%
Jail	7	15%
OOJ	30	65%
Negative	7	15%
Deceased	2	4%
Week 33 (November 29th – December 6th, 2017)		
TOTAL NUMBER OF REFERRED TO TEST AND TREAT	35	
Total Enrolled:	35	100%
Newly diagnosed:	17	49%
Previous positives:	18	51%
REFUSED:	0	0%
Total on ART:	22	63%
Total not on ART:	13	37%
INELIGIBLE:	0	0%