

**The following is a message from Steven Fleming at Massachusetts Department of Public Health:**

**Influenza Activity in Massachusetts**

For week 2, influenza-like illness (ILI, defined by fever >100°F and cough and/or sore throat) activity was reported as **widespread** in Massachusetts, at **moderate** intensity.

Detailed weekly flu surveillance reports are posted on the [Mass Public Health Blog](#).

**National Flu Activity**

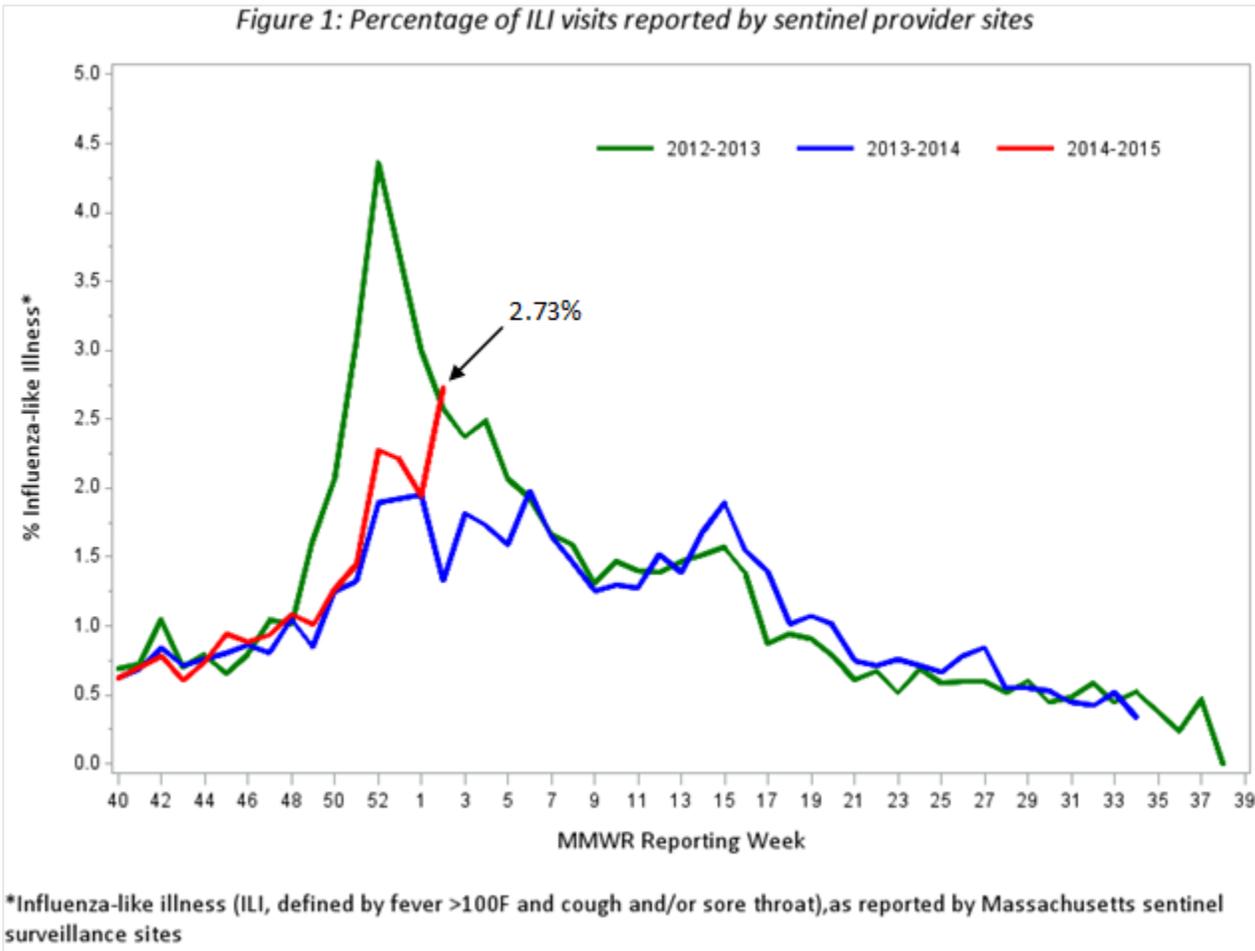
During week 2 (January 11 – January 17, 2015), influenza activity remained at elevated levels in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance:** Of 26,205 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 2, 5,104 (19.5%) were positive for influenza.
  - **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold.
  - **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** Eleven influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. A total of 56 influenza-associated deaths have been reported during the 2014-2015 season from New York City [1] and 23 states (Arizona [1], Colorado [2], Florida [2], Georgia [1], Indiana [1], Iowa [2], Kansas [2], Kentucky [3], Louisiana [2], Michigan [1], Minnesota [4], Missouri [1], North Carolina [2], Nevada [2], Ohio [4], Oklahoma [3], Pennsylvania [1], South Carolina [1], South Dakota [1], Tennessee [4], Texas [7], Virginia [3], and Wisconsin [5]).
  - **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations:** A cumulative rate for the season of 36.3 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported.
  - **Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 4.5%, above the national

baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico and 23 states experienced high ILI activity; New York City and 10 states experienced moderate ILI activity; 10 states experienced low ILI activity; seven states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.

- **Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in 44 states was reported as widespread; Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and five states reported regional activity; and the District of Columbia and one state reported local activity.
- **Antiviral Resistance:** In the United States, all recently circulating influenza viruses have been susceptible to the neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral medications, oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir; however, rare sporadic instances of oseltamivir-resistant A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses have been detected worldwide. Antiviral treatment with oseltamivir, zanamivir, or peramivir is recommended as early as possible for patients with confirmed or suspected influenza who have severe, complicated, or progressive illness; who require hospitalization; or who are at high risk for serious influenza-related complications. Additional information on recommendations for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza virus infection with antiviral agents is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/antivirals/index.htm>.

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### Questions and Resources

#### Locating Clinics

- **Location of Flu and Adult Vaccination Services:**

Flu vaccination clinics are listed on the [mylocalclinic.com](http://mylocalclinic.com) website sponsored by the Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA). MDPH urges agencies to post their clinics on this website. Many boards of health (BOHs) may have clinics that make flu and other vaccines available to both adults and children. BOHs can be contacted individually for questions about possible flu vaccination clinics in Massachusetts municipalities, including the age groups served. [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) assists the public with locating influenza and adult vaccination services within their communities. It is a free, online service where users can search for locations that offer

immunizations. Its staff works with partners such as clinics, pharmacies, and health departments to provide accurate and up-to-date information about vaccination services. MDPH urges providers and other agencies to register their locations on the [HealthMap Vaccine Finder](#) site too.

MDPH [Recommendations and Resources for the Control of Influenza \(2014-2015\)](#).

Questions about pneumococcal vaccine recommendations and insurance coverage? See the new MDPH "[Information about Pneumococcal Vaccination](#)" page.

For questions about influenza please call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Immunization Program at 617-983-6800 or your local board of health.