

Dear Partners,

Influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased slightly for week ending 1/2/2016. Attached is the weekly surveillance summary.

#### Statewide Updates

The geographic spread of flu was WIDESPREAD for the week ending 1/2/2016.

Of the 9 samples submitted to the State Laboratory of Public Health (SLPH) for viral testing this week, 1 tested positive; 1 influenza A (H3).

Hospital-based Public Health Epidemiologists (PHEs) reported 9 positive influenza result out of 961 samples tested during week 52 (ending 1/2/2016); 7 positive influenza B, 1 positive influenza A (unknown) and 1 positive influenza A (H1).

#### Regional Updates

The proportion of visits due to ILI in Region 4 (Southeastern US) was above baseline at 2.4% for week 51 (ending 12/26/2015). The baseline for the region is 1.6%.

#### National Updates

The proportion of outpatient visits due to ILI nationally was 2.6% for week 51 (ending 12/26/2015). The national baseline for ILI is 2.1%.

International Updates: December 28, 2015 – Globally, influenza activity generally remained low in both hemispheres. In a few countries in Central and Northern Asia, as well as in Eastern and Northern Europe, there were slight increases in influenza detections in recent weeks. In Eastern Asia, the rest of Europe, North Africa and North America, influenza activity continued at low, inter-seasonal levels. In southern and western Asia, Iran and Pakistan reported elevated influenza activity, predominantly influenza A(H1N1). Oman reported increased influenza activity, predominantly due to influenza A(H1N1) and influenza B viruses, while Bahrain reported a decline in influenza activity. Qatar also reported a decline in influenza activity but remained at elevated levels. Few influenza virus detections were reported by countries in tropical Africa. In tropical countries of the Americas, Central America and the Caribbean, respiratory virus activity remained at low levels, with the exception of Costa Rica A(H3N2), Cuba A(H3N2) and Nicaragua A(H1N1). In tropical Asia, South East Asia reported low influenza activity overall except Thailand where activity mainly due to B viruses continued to be reported. In the temperate countries of the Southern Hemisphere, respiratory virus activity was generally low in recent weeks.

NOTE: Updates as well as guidance for clinicians can be found at [www.flu.nc.gov](http://www.flu.nc.gov). The new sentinel provider link is <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/ILINet/Default.aspx>.