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2014-2015 Influenza Season
Reporting through the week ending October 25, 2014
(All data are provisional and may change as more reports are received.)

Overview: Surveillance for the 2014 -2015 Influenza Season officially began on September 28, 2014 and will run through May 23rd, 2015. The Colorado Flu Report is published weekly to provide a concise and up to date summary of influenza activity in the State of Colorado. Current surveillance activities include: reporting of hospitalizations due to influenza, reporting of influenza-like illness (ILI) visits by selected sites, reporting of influenza testing activity by sentinel hospital labs, monitoring circulating influenza viruses through molecular typing at the state public health laboratory, outbreaks of influenza in long-term care facilities (LTCF), and reporting of pediatric deaths due to influenza.

Synopsis: For the week ending October 25th, influenza activity was minimal based on virology surveillance.

- No additional hospitalizations were confirmed during the most recent week. The cumulative total remains at two.

Week Ending	Influenza Type/Subtype	County	Age Group
10/04/2014	B	Jefferson	0-4
10/18/2014	B	Jefferson	0-4

- Prior to the official start of the 2014/15 season, influenza-associated hospitalizations were already being reported and 7 confirmed by PCR (one for influenza A (H3) and six for influenza B) from the following 6 counties; Adams (1), Alamosa (1), Arapahoe (2), Boulder (1), Eagle (1), and Garfield (1). All seven cases had a collection date between the weeks ending 9/20 and 9/27.
- Influenza-like illness reported by Kaiser Permanente for the Denver-Boulder metropolitan area remained low at 0.65%. Influenza-like illness reported by Mesa County remained at 0.5%.
- Sentinel hospital labs (14/22 reporting) tested 294 specimens and 6 (2.0%) were positive for influenza. Caution should be used when interpreting these data based on the possibility of false positive results with the current use of rapid flu tests.
- As of October 25th, 10 specimens (out of 50 submitted) have tested positive by PCR at the state laboratory. Of these, 6 (60%) were for influenza A (H3) and 4 (40%) were for influenza B).
- No influenza-associated outbreaks have been reported as of October 25th.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported as of October 25th.

Hospitalizations: Due to the currently low influenza activity and the concern of false positive results from rapid antigen tests, influenza-associated hospitalizations are currently being counted as cases only if they are positive by PCR, DFA or viral culture. This will change as influenza activity increases.

Due to reporting delays the numbers of hospitalizations by week are recalculated each week. For the week ending October 25th, there were no influenza-associated hospitalizations confirmed. The bar representing the most recent week (week ending 10/25) is the bar most affected by reporting delays and we expect to see the number of influenza-associated hospitalizations for this week to increase (but only minimally this early in the season) as cases diagnosed between 10/19-10/25 are subsequently reported (figure 1).

There have been a total of 2 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported thus far, both from Boulder county and 0-4 years of age. It should be noted that more confirmatory testing is being done in the Denver Metro area due to a CDC funded enhanced surveillance project. This is expected to result in more complete ascertainment of influenza hospitalizations in the Denver Metro area compared to other parts of the state.

Figure 1

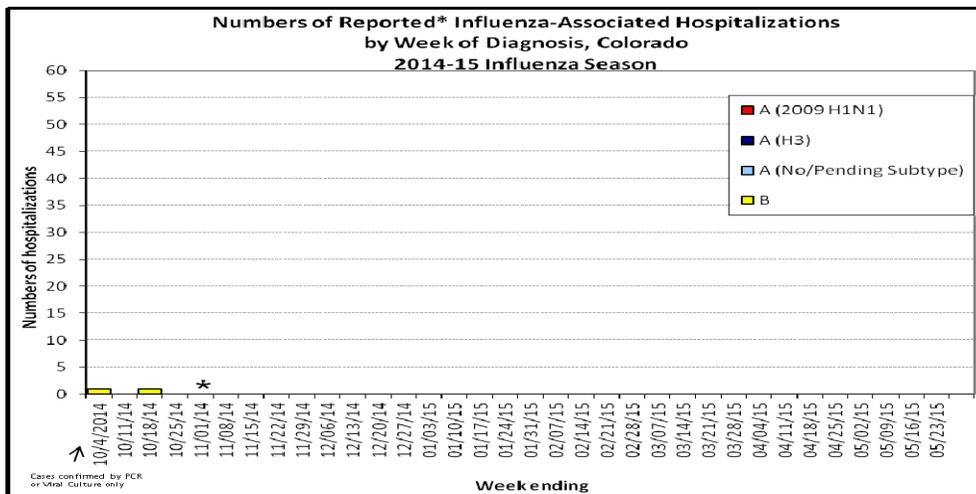
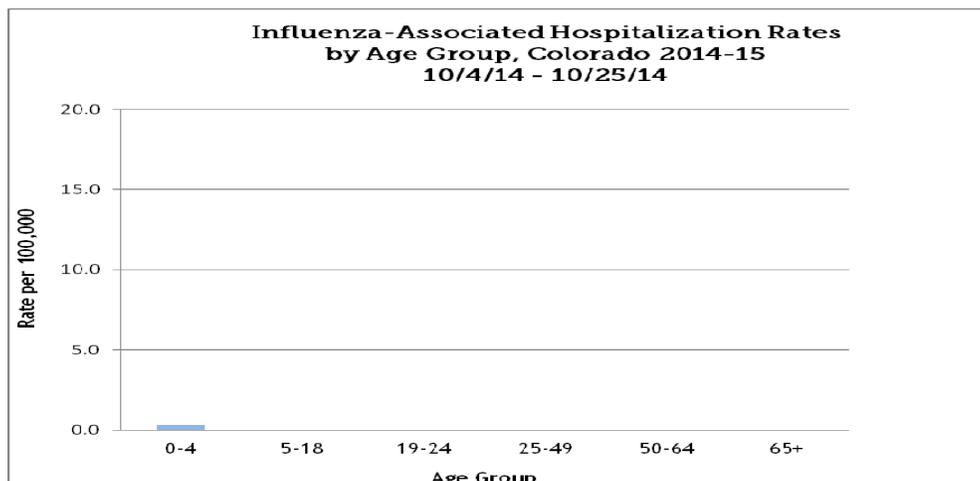


Figure 2



Virology Surveillance: For the most recent week, two additional specimens tested positive for influenza by PCR at the state laboratory (both for influenza A). Since the season began on September 28th, among 10 PCR positive specimens tested at the state laboratory; 6 (60%) have subtyped as H3 and 4 (40%) confirmed positive for influenza type B (table 1).

Table 1

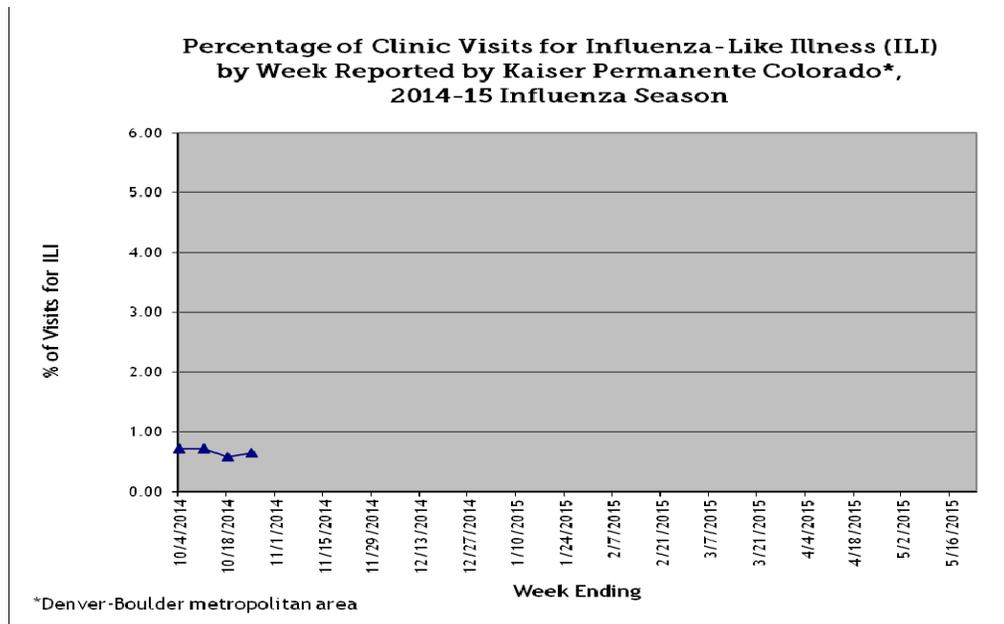
**CDPHE laboratory Influenza Type and Subtyping Results*
2014-2015 Influenza Season**

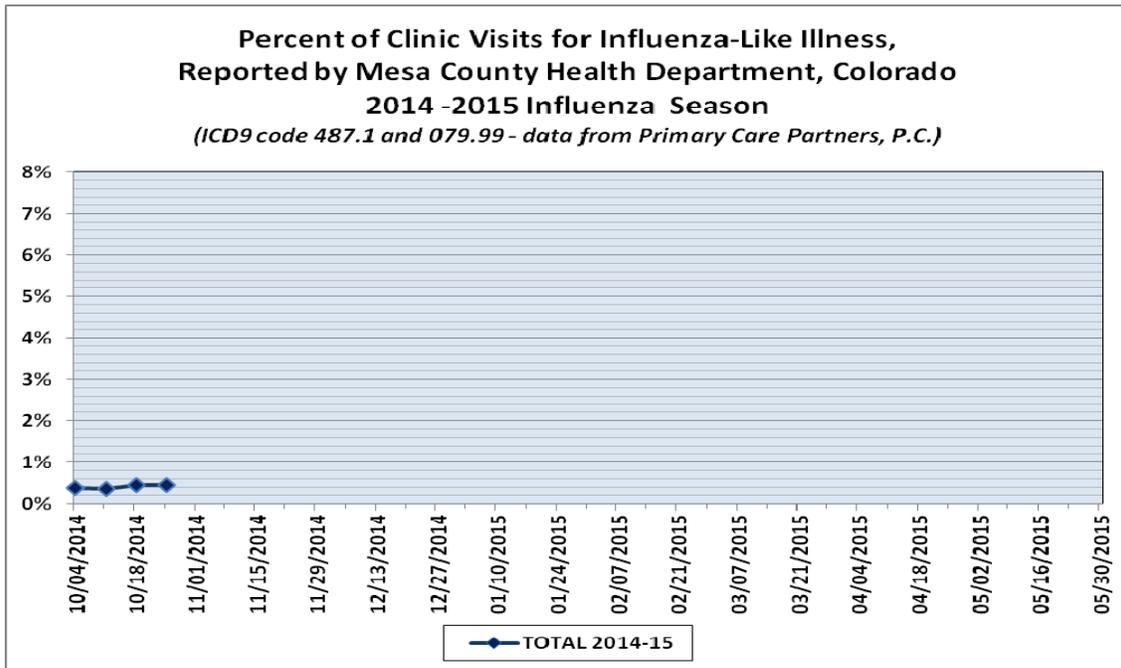
	Current Week (Week Ending 10/25/14)	Cumulative (10/04/2014-10/25/2014)
Total Positive for A	2 (0%)	6 (60%)
2009 H1N1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
H3	2 (100%)	6 (100%)
Total Positive for B	0 (0%)	4 (40%)
Total Positive by PCR	2	10

*By week of diagnosis

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance: The percentages shown in the graphs below are based on the number of primary care office visits assigned a diagnosis consistent with influenza-like illness divided by the total number of clinic visits for the week from Kaiser Permanente Colorado (Denver-Boulder area) and Primary Care Partners, P.C. in Mesa County. For the week ending October 25th, the percent of Kaiser ILI visits was .65%. Mesa County ILI was .5%.

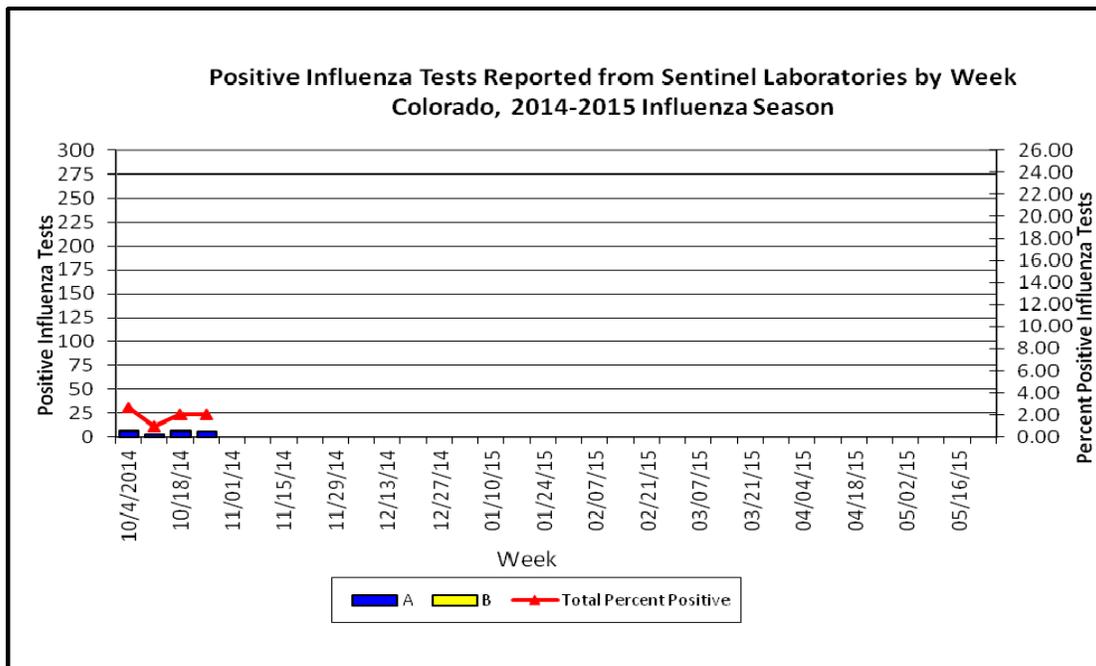
Figure 3





Sentinel Hospital Laboratories: Sentinel hospital labs report the total number of flu tests performed each week and the total number testing positive for influenza A and influenza B. During the week ending 10/25/14, sentinel hospital labs (14/22 reporting) tested 294 specimens and 6 (2.0%) were positive for influenza. Caution should be used when interpreting these data based on the possibility of false positive results with the current use of rapid flu tests.

Figure 5



To view the weekly CDC flu surveillance Reports, go to:
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.htm>