



# Florida Department of Health - Martin County

2014-2015 Influenza Season Summary Report

Surveillance Time Period: October 2014 to May 2015

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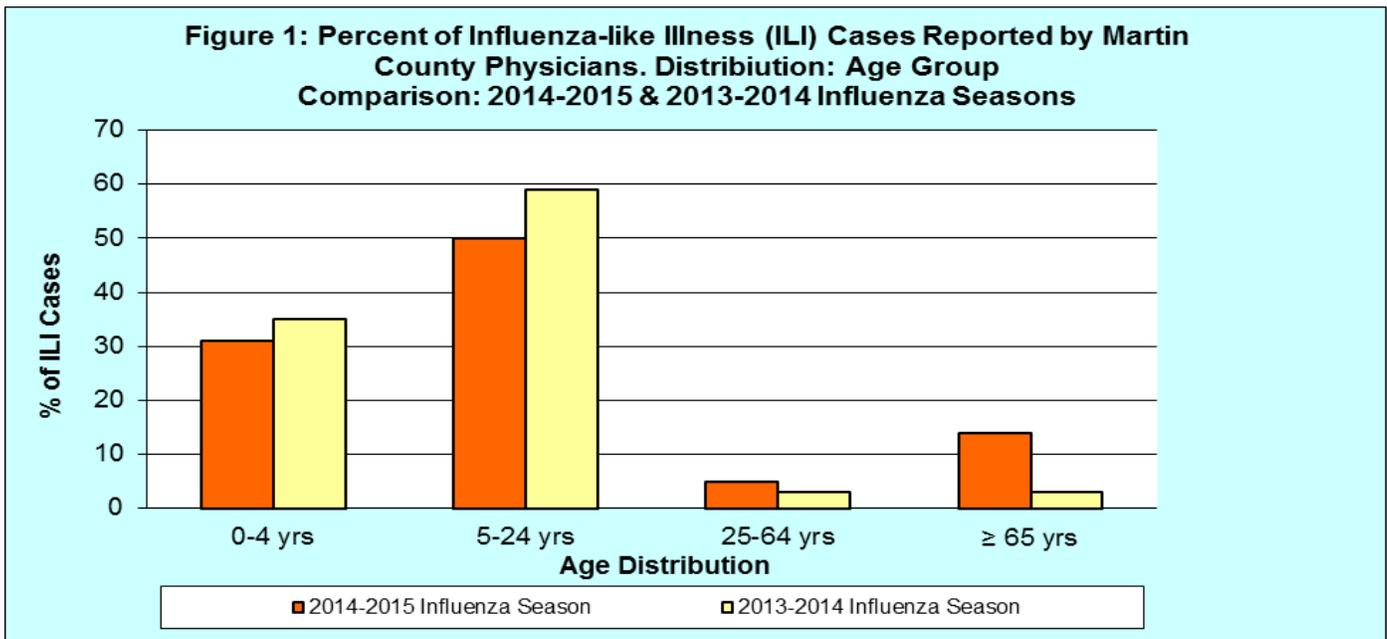
## Martin County Influenza Surveillance Systems

The Epidemiology Division at the Florida Department of Health in Martin County utilizes 3 different components to conduct influenza surveillance. These components are: 1) influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by physicians, long-term care facilities, school health assistants, and hospital emergency departments, 2) school absenteeism, and 3) laboratory surveillance. The surveillance data is collected throughout the influenza season (October-May) and is utilized to monitor ILI activity and measure the impact of ILI in Martin County.

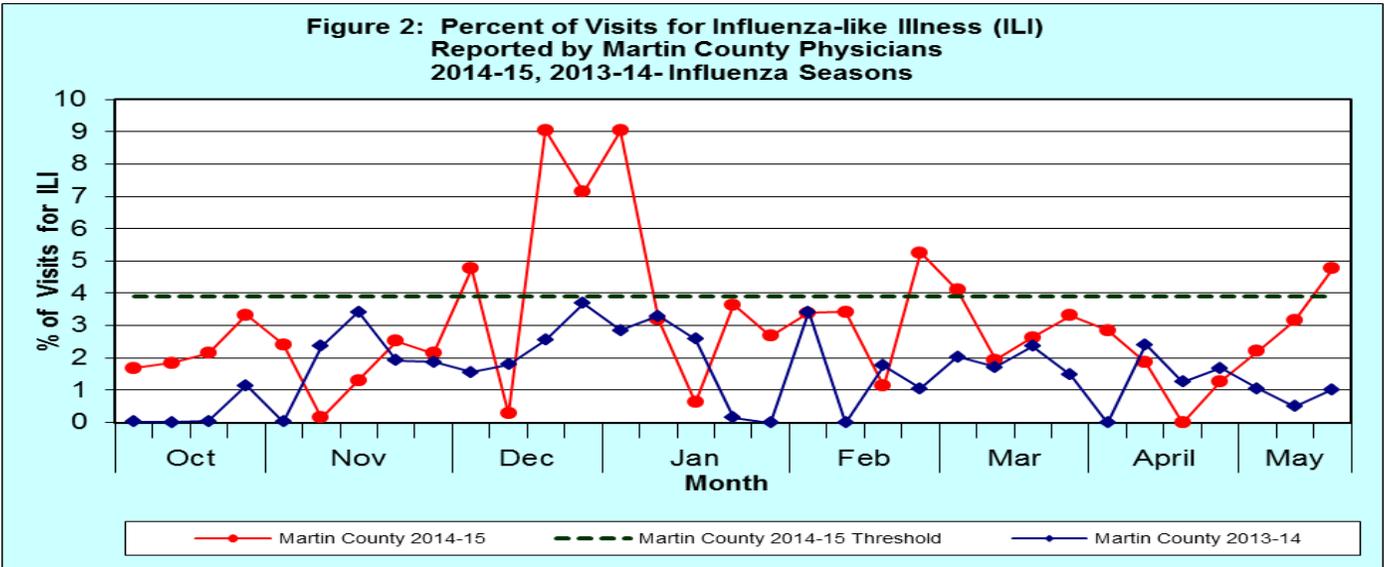
\*ILI is defined as a fever  $\geq 100$  and cough and/or sore throat.

## Physicians Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

Throughout the influenza season, participating physicians complete weekly questionnaires reporting the total number of patient visits for ILI. During the 2014-2015 influenza season, physicians reported a total of 642 patients with ILI symptoms; this is 63% higher than the number reported during the 2013-2014 influenza season (N=393). The majority of the patients with ILI (N=323, 50%) were within the 5-24 age group, followed by 31% (N=196) from the 0-4 age group (Figure 1). The percentage of patient visits to participating providers for ILI averaged 3.02% for the 2014-2015 influenza season, compared to 1.55% for the 2013-2014 influenza season (Figure 2). The 2014-2015 influenza season began with higher levels of ILI activity followed by a peak mid-season (December & January).



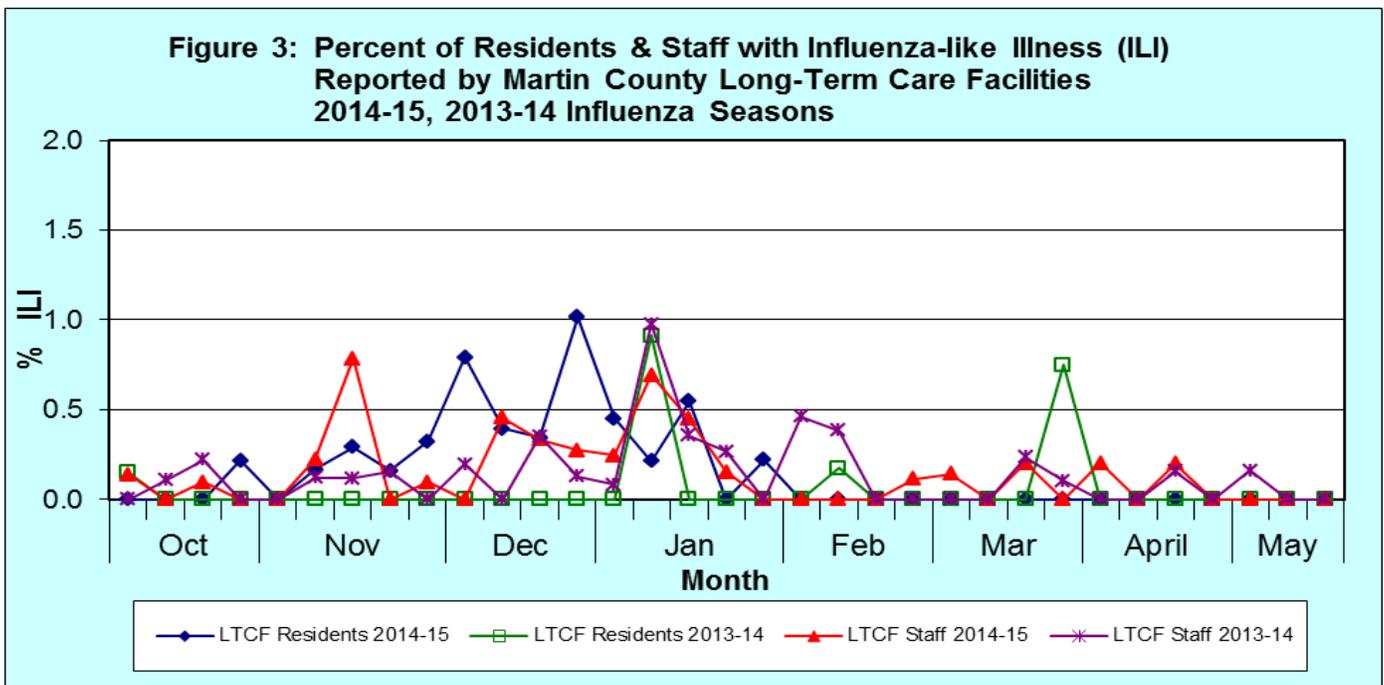
**Figure 2: Percent of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by Martin County Physicians 2014-15, 2013-14- Influenza Seasons**



**Long Term Care Facilities Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance**

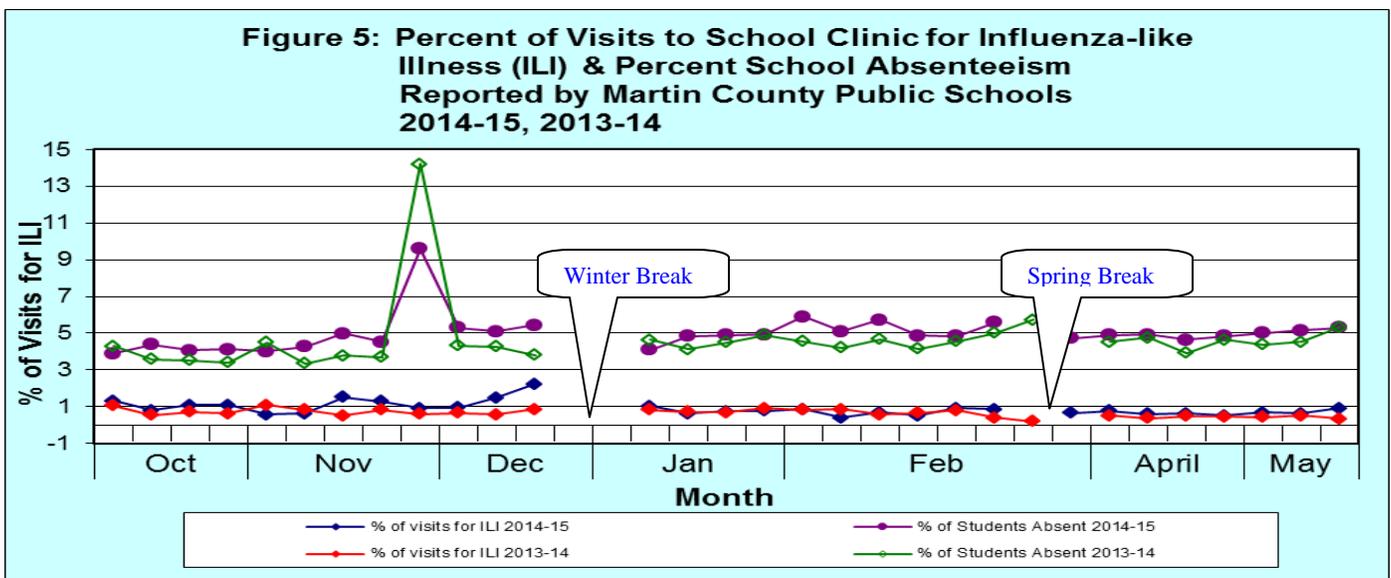
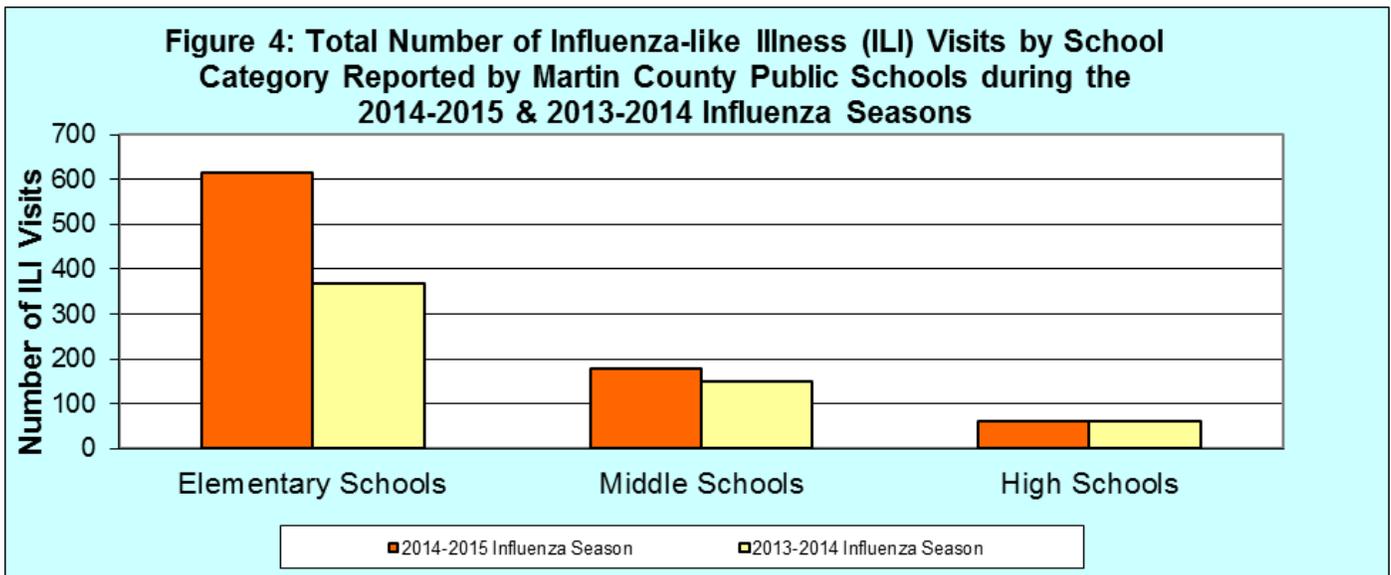
During the influenza season, long-term care facilities (i.e. nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and independent living facilities) voluntarily report the total number of residents and staff at the facility each week along with the number of residents and staff with ILI. During the 2014-2015 influenza season, long-term care facilities reported a total of 27 residents and 36 staff members with ILI. The number of residents with ILI this season is 80% higher than that reported during the 2013-2014 influenza season (N=15), and the number of staff with ILI this season is 8% lower than that reported during the 2013-2014 influenza season (N=39). This influenza season, ILI activity among long-term care facilities residents and staff peaked between December and January (Figure 3). The percentage of residents and staff with ILI averaged 0.16% and 0.15% respectively; these percentages were higher than those observed during the 2013-2014 influenza season.

**Figure 3: Percent of Residents & Staff with Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by Martin County Long-Term Care Facilities 2014-15, 2013-14 Influenza Seasons**



## Schools Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Absenteeism Surveillance

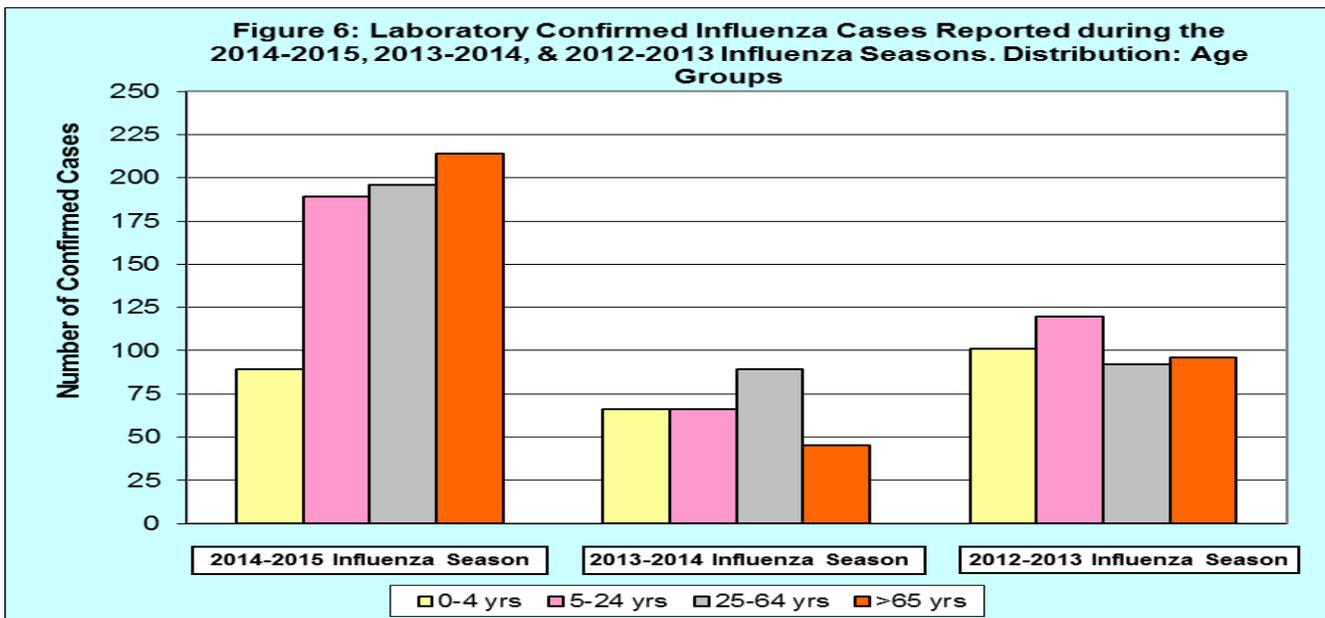
During the influenza season, Martin County Public Schools' health assistants provide weekly reports with the total number of student visits to the school health clinic along with the number of student visits related to ILI. During the 2014-2015 influenza season, Martin County Public Schools reported a total of 853 students with ILI; this value is 47% higher than the one reported during the 2013-2014 influenza season (N=580). The majority of the students with ILI were from elementary schools (N=615, 72%), followed by middle schools (N=177, 21%), and then high schools (N=61, 7%) (Figure 4). The percentage of student visits to the school health clinics for ILI averaged 0.89% for the 2014-2015 influenza season. This value is higher than the number recorded during the 2013-2014 influenza season (0.65%) (Figure 5). In addition to ILI data, the Division of Epidemiology collects daily absenteeism and enrollment data from all Martin County Public Schools. The absenteeism rate in all Martin County Public Schools averaged 5% for the 2014-2015 influenza season which is higher than the rate observed during the 2013-2014 influenza season (4.64%) (Figure 5).



## Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Surveillance

The Division of Epidemiology collects laboratory-confirmed influenza cases from Martin Health Systems and from the state laboratories. During the 2014-2015 influenza season 688 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported (Table 1); this is more than 2.5 times the total number of confirmed cases reported during the 2013-2014 influenza season (N=266), and 66% higher than the 2012-2013 season. The majority of the confirmed influenza cases (N=475, 69%) were influenza type A which is consistent with the trend seen during the previous two influenza seasons. The age distribution of the laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were as follows: 25%-0-4 years of age, 29%-5-24 years of age, 23%-25-64 years of age, and also 23%- $\geq$ 65 years or older (Figure 6). The age distribution pattern observed during the 2014-2015 influenza season is consistent with the ones observed in previous seasons.

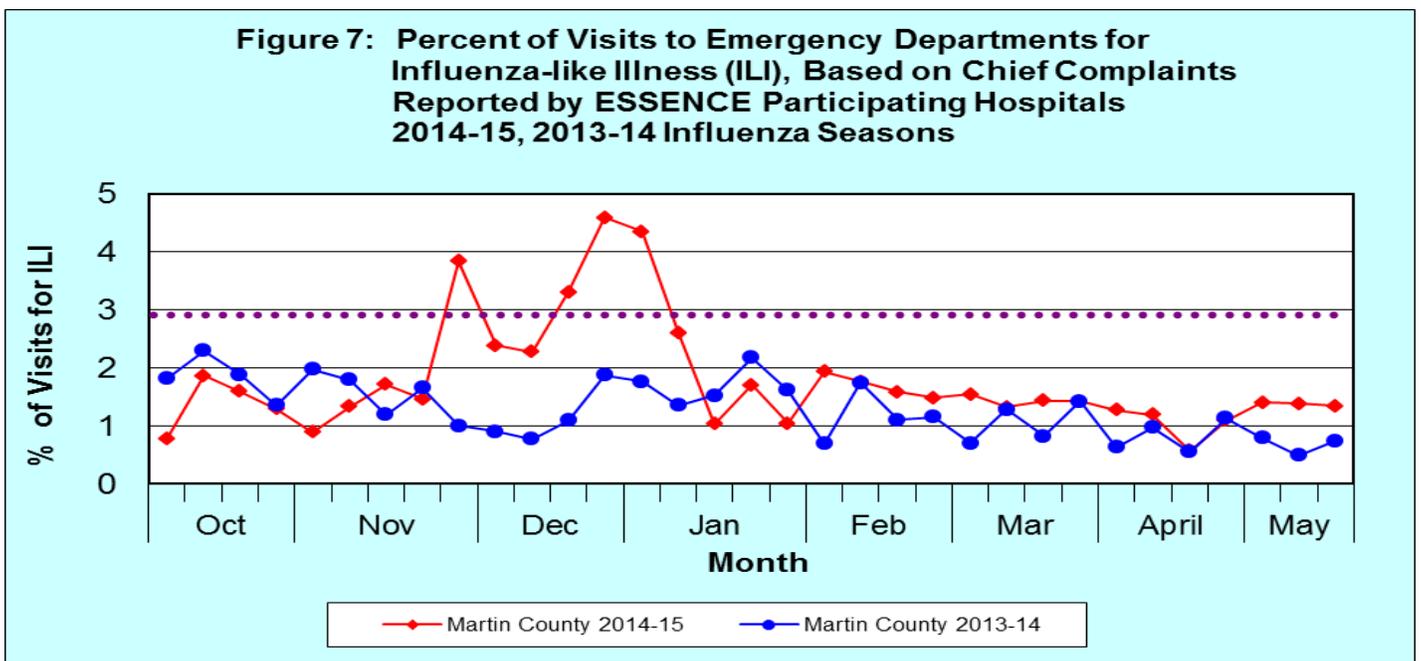
	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
<b>Number of Cases</b>	688	266	409
<b>Influenza Type (count, %)</b>			
A	475 (69%)	166 (62%)	279 (68%)
B	207 (30%)	96 (36%)	115 (28%)
A/B	6 (1%)	4 (2%)	15 (4)
<b>Age Group (count, %)</b>			
0-4 yrs	89 (13%)	66 (25%)	101 (25%)
5-24 yrs	189 (27%)	66 (25%)	120 (29%)
25-64 yrs	196 (28%)	89 (33%)	92 (22%)
> 65 yrs	214 (31%)	45 (17%)	96 (23%)
<b>Gender (count, %)</b>			
Male	339 (49%)	127 (48%)	207 (51%)
Female	349 (51%)	139 (52%)	202 (49%)



## Hospital Emergency Department (ESSENCE) Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

### Surveillance

Martin County's participating hospitals (n=2) electronically transmit daily emergency department (ED) data to the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE), a near "real-time" syndromic surveillance program. The data is organized into 12 syndrome definitions based on the patients' chief complaints at the time of arrival to the ED. One of these syndromes is influenza-like illness (ILI) which the Division of Epidemiology uses to monitor data counts and evaluate ILI activity. During the 2014-2015 influenza season, there were 701 emergency department visits related to ILI. This is 58% higher than that reported during the 2013-2014 influenza season (N=443). The percentage of emergency department visits for ILI averaged 1.79% for the 2014-2015 influenza season which is 39% higher than that observed during the 2013-2014 influenza season (1.29%). This influenza season, the number of ED visits for ILI surpassed Martin County's 2014-2015 threshold for high activity (2.90%) between November and January, with a peak in the last week of December (Figure 7).



### Influenza Surveillance General Overview

- During the 2014-2015 season, influenza and ILI activity started early and peaked in Week 52 (December).
- Influenza A was the predominantly circulating strain for the majority of the season, but influenza B increased in April and May.
- Martin County is currently experiencing minimal influenza activity.



The Epidemiology Division at the Florida Department of Health in Martin County would like to thank our Influenza Surveillance Program participants for the time and effort contributed towards monitoring and reporting influenza and/or ILI cases to our department.

We would like to send a special "Thank You" to the following community partners:

### Medical Providers

- Sara Beem, ICP, MHS
- Dr. Douglas Bowling & Dr. Yvette Bushey, Martin Memorial Treasure Coast Pediatrics
- Dr. Richard Dube, Doctors Clinic
- Ellen Dugan, ICP, MHS
- Dr. Paul Gaeta & Dr. Jon Wubbena, East Ocean Family Care
- Dr. Chad Harvey
- Dr. Daniel Harwitz, Jupiter Island Medical
- Dr. Gregory Hayes, Coastal Medical & Wellness Center
- Dr. Glyniss Lyons
- Martin MediCenter of Palm City
- Dr. Devang Patel & Dr. Vivek Kaul, Pulmonary Medicine
- Megha Patel, ICP, MHS
- Dr. Michael Sherman & Dr. Jeffrey Crick, Martin Memorial Family Care at Palm City
- Dr. Elizabeth Tsarnas, Volunteers in Medicine
- Dr. Richard Weisberg, Stuart Family Practice Center

### Long-Term Care Facilities

- Brookdale Stuart
- Family Manors
- HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital at Martin
- Maple Leaf
- Martin Nursing & Restorative
- Palm City Nursing & Restorative
- Parkway Health & Rehab
- Pinegrove
- Stuart Nursing & Restorative Care Center
- The Manors at Hobe Sound

### Martin County Public Schools

- Bessey Creek Elementary
- Challenger Elementary
- Citrus Grove Elementary
- Crystal Lake Elementary
- Dr. David L. Anderson Middle
- Felix A. Williams Elementary
- Hidden Oaks Middle
- Hobe Sound Elementary
- Indiantown Middle
- J.D. Parker Elementary
- Jensen Beach Elementary
- Jensen Beach High
- Martin County High
- Murray Middle
- Palm City Elementary
- Pinewood Elementary
- Port Salerno Elementary
- SeaWind Elementary
- South Fork High
- Spectrum Junior/Senior High
- Stuart Middle
- Warfield Elementary



### **Other Links and Resources:**

For more information on the 2014-2015 Flu Season or other related topics, please visit:

- <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/floridaflu/>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/index.htm>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/index.htm>
- <http://martin.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/infectious-disease-services/epidemiology/index.html>



### **Questions?**

- Any questions or comments regarding this report should be directed to the Division of Epidemiology at: 772-221-4030 ext. 2130.
- Are you a healthcare provider interested in participating in our ongoing influenza surveillance program? If so, please call us!