



## Bell County Public Health District

[www.bellcountyhealth.org](http://www.bellcountyhealth.org)

Phone: 254-773-4457

Twitter: @BellCountyPUBH

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 2, 2018

Bell County, Texas— Influenza activity is high in Bell County and numerous areas throughout the state. The Bell County Public Health District receives reports from several local hospitals about positive influenza cases and we also receive reports of what is called influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI is an indicator of influenza activity as ILI is a diagnosis that indicates *possible* influenza (a fever over 100 degrees F paired with a cough and/or a sore throat), but is not laboratory confirmed. Below are two charts the first of which is the month by month trend for ILI and the second shows the month by month trend for confirmed influenza. These numbers represent reports beginning in October 2017 and running through December 24, 2017 and may not include all instances of influenza or ILI.

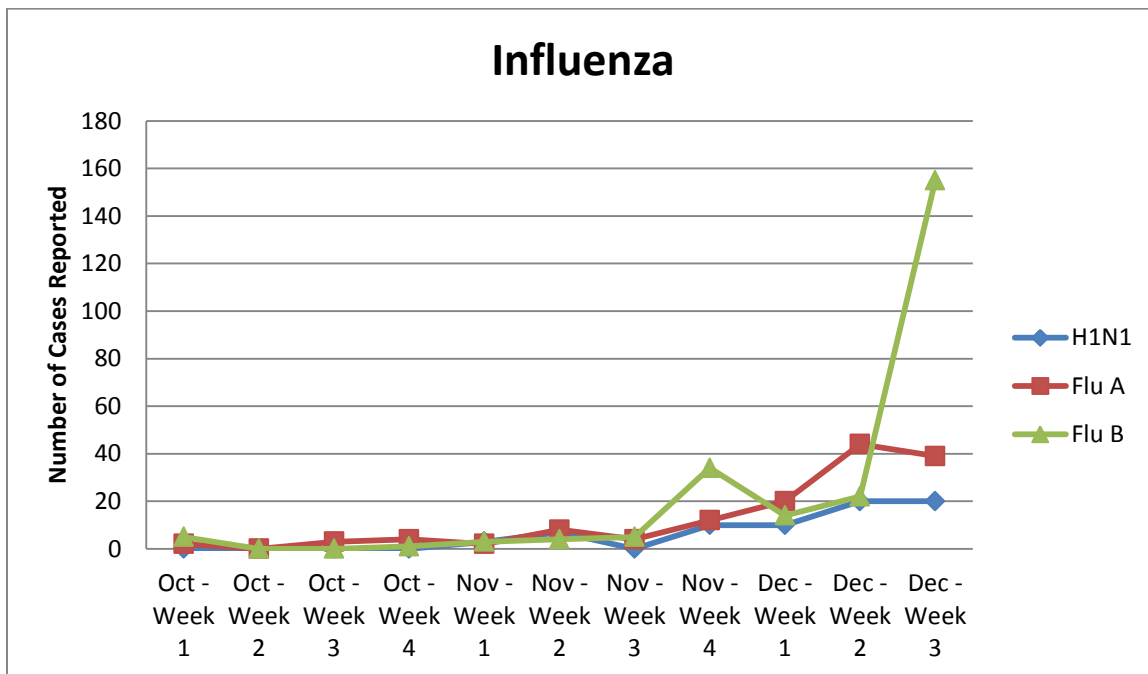


Figure 1: Bell County Influenza Activity with lab confirmation Oct 1, 2017 through Dec 24, 2017



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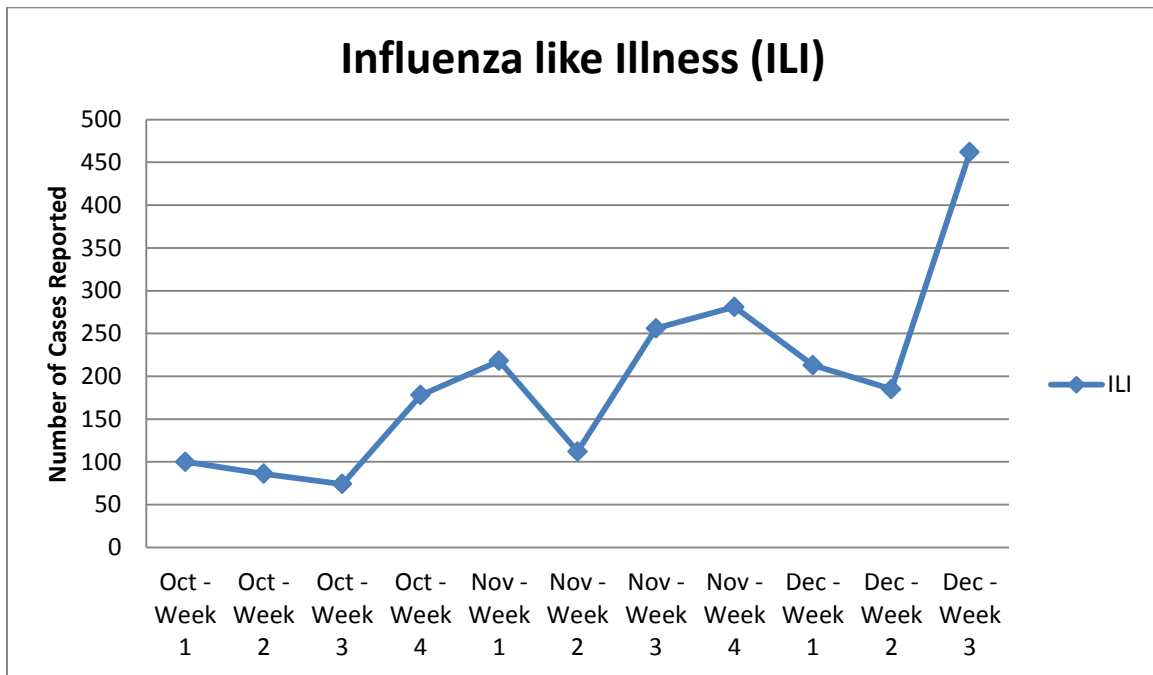


Figure 2: Bell County ILI Activity Oct 1, 2017 through Dec 24, 2017

As evidenced by Figures 1 and 2 Influenza B is currently the predominant strain of laboratory confirmed cases and there was a significant increase in the number of cases reported beginning in the second week of December with 155 laboratory confirmed cases of flu B and 462 ILI reports in the week ending December 24.

Diagnosis	Total (Oct 1, 2017 – Dec 24, 2017)
H1N1	70
Flu A	138
Flu B	243
ILI	2,165

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Recommendations for prevention of influenza include getting the vaccine, regular hand washing, and avoiding close contact with those who are ill. For more information or CDC recommendations and national influenza trends please see the latest [HAN Alert](#).