



# Martin County Health Department

## 2011-2012 Influenza Season Surveillance Report

Surveillance Time Period: October & November 2011

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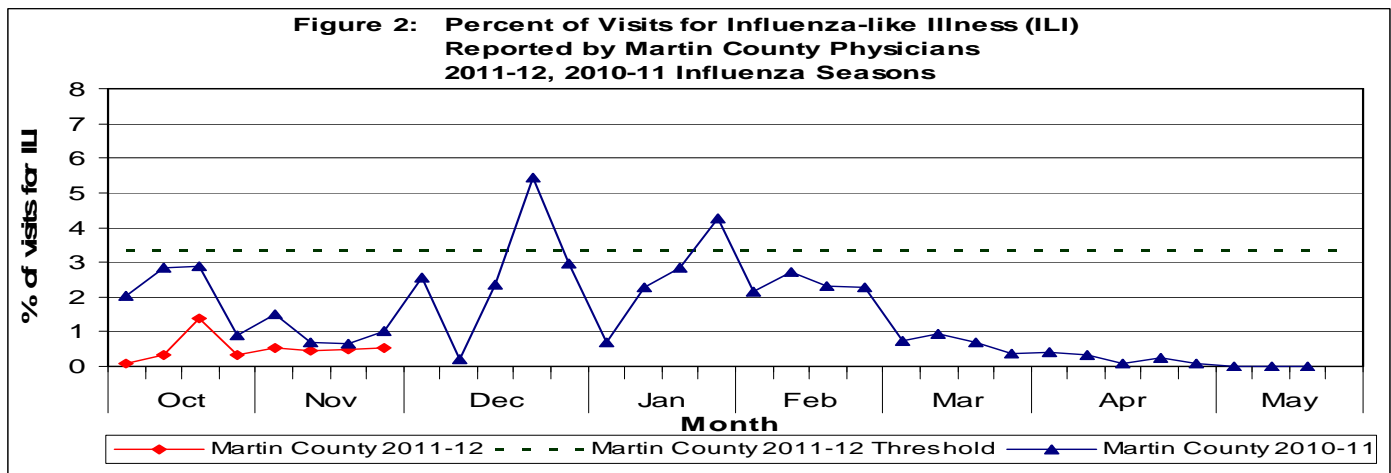
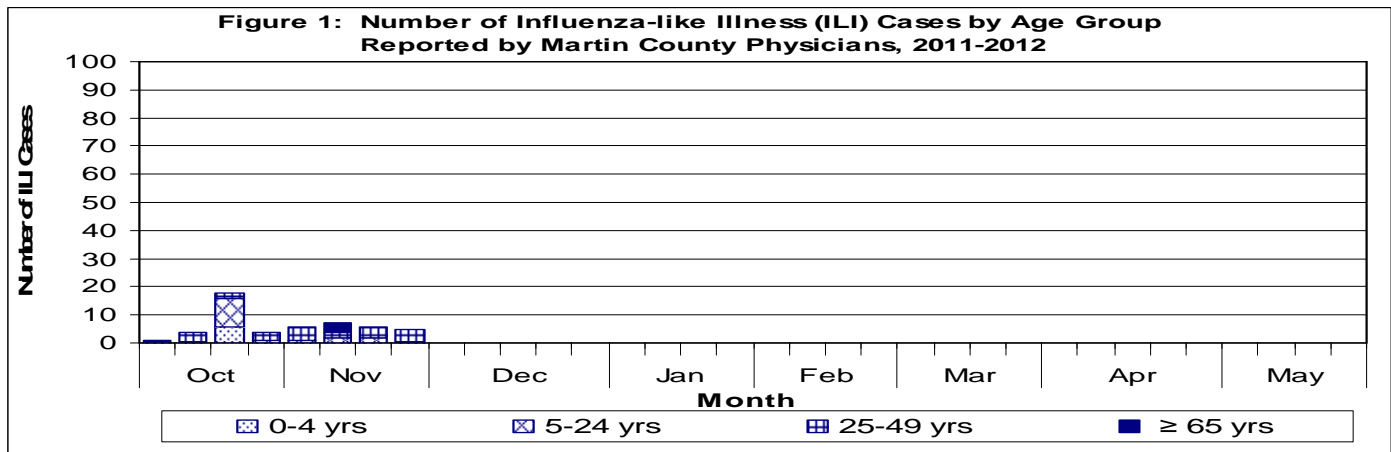
### Martin County Influenza Surveillance Systems

The Martin County Health Department, Division of Epidemiology utilizes 3 different components to conduct influenza surveillance. These components are: 1) Influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by physicians, long-term care facilities, school's health assistants, and hospital's emergency departments, 2) school absenteeism, and 3) laboratory surveillance.

ILI is defined as a fever  $\geq 100$  and cough and/or sore throat. This data is used to monitor ILI activity as well as to measure the impact of ILI in Martin County.

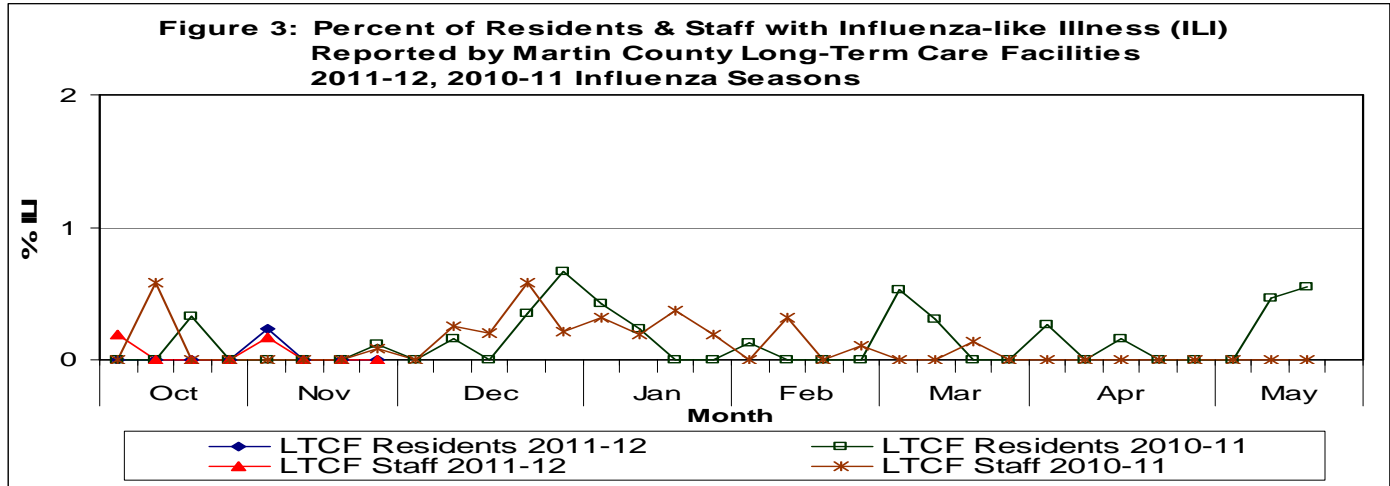
### Physicians Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

Participating physicians complete weekly questionnaires reporting the total number of patient visits for ILI stratified by age group. During the months of October and November, 9 participating providers reported a total of 51 patients with ILI (Figure 1). The majority of the patients with ILI (N=26, 51%) were within the 25-49 age group (Figure 1). The percentage of patient visits to participating providers due to ILI ranged from 0.07% to 1.39% (Figure 2). These numbers are considerably below Martin County's 2010-2011 ILI threshold of 3.32%.



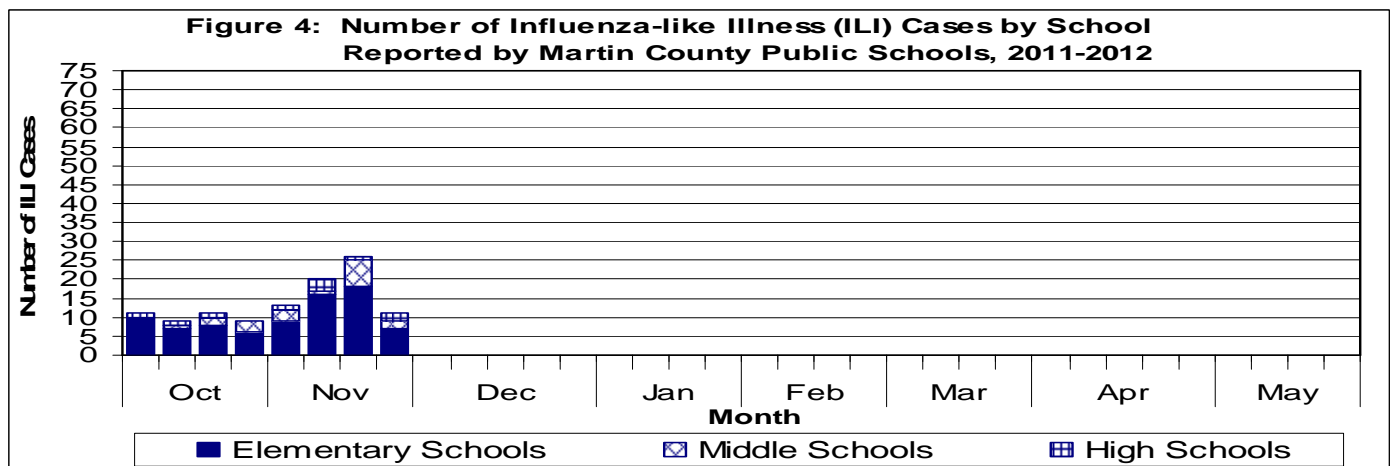
## Long Term Care Facilities Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance

Long-term care facilities (i.e. nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and independent living facilities) consistently report the total number of residents and staff at the facility each week and the number of residents and staff with ILI. During the months of October and November, 10 long-term care facilities (7 nursing homes and 3 assisted living facilities) reported a total of 1 resident and 3 staff members with ILI. The percentages of residents with ILI ranged from 0% to 0.23% while the percentage of staff with ILI ranged from 0% to 0.19% (Figure 3).

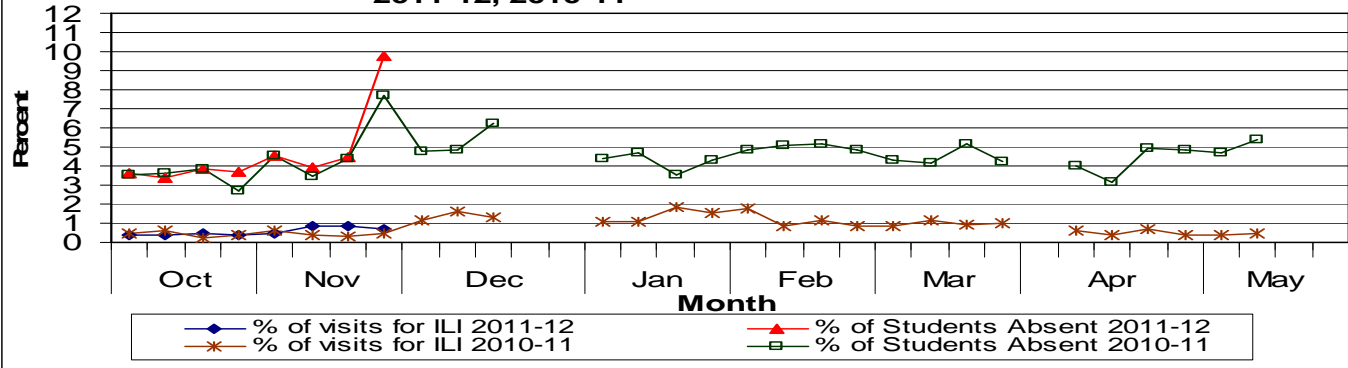


## Schools Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and Absenteeism Surveillance

Martin County Public Schools' health assistants provide weekly reports with the total number of student visits to the school health clinic each week and the number of student visits related to ILI. During the months of October and November, all Martin County Public Schools combined (N=22: 13 elementary, 5 middle, and 4 high schools) reported a total of 148 students with ILI (Figure 4). Further analysis reveals that the majority (N=103, 70%) of the students with ILI were elementary school students followed by middle school students (N=33, 22%); high schools had the lowest number of ILI cases (N=12, 8%). The percentage of student visits to the school health clinics for ILI related reasons ranged from 0.39% to 0.87% in all Martin County Public Schools combined (Figure 5). The Division of Epidemiology also collects daily absenteeism and enrollment reports from all Martin County Public Schools (N=22). The absenteeism rate in all Martin County Public Schools for the months of October and November ranged from 3.37% to 9.76% (Figure 5). The peak in the month of November is related to the Thanksgiving holiday.



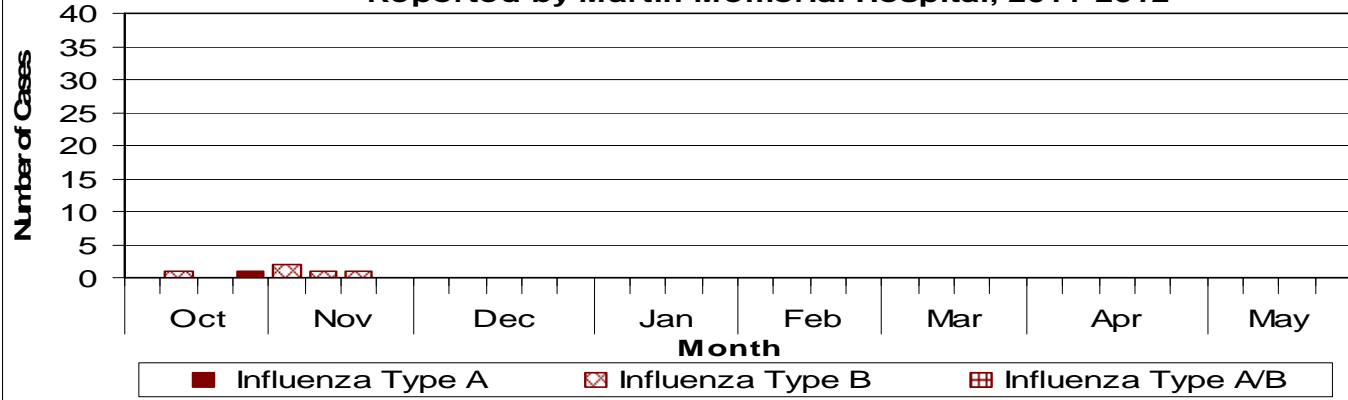
**Figure 5: Percent of Visits to School Clinic for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) & Percent School Absenteeism Reported by Martin County Public Schools 2011-12, 2010-11**



**Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Surveillance**

The division of Epidemiology collects laboratory-confirmed influenza cases from Martin Health System and from the state laboratories. During the months of October and November, 6 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported; of those cases, 83% (N=5) were influenza type B and 17% (N=1) were influenza type A (Figure 6); no cases of influenza type A/B were reported during this surveillance period. The age distribution of the laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were as follows: 50% 0-4 years of age, 16% 25-64 years of age, and 33% 65 years of age or older.

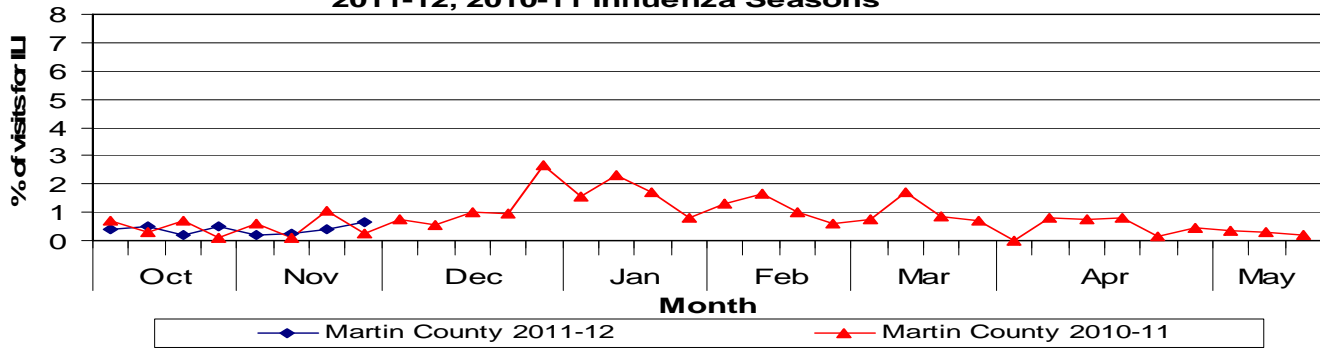
**Figure 6: Laboratory Confirmed Influenza Cases Reported by Martin Memorial Hospital, 2011-2012**



**Hospital Emergency Department (ESSENCE) Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Surveillance**

Martin County's participating hospitals (N=2) transmit daily emergency department (ED) data counts 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 patient's chief complaints; one of these syndromes is influenza-like illness (ILI). The Division of Epidemiology monitors data counts and evaluate ILI activity and incidence rates. During the months of October and November, there were 36 emergency department visits related to ILI. The percentage of emergency department visits for ILI ranged from 0.21% to 0.64% (Figure7).

**Figure 7: Percent of Visits to Emergency Departments for Influenza-like Illness (ILI), Based on Chief Complaints Reported by ESSENCE Participating Hospitals 2011-12, 2010-11 Influenza Seasons**



### **Influenza Surveillance General Overview**

- During the months of October and November, influenza and ILI surveillance systems have shown low activity at the county, state, and national level.
- Martin County is currently experiencing mild influenza activity with incidence rates similar to those displayed on previous non-pandemic seasons.
- No outbreaks of ILI or influenza were reported during this surveillance time period.



### **Other Links and Resources**

- For more information on the 2011-2012 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>



### **Questions?**

- Any questions or comments regarding this report should be directed to the Division of Epidemiology at: 772-221-4030 ext. 2214 or ext. 2130.
- If you are a healthcare provider interested in participating in our ongoing influenza surveillance program, please call us.