



## Connecticut Department of Public Health 2014-2015 Influenza Season, Update for Week 9\* (Week ending Saturday, 03/07/2015)

### Key Points

- ✓ Influenza activity is continuing to decline, but it remains high in Connecticut.
- ✓ Classification of activity geographically remains at widespread\*\*.
- ✓ Predominant circulating influenza virus is Type A.
- ✓ Almost all Type A isolates subtyped have been H3N2.
- ✓ Everyone should make extra efforts to take steps to prevent influenza-related illness:

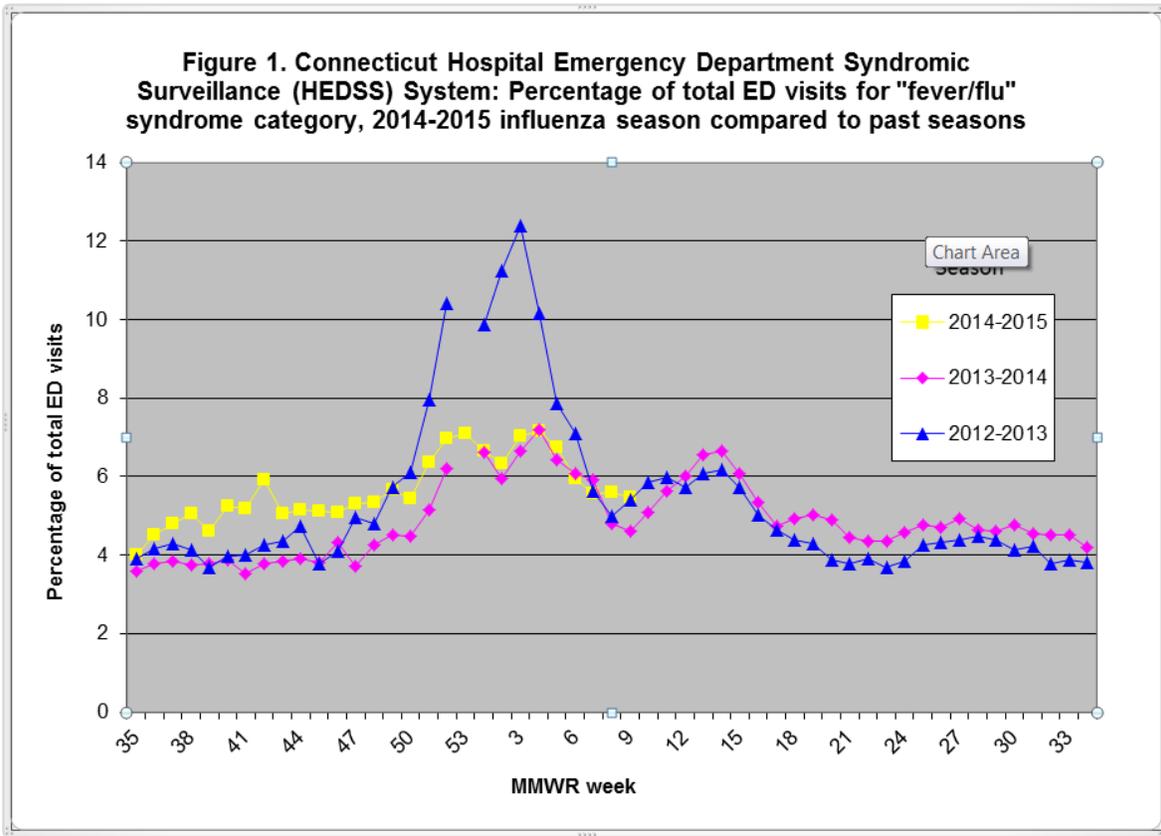
<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3115&q=500340>

The Department of Public Health (DPH) uses multiple surveillance systems to monitor circulating flu viruses throughout the year. All data are considered preliminary and updated with available information each week starting in October and ending in May.

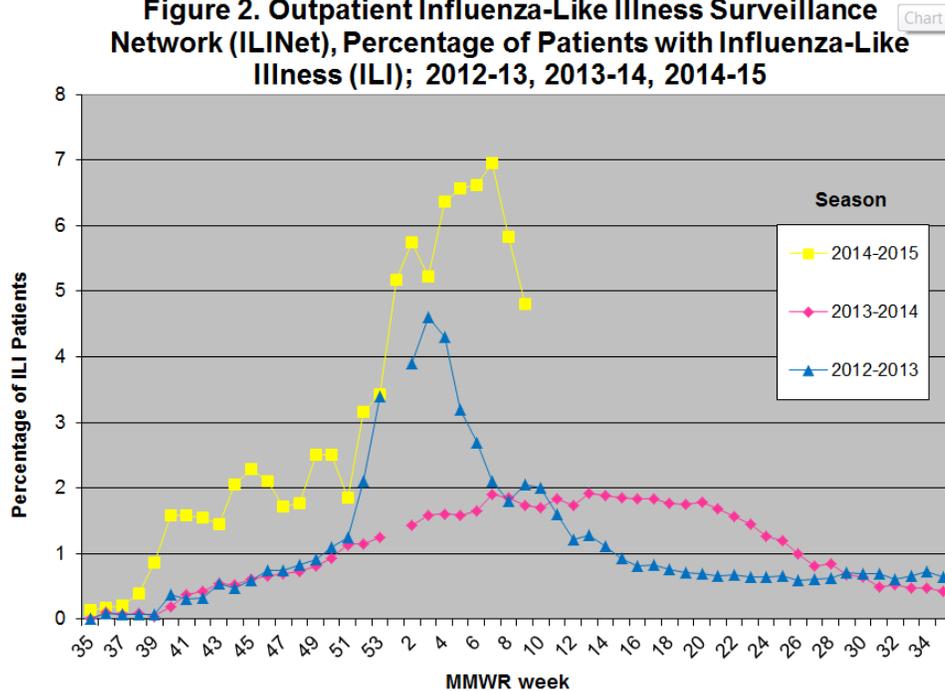
- Statewide emergency department visits attributed to the “fever/flu syndrome” have decreasing during the last 5 weeks from the highest level of this season (Figure 1).
- The percentage of outpatient visits with influenza-like illness (ILI) seen during the last 9 weeks are at the highest levels observed during the last several seasons (Figure 2).
- The weekly percentage of unscheduled hospital admissions due to pneumonia have decreased slightly from the previous week (Figure 3).
- A total of 1,386 hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza have been reported, with 235 associated with Type A (H3N2) influenza, 1 with Type A (2009 H1N1) influenza, 1,093 with Type A (subtype unspecified), 55 with Type B, and 2 of unknown type. A total of 29 flu-associated deaths in individuals greater than 65 years of age have been reported to date, this season (Figures 4 & 5).
- A total of 4,997 positive influenza reports have been reported for the current season. Influenza was reported in all eight Connecticut counties: Fairfield (1,779 reports), Hartford (1,142), New Haven (1,127), New London (265), Tolland (198), Litchfield (167), Middlesex (162), and Windham (157) County. Of the 4,997 positive influenza reports: 3,914 were Type A (subtype unspecified), 844 were Type A (H3N2), 2 were Type A (2009 H1N1), 235 were influenza B virus, and 2 of unknown type (Figures 6 & 7).

\*Week numbers refer to the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* calendar used by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for national disease surveillance. \*\* Definitions for the estimated levels of geographic spread of influenza activity available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>

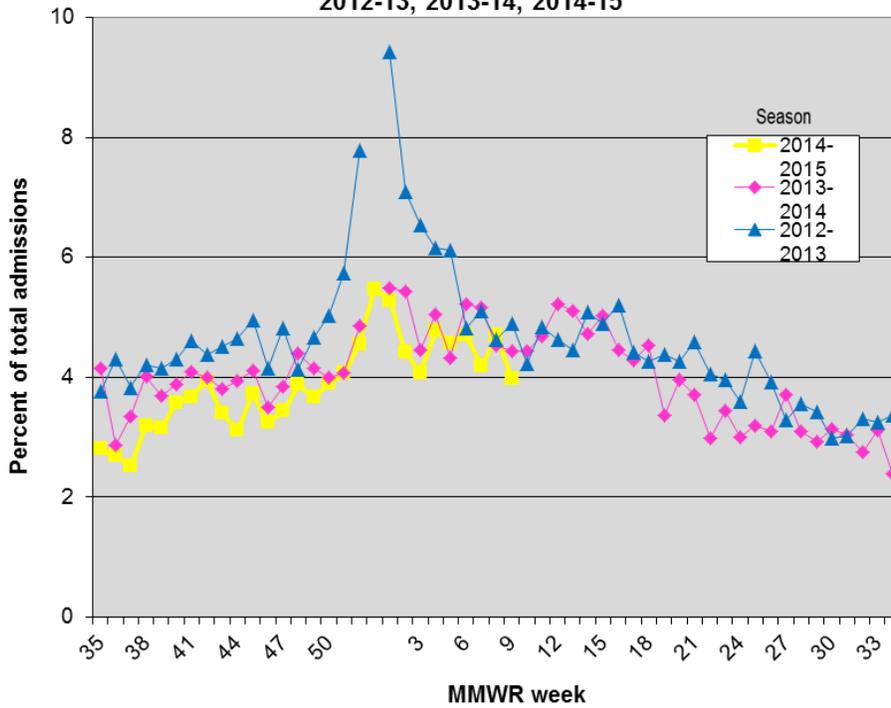
**Figure 1. Connecticut Hospital Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance (HEDSS) System: Percentage of total ED visits for "fever/flu" syndrome category, 2014-2015 influenza season compared to past seasons**



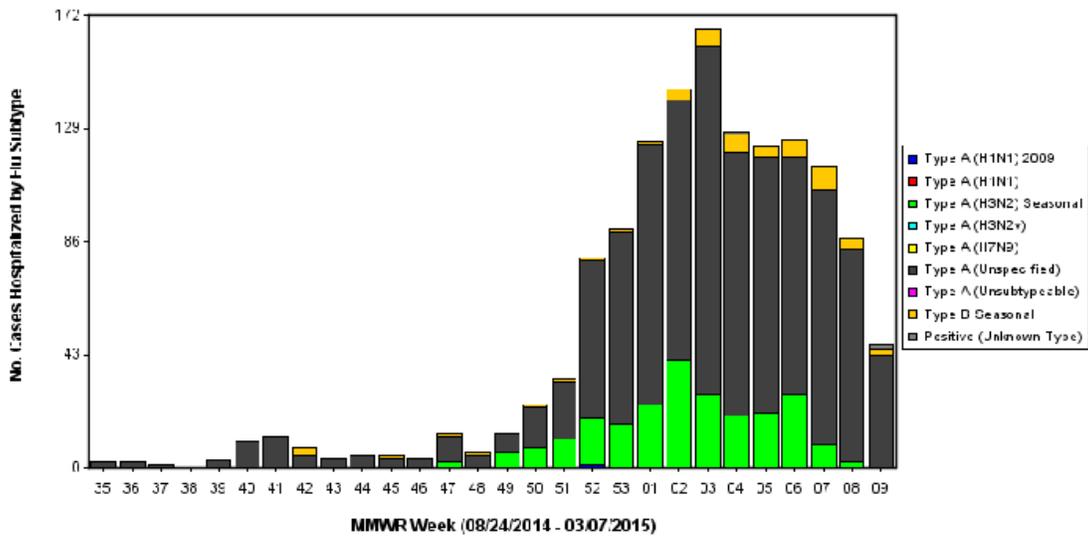
**Figure 2. Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Percentage of Patients with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI); 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15**



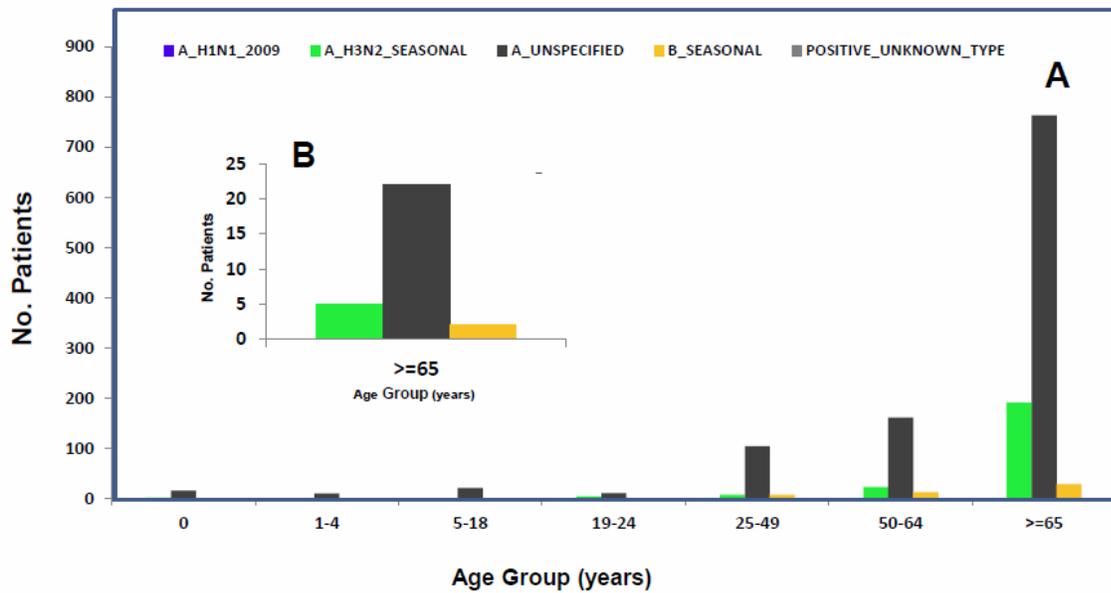
**Figure 3. Connecticut Hospital Admissions Syndromic Surveillance (HASS) System, Percentage of total statewide admissions for pneumonia; 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15**



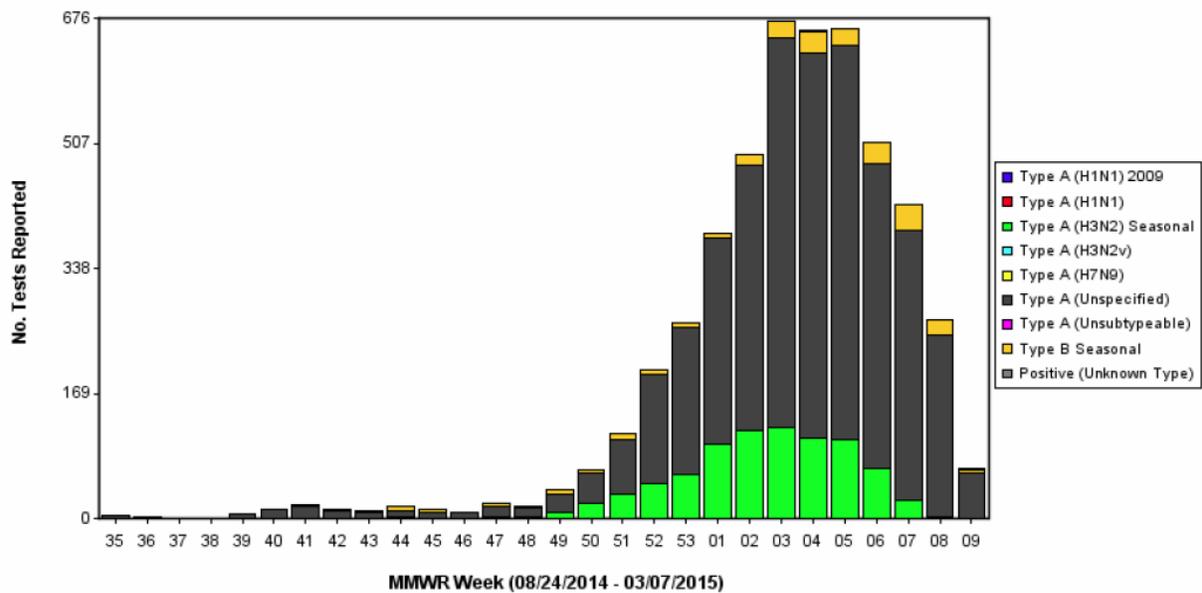
**Figure 4. Hospitalized Patients (n =1386) with Positive Laboratory Tests by Influenza Subtype and Week, Connecticut (as of 3/11/2015)**



**Figure 5. Hospitalized Patients (A, n= 1386) and Flu-Associated Deaths (B, n= 29) with Positive Laboratory Tests by Influenza Subtype and Age Group, Connecticut, as of 3/11/2015**



**Figure 6. Positive Laboratory Tests (n =4997) by Influenza Subtype and Week, Connecticut (as of 3/11/2015)**



**Figure 7. Proportion of Cumulative Positive Laboratory Tests (n = 4997) by Influenza Subtype, Connecticut (as of 3/11/2015)**

