

The



# EPI gazette

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## Acute Neurologic Illness with Focal Limb Weakness

### Background

The CDPHE, Children's Hospital Colorado, and CDC are investigating nine cases of acute neurologic illness among pediatric patients. The cases were identified during August 9–September 17, 2014 among children aged 1–18 years (median age 10 years). Most of the children were from the Denver metropolitan area. All were hospitalized. Common features included acute focal limb weakness and specific findings on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the spinal cord consisting of non-enhancing lesions largely restricted to the gray matter. In most cases, these lesions spanned more than one level of the spinal cord. Some also had acute cranial

nerve dysfunction with correlating non-enhancing brainstem lesions on MRI. None of the children experienced altered mental status or seizures. None had any cortical, subcortical, basal ganglia, or thalamic lesions on MRI. Most children reported a febrile respiratory illness in the two weeks preceding development of neurologic symptoms. In most cases, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analyses demonstrated mild-moderate pleocytosis (increased cell count in the CSF) consistent with an inflammatory or infectious process. CSF testing to date has been negative for enteroviruses, including poliovirus and West Nile

virus. Nasopharyngeal specimens were positive for rhinovirus/enterovirus in six out of eight patients that were tested. Of the six positive specimens, four were typed as EV-D68, and the other two are pending typing results. Testing of other specimens is still in process. Eight out of nine children have been confirmed to be up to date on polio vaccinations. Epidemiologic and laboratory investigations of these cases are ongoing.

The United States is currently experiencing a nationwide outbreak of EV-D68 associated with severe respiratory disease. The possible linkage of this cluster of neurologic disease to this large EV-D68 outbreak is part of the current investigation. CDC is seeking information about other similar neurologic illnesses in all states, especially cases clustered in time and place. CDC has particular interest in characterizing the epidemiology and etiology of such cases.

### Recommendations

Patients who meet the following case definition should be reported to state and local health departments:

***Patients ≤21 years of age with***

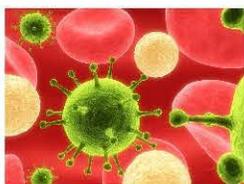
***1) Acute onset of focal limb weakness occurring on or after August 1, 2014;***

***AND***

***2) An MRI showing a spinal cord lesion largely restricted to gray matter.***

Providers treating patients meeting the above case definition should consult with their local and state health department for laboratory testing of stool, respiratory, and cerebrospinal fluid specimens for enteroviruses, West Nile virus, and other known infectious etiologies.

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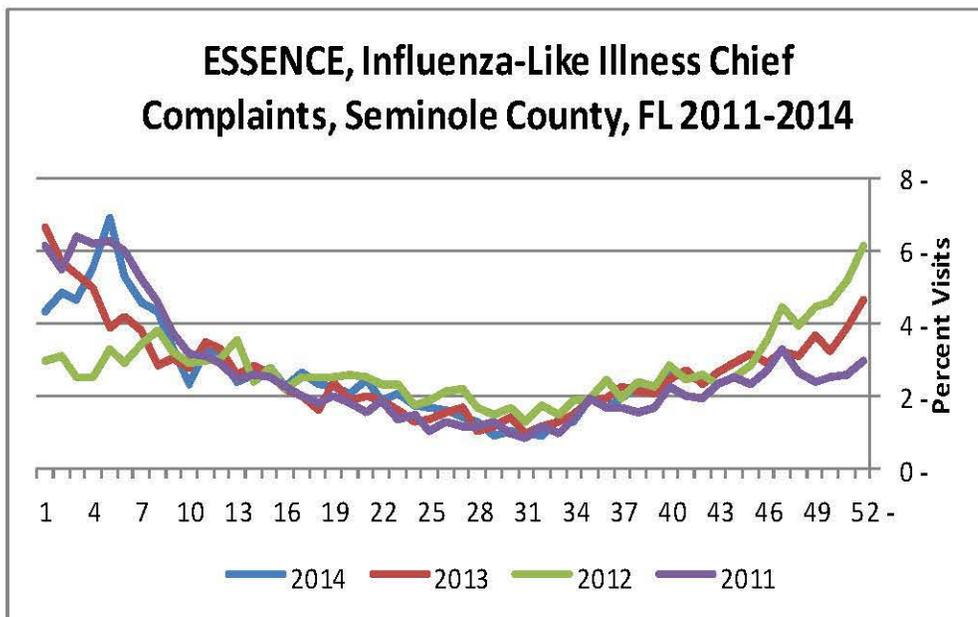
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# Influenza Surveillance

**Local:** Seminole County is reporting MILD flu activity for the first two weeks of October. No influenza outbreaks have been reported in Seminole for the 2014-2015 Influenza season. However, the ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance system is showing increasing influenza-like illness (ILI) chief complaints.

**State:** Florida is reporting SPORADIC flu activity for the start of the influenza season. Four influenza or ILI outbreaks were reported. In week 40, 48 specimens were submitted to the Bureau of Public Health Laboratories, 4 were positive for Influenza A (H3) and 7 for influenza B.

**National:** The CDC reports increasing influenza activity nationwide.



# Arbovirus Surveillance

## Seminole County Mosquito-borne Illness Statistics 2014 Year to Date:

**West Nile Virus:** 6 positive Sentinel Chickens

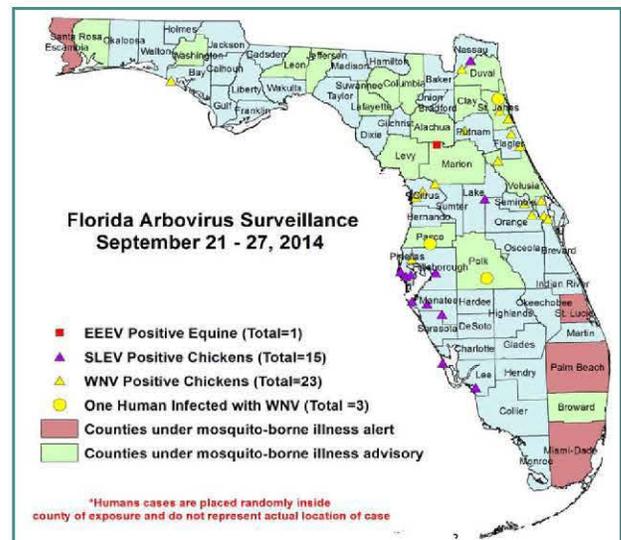
**Eastern Equine Encephalitis:** N/A

**St. Louis Encephalitis:** N/A

**Dengue:** 2 Imported Cases

**Chikungunya:** 6 Imported Cases

**Malaria:** 1 Imported Case



## Disease Incidence Table-Seminole County

Selected Diseases/Conditions Reported to DOH-Seminole	2014 through Week 39	2013 through Week 39	2012 through Week 39	2011–2013 Average through Week 39
AIDS*	20	38	30	32.3
Animal Bite to Humans**	29	30	13	20
Animal Rabies	3	10	4	5.7
Campylobacteriosis	22	27	37	30.3
Chlamydia	1049	1068	1119	1114.7
<b>Cryptosporidiosis</b>	8	4	4	3.3
<b>Cyclosporiasis</b>	3	1	1	1.0
Dengue	1	2	2	0.7
<b>E. coli Shiga toxin-producing</b>	10	7	9	6.7
Giardiasis	12	7	14	11
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	235	230	258	229.3
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive)	2	7	1	3.3
Hepatitis A	2	0	3	1.6
Hepatitis B (acute and chronic)	50	35	49	49.7
<b>Hepatitis C (acute and chronic)</b>	347	221	257	234.3
Hepatitis B in Pregnant Women	1	3	5	5.3
HIV*	25	39	24	30.3
Lead poisoning	5	2	9	4.3
<b>Legionellosis</b>	5	7	1	3.3
<b>Lyme Disease</b>	4	4	2	2.7
<b>Meningococcal Disease</b>	1	1	1	0.7
<b>Pertussis</b>	18	8	11	7
<b>Salmonellosis</b>	67	51	64	60.3
Shigellosis	22	4	45	20
S. pneumoniae – drug resistant	5	11	6	8.7
<b>Syphilis</b>	56	45	36	40.7
Tuberculosis	4	4	4	5.3
Varicella	10	13	15	14

- \* HIV data includes those cases that have converted to AIDS. These HIV cases cannot be added with AIDS cases to get combined totals since the categories are not mutually exclusive.
- \*\* Animal bite to humans by a potentially rabid animal resulting in a county health department or state health office recommendation for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), or a bite by a non-human primate.

Reported cases of diseases/conditions in **Bold** are >10% higher than the previous three year average for the same time period.

**All Data is Provisional**



# Disease Reporting

*The Epidemiology Program conducts disease surveillance and investigates suspected occurrences of infectious diseases and conditions reported from physician's offices, hospitals and laboratories.*

*Surveillance is primarily conducted through passive reporting from the medical community as required by Chapter 381, Florida Statutes.*

*To report a reportable disease or outbreak during business hours please use the [Report of Communicable Disease Form](#) for diseases other than HIV/AIDS, STD, or TB, or contact the Epidemiology Department at (407) 665-3266.*

*To report an urgent reportable disease or outbreak after hours, please contact (407) 665-3266 and follow the instructions to reach the Epidemiologist on-call 24/7.*

[Reportable Diseases/Conditions in Florida - Practitioner List](#)

[Reportable Diseases/Conditions in Florida - Laboratory List](#)

[Disease Reporting Information for Health Care Providers and Laboratories](#)

*Foodborne Illnesses Reporting Links:*

[Report illnesses due to food online 24/7](#)

[Report unsafe or unsanitary conditions](#)

## MISSION

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts

## VISION

To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

## VALUES

Innovation  
Collaboration  
Accountability  
Responsiveness  
Excellence

## ADDRESS

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