

UPDATE: SEASONAL INFLUENZA IN THE GENERAL US AND DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE POPULATIONS

28 January 2013

This update from the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center provides information on influenza activity throughout the United States and the DoD. It includes a summary of the situation and resources for appropriate response. For detailed information please see the Department of Defense Influenza Surveillance Summary which is updated weekly and available on the AFHSC website (<http://www.afhsc.mil/fluReports>). This Summary brings together and reports on influenza data from across the Services.

Influenza activity appears to have peaked in the United States, though much of the country is still experiencing high levels of influenza-like-illness (ILI). Reports of ILI are within levels associated with moderately severe influenza seasons. So far this season, H3N2 is the most commonly reported influenza subtype in the United States and is generally associated with greater illness compared to other subtypes. The 2012-13 vaccine components are well matched with circulating strains. An early study by the CDC indicates that vaccination has reduced the risk for influenza-associated medical visits by approximately 60%, demonstrating the benefits of influenza vaccination this current season. All strains evaluated so far have been susceptible to oseltamivir and zanamivir.

Influenza vaccination coverage for the DoD (Active Duty component) is 96%. ILI decreased from last week for all populations except among unvaccinated dependents in the Pacific Command region. In week three (Fig. 1), influenza rates in US service members are below baseline for this season, however, rates for all other DoD beneficiaries remained above baseline (Fig. 2). Most ILI cases are being detected in the under-17 and over-60 year old populations, and DoD lab-confirmed cases (active duty and beneficiaries) remain mostly H3N2. While the level of ILI in DoD non-active duty beneficiaries is noteworthy, it is not beyond levels seen historically during moderately severe influenza seasons. Vaccine availability in the DoD remains adequate.

Please see Appendix A for additional resources.

Figure 1: Proportion of Influenza-like Illness Outpatient Visits among US Service Members for 2012-2013 and a Representative Sample of previous Influenza Seasons

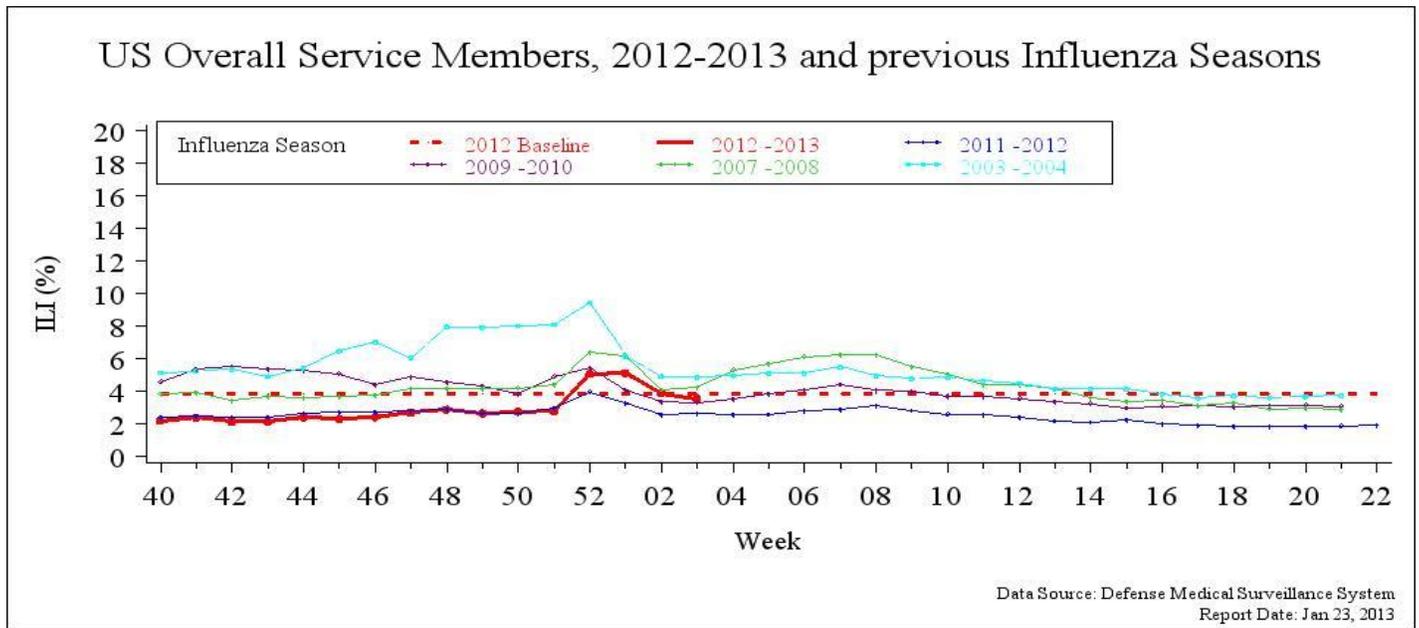
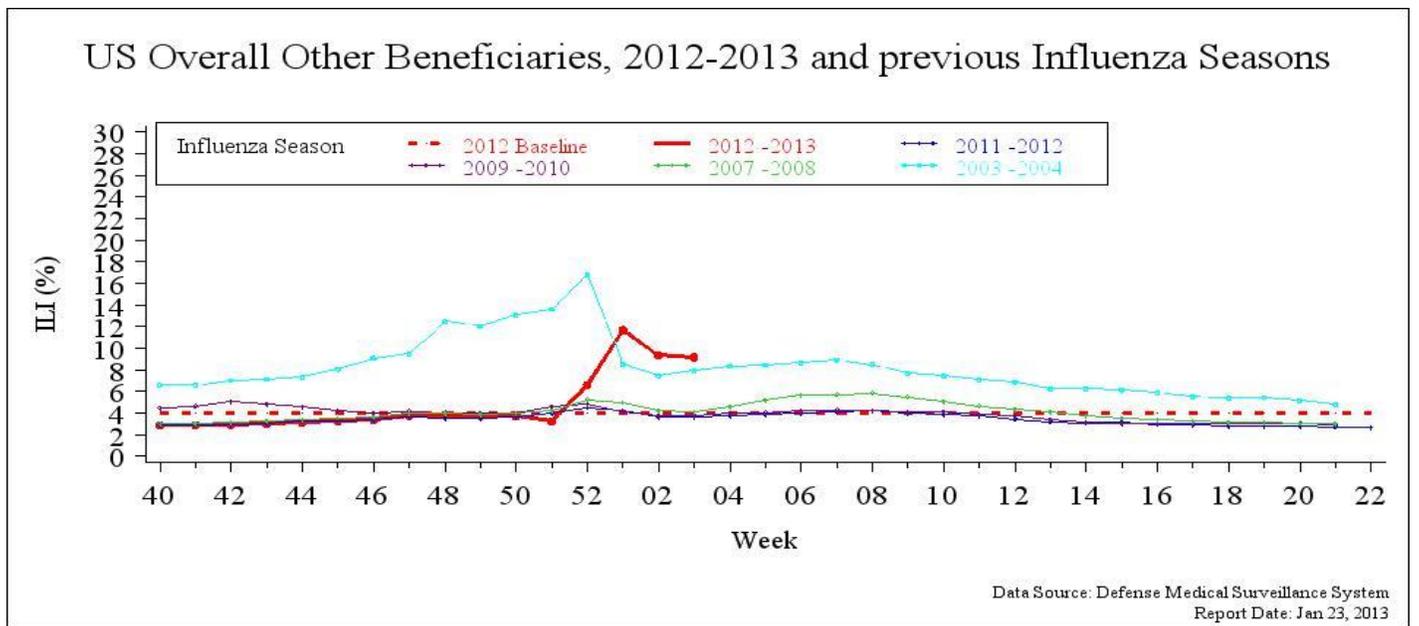


Figure 2: Proportion of Influenza-like Illness Outpatient Visits among US Military Beneficiaries Excluding Service Members for 2012-2013 and a Representative Sample of previous Influenza Seasons



Appendix A: Additional Resources

[Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center](#)

E-mail: epi@nehc.mar.med.navy.mil

Phone: (757) 953 0979

DSN: 377 0979

- NMCPHC Weekly DOD Influenza Report: <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/epi-data-center/influenza/Pages/default.aspx>

[U.S. Army Public Health Command](#)

[Army Institute of Public Health](#)

Email: disease.epidemiology@amedd.army.mil

Phone: 410-417-2377

- USAPHC Influenza Surveillance Activity:
<http://phc.amedd.army.mil/whatsnew/Pages/PublicationDetails.aspx?type=USAPHC%20Influenza%20Surveillance%20Activity>

[U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine](#)

[DoD Global Laboratory-Based Influenza Surveillance Program](#)

(CAC Required) <https://gumbo2.wpafb.af.mil/epi-consult/influenza/>

Email: influenza@wpafb.af.mil

- For Laboratory Resources: <https://kx.afms.mil/epi>
- Influenza Surveillance Report:
http://airforcemedicine.afms.mil/idc/groups/public/documents/afms/ctb_225547.pdf

[Military Vaccine Agency](#)

E-mail: Vaccines@amedd.army.mil

- Seasonal Influenza Policies, Training, Service Messages, Supply and Logistics, and Q&A:
http://www.vaccines.mil/Influenza_-_Seasonal

[DOD Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics \(ESSENCE\)](#)

(Account Required, use CAC login and follow application instructions) <https://essence.csd.disa.mil>

[U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Seasonal Influenza](#)

E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

- FluView: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/
- Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm62e0111a1.htm?s_cid=mm62e0111a1_e

[World Health Organization](#)

- Influenza Update: www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/en/index.html