



# Miami-Dade County Health Department Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report Week 41: 10/08-10/14/2006

## Contacts

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## Report Summary

The Week 41 Influenza/Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report includes information from the following data sources:

1. 911 Surveillance
2. Hospital Emergency Department Surveillance
3. Outbreak Reports

Each reporting week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

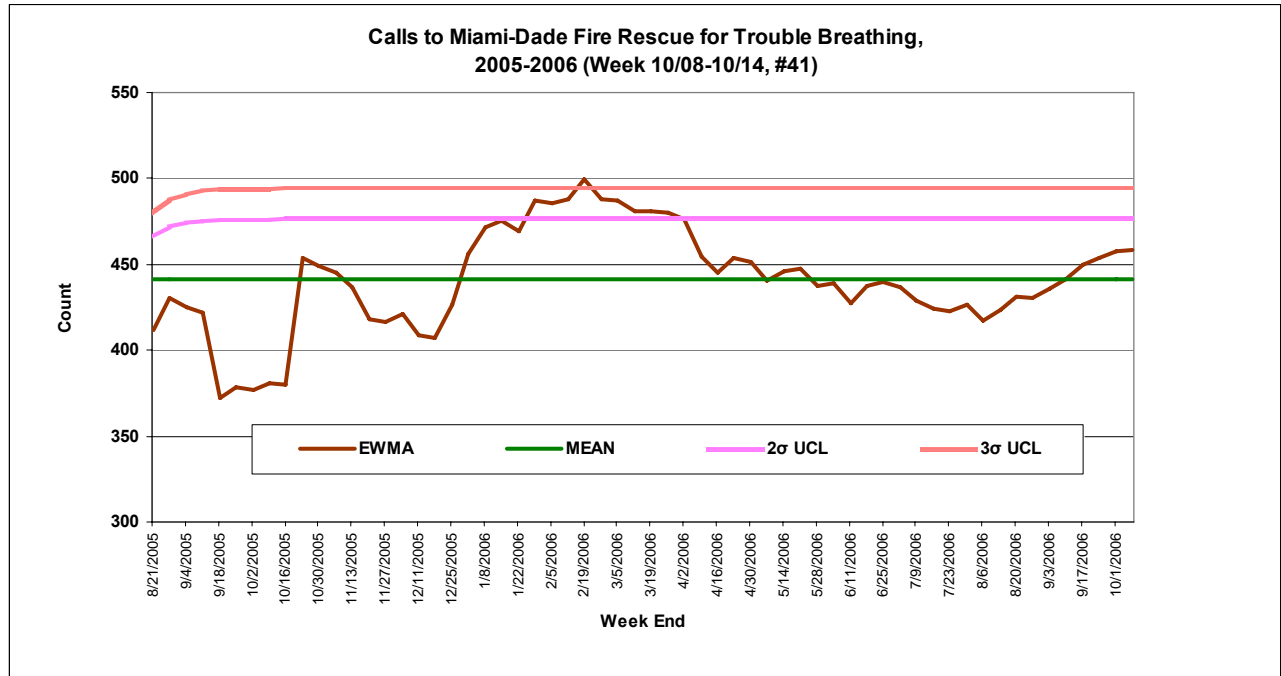
No increases in influenza-like/respiratory illness were observed during the week ending October 14, 2006. Likewise, no influenza-like/respiratory illness outbreaks were reported.

## Methods

An exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA) is calculated based on historical data from 2005 - 2006. EWMA is used to determine whether a process is in a state of statistical control and to detect shifts in the process average. The Upper Control Limits (UCL) are at 2 and 3 standard deviations above the mean. Increased activity is determined based on a threshold that is 2 standard deviations above the historical mean.

## 911 Surveillance

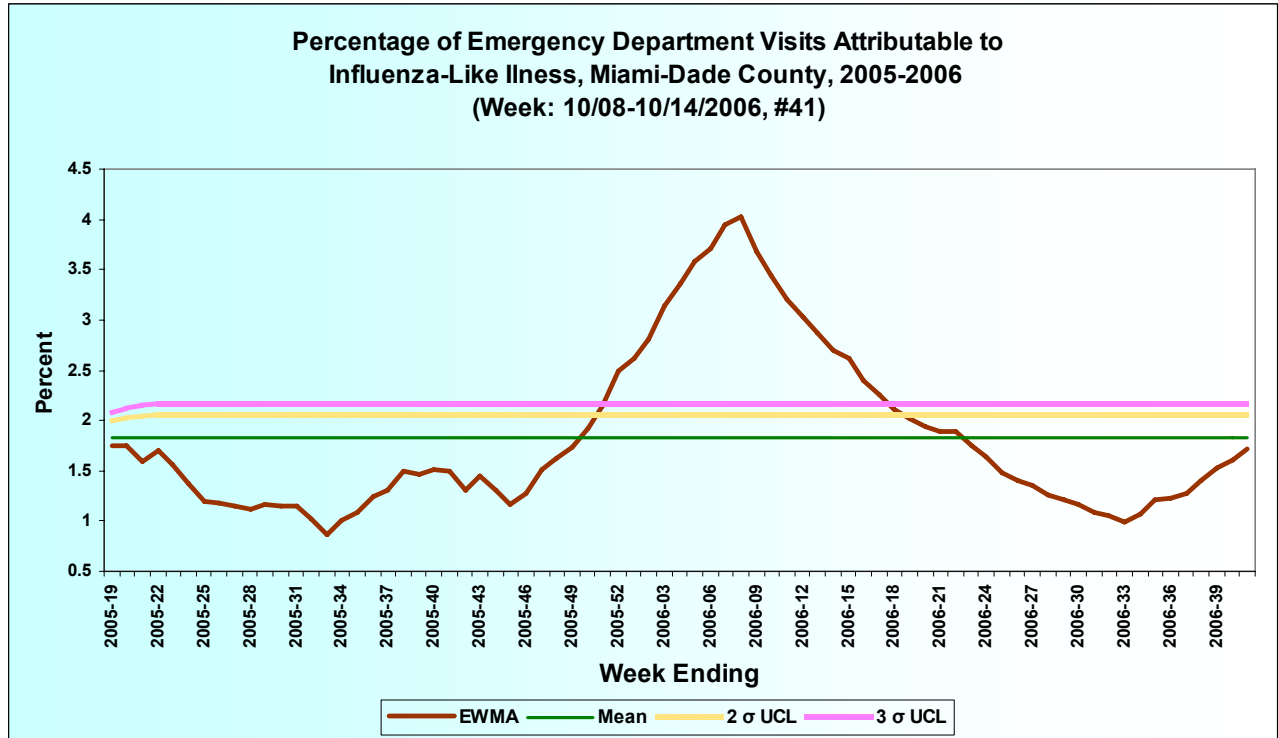
On a daily basis, the Office of Epidemiology and Disease Control monitors 911 medical calls placed to Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR). All medical calls are placed into categories by MDFR staff. The "trouble breathing" category is used to monitor respiratory illness.



The number of calls related to trouble breathing in Week 41 was slightly higher than the historical mean; however, the number did not exceed the expected threshold. Based on this, there was no statistically significant increase.

## **Hospital Emergency Department Surveillance**

On a daily basis, selected Miami-Dade County hospitals electronically transmit hospital emergency department data to the Miami-Dade County Health Department. This data is then categorized into 10 distinct syndromes. The influenza-like illness (ILI) syndrome consists of fever with either cough or sore throat. It can also include a chief complaint of “flu”. Each week, staff determine the percentage of all emergency department visits that fall into the ILI category.



During Week 41, the percentage of Emergency Department Visits attributable to Influenza-Like Illness was below the historical mean. ILI activity has increased in recent weeks; however, the overall level is still low.

## Outbreak Reports

No influenza-like/respiratory illness outbreaks were reported for the week ending October 14, 2006 (Week 41).