Another influenza surveillance season has begun. The 2010-2011 influenza surveillance season officially started on October 3rd.

For week 40 (10/03/10-10/09/10), the overall state ILI rate (3.5%) was comparable to last week (3.3%), but was lower than this time last year (7.7%) *

During week 40, three districts (2, 3, and 7) had an increase in ILI activity, while the other districts remained about the same.

Since September, there have been four respiratory samples that were positive by influenza PCR testing. Three were positive for influenza A (H3), one of which had a documented travel history to Florida prior to the onset of symptoms, and represented an imported case. The other confirmed influenza case was a Flu B. The cases were identified from the following counties: Holmes, Jasper, Lamar, and Perry.

* Please note during August 2009, the state ILL rate began increasing due to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic.