



## Public Health LOOK OUT!

- April is **National Minority Health Month!** This month is observed to illuminate the importance of improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities and reducing health disparities and the burden they place on the community. This year, the theme is ‘Give Your Community a Boost!’, placing a focus on one of the strongest layers of protection against the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID-19 vaccination and boosters. Visit [HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov) to learn more about key initiatives and resources!
- **National Public Health Week**, April 4<sup>th</sup>—10<sup>th</sup>, is observed during the first week of April each year to commemorate the contributions of public health and shed light on the issues that are vital to improving the health of our nation. This year, the focus of this week is “Public Health is Where you Are”, emphasizing the important role that we all have in reaching our goal to be the healthiest nation! Visit [nphw.org](https://www.nphw.org) to learn more about the issues critical to our success. #ThankYouPublicHealth
- **National Youth HIV and AIDS Awareness Day** is observed on April 10<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness on the impact that HIV/AIDS has on youth across the United States. According to the CDC, 21% of new HIV diagnoses in 2019 were among adolescents 13-24 years of age, but almost 50% of infected youth do not know they have the virus. While there has been a decline in risky behaviors among high school students, many young people continue to engage in health behaviors that increase their risk of infection. Visit [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) to learn more about resources available for adolescents!

For the most recent information on COVID-19 in Florida please visit: <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

## In this Issue

Public Health Lookout	1
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Miami Dade County, 2008-2020.	2
COVID-19 Resources and Guidance	4
EDC-IS Influenza Respiratory Illness Surveillance Report	5
Select Reportable Diseases and Conditions for February 2022	6
What's New at DOH - Miami-Dade	7



## 5 things to know about tuberculosis (TB)

Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County  
 Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Immunization Services  
 1350 NW 14th St, Annex Building  
 Miami, FL 33125  
 Phone: 305-470-5660  
 Fax: 305-470-5533  
 eFax: 786-732-8714



## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Miami Dade County, 2008-2020.

By: Yoselin Garcia

### What is Carbon Monoxide Poisoning?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas produced by the incomplete combustion of organic fuels such as charcoal, propane, gasoline, and coal.<sup>1</sup> CO is an insidious gas due to its colorless, tasteless, and odorless nature, and often goes undetected until the onset of illness. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates in the United States, more than 400 deaths annually are attributed to unintentional CO poisoning unrelated to fires.<sup>2</sup> Approximately 20,000 affected individuals visit an emergency department due to CO poisoning, and more than 4,000 are hospitalized each year.<sup>2</sup> Exposure to CO for prolonged periods of times, in sufficient concentrations, may cause sudden illness and death, making it a significant public health threat.<sup>3</sup> Symptom onset due to carbon monoxide poisoning may vary depending on the duration and magnitude of exposure. Characteristic symptoms include headache, nausea, lethargy, weakness, abdominal pain and/or discomfort, confusion, and dizziness.<sup>3</sup> As the degree of CO exposure increases, severity of symptoms may intensify to include visual disturbances, blurred vision, chest pain, paresthesia, ataxia, dyspnea, palpitations, seizures, loss of consciousness, and death.<sup>3</sup> In clinical settings, a blood carboxyhemoglobin (COHb) level may be obtained to determine the concentration of CO in the blood stream.<sup>1</sup> Treatment of CO poisoning includes administration of oxygen via non-rebreather mask until symptoms have resolved, and in cases with risk of severe illness, hyperbaric oxygen therapy for a medically appropriate time.

### Carbon Monoxide Surveillance in Miami-Dade

Carbon monoxide has been a reportable condition in the state of Florida since 2008.<sup>6</sup> The Florida Department of Health in Miami Dade conducts surveillance of CO poisoning to evaluate patterns and trends in the community, identify and mitigate persistent sources of exposure, and inform the public on CO-related risk and prevention.<sup>6</sup> CO poisoning investigations include the review of medical records and interviews with exposed individuals to obtain the most accurate information on transmission of the CO-emitting source, symptom onset, and treatment. Case interviews also present the opportunity to provide prevention education to reduce risk of further CO exposure. Cases are classified based on clinical compatibility, laboratory and/or environmental monitoring evidence, and intention of exposure to a CO-emitting source.

### Methods

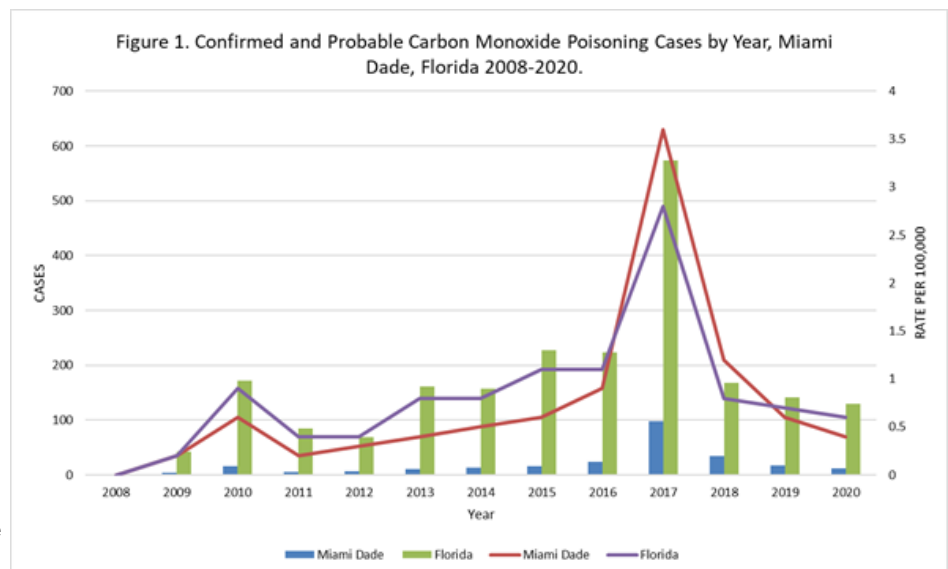
Case data from 2008 – 2020 was obtained from the Florida Department of Health's surveillance system, Merlin, based on event date. Data was analyzed and graphically summarized using Microsoft excel. A confirmed case is defined as either a person with confirmatory laboratory evidence or a person with presumptive or supportive clinical evidence and confirmatory exposure.<sup>3</sup> A probable case is defined as a person with presumptive laboratory criteria, presumptive clinical and confirmatory exposure evidence or presumptive or supportive clinical evidence and epidemiological criteria.<sup>3</sup>

### Results

The distribution of CO cases by year depicts a slight increase in cases each year from 2008 until 2017, when a significant increase in incidence occurred following Hurricane Irma, a category 5 storm that devastated Florida, causing extensive damage and power outages affecting more than 6.5 million Floridians.<sup>4</sup> The rate of reported CO poisoning cases peaked at 3.6 cases per 100,000 in 2017, significantly higher when compared to the state (Figure 1). Since then, CO cases have trended downward.

A total of 257 confirmed and probable cases have been reported in Miami Dade between 2008 and 2020, of which, 84.8% are confirmed CO poisoning cases. Approximately 50% of cases occurred between the ages of 25-54 years, with a median

age of 38 years and a range of 0 to 89 years (Table 1). 51.4% of all cases were female. Hispanics and non-Hispanic Blacks account for 59.1% and 20.6%, respectively, of all reported cases (Table 1).



Source: Florida Department of Health, Florida CHARTS

**Table 1. Summary of Confirmed and Probable CO Poisoning Cases - Miami Dade, 2008-2020.**

Diagnosis Status	N	(%)
Total Cases	257	(100)
Confirmed	218	(84.8)
Probable	39	(15.2)

Age (in years)	N	(%)
0-4	10	(3.9)
5-9	18	(7.0)
10-14	8	(3.1)
15-19	20	(7.8)
20-24	15	(5.8)
25-34	42	(16.3)
35-44	39	(15.2)
45-54	49	(19.1)
55-64	26	(10.1)
65-74	16	(6.2)
75-84	10	(3.9)
85+	4	(1.6)

Gender	N	(%)
Female	132	(51.4)
Male	125	(48.6)

Race/Ethnicity	N	(%)
Non-Hispanic White	30	(11.7)
Non-Hispanic Black	53	(20.6)
Non-Hispanic Other	8	(3.1)
Hispanic	152	(59.1)
Unknown Ethnicity	14	(5.4)

Outbreak	N	(%)
Outbreak-Associated	226	(87.9)
Sporadic	30	(11.7)
Unknown	1	(0.4)

Data obtained from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008-December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

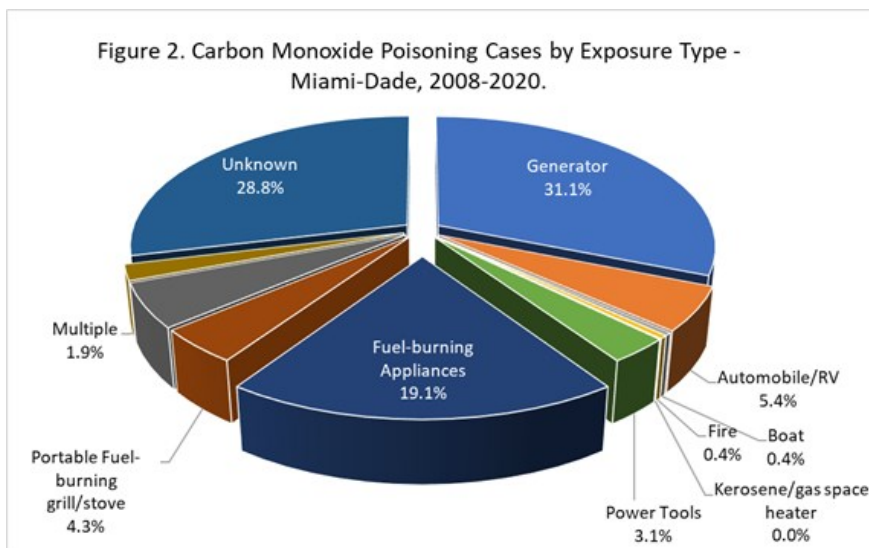
- Place generators in well ventilated locations outdoors, away from all doors, windows, and vents (more than 20 feet away)
- Do not use unvented combustion heaters in enclosed spaces, especially sleeping areas
- Never use a gas stove to heat your home
- If you suspect you may be experiencing symptoms of CO poisoning, open all doors and windows, turn off gas appliances/machines and move outside. If experiencing severe symptoms, call 911 and seek emergency medical assistance.

For poisonings, questions, or emergencies, call the Florida Poison Control Center (*available 24/7*):

**1 (800) 222-1222**

To report an outbreak or request more information, contact the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade:

**(305) 470-5660**



In addition, 87.9% of cases were epidemiologically linked to one or more cases associated with a CO outbreak. Among all CO-emitting exposure types, Generator and Fuel-burning appliances accounted for 31.1% and 19.1% of cases, respectively, making up more than 50% of all cases (Figure 2). 28.8% of all cases reported an 'unknown' source. In Miami-Dade, 88% of all cases reported an emergency room (ER) visit and 28% required inpatient hospitalization ( $\geq 1$  day hospital stay). Deaths do occur, as 6 CO poisoning-related deaths have been reported between 2008 and 2020. Hispanics account for 59.7% of all ER visits, 46.5% of all hospitalizations, and 50% of CO-related deaths. Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, up to date, a total of 21 CO poisoning cases have been reported in Miami Dade.

### Prevention

As we approach the summer months, Floridians prepare to embark on the journey to hurricane preparedness. Purchases of generators, flashlights, and nonperishable foods are prioritized to ensure families are prepared to weather any storm that may come our way this hurricane season. While early preparation and readiness are essential, CO poisoning prevention is vital to reduce the risk of CO poisoning and protect your loved ones. It is also very important to note that CO poisoning occurs throughout the year, and everyone is at risk!

Follow these strategies to prevent CO poisoning!<sup>2,5,6</sup>

- Install a battery-operated CO detector on each level of your home or boat, check or replace batteries twice a year to ensure the CO detector is functioning properly
- Ensure all appliances are properly installed and used according to the manufacturer's instructions (heating system, water heaters, and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances should be professionally serviced each year)
- Do not burn charcoal inside a house, garage, vehicle, tent, or fireplace and do not use gas-powered engines in confined areas such as a garage or basement
- Never leave a car, mower, generator, or other vehicle running in a garage

### References

1. Carbon monoxide (CO). (2021, April 1). Carbon Monoxide (CO) | Florida Department of Health. <https://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/carbon-monoxide/index.html>
2. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. (2021, July 1). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/co/faqs.htm>
3. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Case Definition. (2022). Florida Department of Health.
4. US Department of Commerce, N. O. A. A. (2018, August 14). Hurricane Irma 2017. <https://www.weather.gov/tae/Irma2017>
5. Carbon Monoxide. Florida's Poison Control Centers. (2018, May 7). <https://floridapoisoncontrol.org/poisoning-in-florida/carbon-monoxide/>
6. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Guide to Surveillance and Investigation. (2011, December 30). Florida Department of Health.

# If Your COVID-19 Test is Positive

## Whether you're vaccinated or not:

- Isolate for at least 5 days after your positive test (if you don't have symptoms) or after the day your symptoms first appeared.
- Wear a mask around other people until day 10.



## Cancel or reschedule your flight.

- If you reschedule, **do not travel until a full 10 days** after your positive test (if you don't have symptoms) or after the day your symptoms first appeared.



CS329783-A

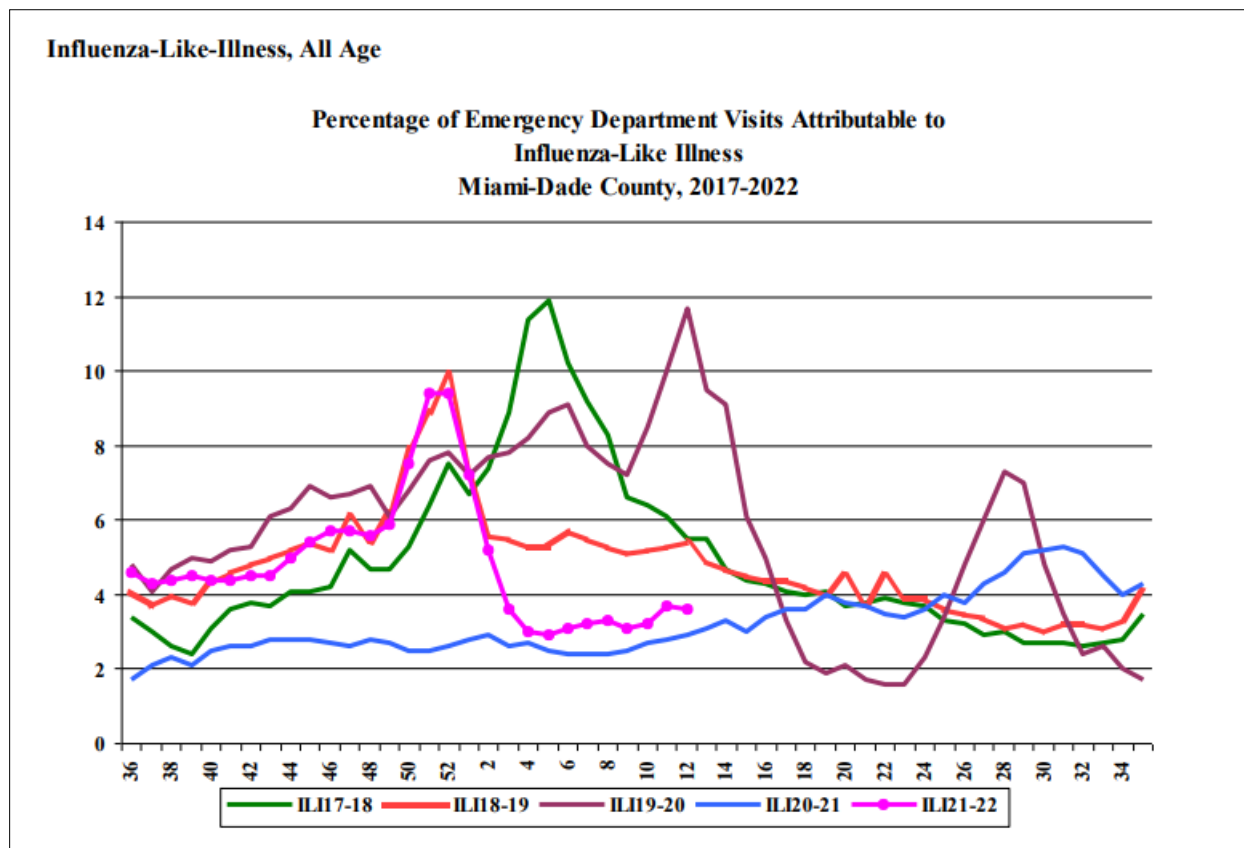
Thanks for doing your part to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

[www.cdc.gov/covid19travel](https://www.cdc.gov/covid19travel)

# Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County Epidemiology, Disease Control and Immunization Services

## Influenza Like Illness Surveillance Report

On a daily basis, all of Miami-Dade County's emergency department (ED) hospitals electronically transmit ED data to the Florida Department of Health. This data is then categorized into 11 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" or "ILI". This season's 2020-2021 data is compared to the previous 4 influenza seasons (2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020).



Across all ages, there were 31,775 ED visits; among them 1,151 (3.6%) were ILI. During the same week last year, 2.9% of ED visits were ILI.

### PARTICIPATE IN INFLUENZA SENTINEL PROVIDER SURVEILLANCE

#### Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County NEEDS Influenza Sentinel Providers!

Sentinel providers are key to the success of the Florida Department of Health's Influenza Surveillance System. Data reported by sentinel providers gives a picture of the influenza virus and ILI activity in the U.S. and Florida which can be used to guide prevention and control activities, vaccine strain selection, and patient care.

- Providers of any specialty, in any type of practice, are eligible to be sentinel providers.
- Most providers report that it takes **less than 30 minutes a week** to compile and report data on the total number of patients seen and the number of patients seen with influenza-like illness.
- Sentinel providers can submit specimens from a subset of patients to the state laboratory for virus isolation **free of charge**.

For more information, please contact  
**Stephanie Ramirez** at 305-470-5660.



# Miami-Dade County Monthly Report Select Reportable Disease/Conditions February 2022

Diseases/Conditions	2022 Current Month	2022 Year to Date	2021 Year to Date	2020 Year to Date
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>				
AIDS*	32	59	60	62
HIV	174	324	173	200
<b>STD</b>				
Infectious Syphilis*	47	95	89	84
Chlamydia*	1236	2155	2161	2390
Gonorrhea*	457	836	990	773
<b>TB</b>				
Tuberculosis**	11	22	N/A	N/A
<b>Epidemiology, Disease Control &amp; Immunization Services</b>				
<b>Epidemiology</b>				
Campylobacteriosis	40	68	61	101
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	0
Ciguatera Poisoning	0	0	0	2
Cryptosporidiosis	3	5	9	7
Cyclosporiasis	3	0	1	1
Dengue Fever	0	3	0	5
Escherichia coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing	10	20	5	20
Encephalitis, West Nile Virus	0	0	0	0
Giardiasis, Acute	21	28	11	16
Influenza, Pediatric Death	0	0	0	0
Legionellosis	2	3	3	4
Leptospirosis	0	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	1	0	0
Lyme disease	1	1	0	3
Malaria	0	0	0	2
Meningitis (except aseptic)	1	1	1	3
Meningococcal Disease	1	1	0	0
Salmonella serotype Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	56	115	70	100
Shigellosis	8	15	13	45
Pneumoniae, invasive disease	3	8	4	22
Vibriosis	1	2	0	2
West Nile Fever	0	0	0	0
Zika Virus (non-congenital)	0	0	0	0
<b>Immunization Preventable Diseases</b>				
Measles	0	0	0	0
Mumps	2	2	0	0
Pertussis	1	1	0	6
Rubella	0	0	0	0
Tetanus	0	0	0	0
Varicella	3	3	0	18
<b>Hepatitis</b>				
Hepatitis A	3	3	3	5
Hepatitis B (Acute)	5	11	2	6
<b>Healthy Homes</b>				
Lead Poisoning	24	35	17	16

\*Data is provisional at the county level and is subject to edit checks by state and federal agencies.

\*\* Data on tuberculosis are provisional at the county level.

Data on EDC-IS includes Confirmed and Probable cases.

## What's New at DOH-Miami-Dade:

- Nationwide, the newly launched **Test to Treat Initiative** provides individuals with rapidly accessible, free, lifesaving oral COVID-19 antiviral pills. Participating locations will be a **One-Stop Test to Treat** site. Test to Treat locator tool will be launched the week of March 21st. Test to Treat [Fact Sheet](#).
- All state-supported monoclonal antibody therapy treatment sites remain closed until further notice.
- COVID-19 Vaccine booster recommendations are now available for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the US. Visit the [CDC's website](#) for eligibility criteria and to find a COVID-19 vaccine near you!
- Every home in the United States is eligible to receive **2 sets** of 4 free at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests. Test results given within 30 minutes, no lab drop off required! Visit [COVIDtests.gov](#) to order your free at-home tests!

# Public Health is Where You Are



The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted access to TB services

## Fewer people accessed life-saving TB care in 2020

In 2020, an estimated **9.9 MILLION PEOPLE** FELL ILL WITH TB\*



Better reporting, diagnosis and access to care will close this gap

\* Range for TB incidence is 8.9 - 10.9 million.



INVEST TO END TB SAVE LIVES

To report diseases and for information, call EDC-IS at:

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program	305-470-6877
Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance	305-470-5660
Hepatitis Program	305-470-5536
HIV/AIDS Program	305-470-6999
Immunization Services	305-470-5660
STD Program	305-575-5430
Tuberculosis Program	305-575-5415
Appointment Line	786-845-0550

## About the Epi Monthly Report

The Epi Monthly Report is a publication of the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County: Epidemiology, Disease Control & Immunization Services. The publication serves a primary audience of physicians, nurses, and public health professionals. Articles published in the Epi Monthly Report may focus on quantitative research and analysis, program updates, field investigations, or provider education. For more information or to submit an article, please contact Yoselin Garcia at (786) 582-2266 or [Yoselin.Garcia@flhealth.gov](mailto:Yoselin.Garcia@flhealth.gov).

