Quick facts are below. See full report on pages 1-9 for details.

Flu activity in Washington is currently **Low**

Number of reported lab-confirmed deaths 2019-2020 season to date

- **1 child**
- **1 adult**

Most common type this week **B**

**Take Me To:**
- Strains page 1
- Trends page 3
- Other viruses page 7
- Deaths page 8

**How do you stop the spread of flu?**
Get vaccinated! After getting vaccinated, also:

1. Wash your hands often
2. Cover your cough
3. Stay home when you’re sick

**More information:**
Learn about flu and flu activity in Washington:

- [www.knockoutflu.org](http://www.knockoutflu.org)
- [National flu report](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) from the CDC
- Washington [flu resources for providers](http://www.knockoutflu.org)

Read detailed Washington weekly flu report following this page.


If you have a disability or need this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127 (TTY/TDD 7-1-1).
Washington State Influenza Update

Week 44: October 27, 2019-November 02, 2019
Washington State Department of Health, Communicable Disease Epidemiology

Please note all data are preliminary and may change as data are updated

State Summary: Flu activity is Low

- One lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2019-2020 season to date.
- Two influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2019-2020 season to date.
- During week 44, 1.3 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.5 percent.
- During week 44, 0.9 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza.
- Influenza A and Influenza B were reported during week 44.

Influenza Laboratory Surveillance Data

Laboratory Data: World Health Organization (WHO) & National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) Data Reported to CDC

CDC has generated separate graphs of data reported to CDC by public health laboratories (Figure 1) and commercial laboratories (Figure 2). Table 1 combines the data from the public health and commercial laboratories.

Table 1: WA Influenza Specimens Reported to CDC, Public Health Laboratories and Commercial Laboratories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>A (H1)</th>
<th>A (2009 H1N1)</th>
<th>A (H3N2)</th>
<th>A (Unable to Subtype)</th>
<th>A (Subtyping not performed)</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>BYam</th>
<th>BVic</th>
<th>Total Tested</th>
<th>% Flu Positive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>990</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>877</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC, WA Public Health Laboratories
Figure 2: Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC, WA Commercial Laboratories

![Graph showing the number of positive specimens for Influenza A and Influenza B over CDC weeks in the 2019-2020 season. The graph includes a y-axis for the number of positive specimens and a y-axis for the percent positive. The data is color-coded with Influenza A in yellow and Influenza B in green.]
Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance

Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) Data
ILI is defined as fever (temp 100°F/37.8°C or higher) plus cough and/or sore throat. During week 44, zero sentinel providers in Washington reported data through the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network Surveillance Network (ILINet). Of 20,565 visits reported, 263 (1.3%) were due to ILI, below the baseline of 1.5%.

In Figure 3, the baseline is for Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). For the 2019-2020 season, the baseline is calculated differently than in previous seasons. See https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm

Figure 3: Percentage of ILI Visits Reported by Sentinel Providers, Washington, 2019

![Figure 3: Percentage of ILI Visits Reported by Sentinel Providers, Washington, 2019](image)

Table 2: Number of ILI Visits Reported by Sentinel Providers by Age Group, Washington

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Sentinel Providers</th>
<th>Age 0-4</th>
<th>Age 5-24</th>
<th>Age 25-49</th>
<th>Age 50-64</th>
<th>Over 64</th>
<th>Total ILI</th>
<th>Total Patients</th>
<th>Percent ILI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>21,318</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>21,606</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>21,315</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>20,565</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Influenza Hospitalization Data

Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations (Spokane County Only)
Spokane Regional Health District requires hospitals to report laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations. Four lab-confirmed influenza hospitalizations have been reported since October 2018 (zero influenza A and four influenza B). See figure below, courtesy of Spokane Regional Health District.

Figure 4: Spokane Lab-Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations by Month of Admission

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Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations (Snohomish County Only)
Snohomish Health District requires hospitals in Snohomish County to report laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations to the health district. See figure below, courtesy of Snohomish Health District.

Figure 5: Snohomish County Influenza Hospitalizations by Season 2013-CDC Week 44
Influenza-like Illness Syndromic Surveillance Data

ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance Data

Figure 6 shows the proportion of visits at a subset of emergency departments across Washington for a chief complaint of influenza-like illness, or discharge diagnosis of influenza, by CDC week. For this purpose, ILI is defined as “influenza” or fever with cough or fever with sore throat.


Figure 6: Syndromic Surveillance, Percentage of Hospital Visits for a Chief Complaint of ILI, or Discharge Diagnosis of Influenza, by CDC Week, Washington, 2016-2019

Influenza-like Illness Outbreaks in Long Term Care Facilities

Long term care facilities are required to report all suspected and confirmed outbreaks to their local health jurisdiction per Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101-305. Long-term care facilities are required to report the following:

• A sudden increase in acute febrile respiratory illness over the normal background rate (e.g., 2 or more cases of acute respiratory illness occurring within 72 hours of each other) OR
• Any resident who tests positive for influenza

Recommendations for prevention and control of influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities are available at: https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/fluoutbrk-LTCF.pdf

Local health jurisdictions in turn report long-term care facility influenza-like illness outbreaks to the Washington State Department of Health.

Since Week 40 of 2019, 2 influenza-like illness outbreaks in long-term care facilities have been reported to the Washington State Department of Health.
Seasonal Baselines and Epidemic Thresholds


Figure 8 shows the percentage of specimens tested for influenza at WHO/NREVSS labs that are positive for influenza by week. For week 44, the percentage of specimens positive for influenza is below both the seasonal baseline and the epidemic threshold.

Figure 9 shows the percentage of visits that are for influenza like illness among ILINet providers. For week 44, the percentage of visits for ILI is above the seasonal baseline and below the epidemic threshold.

The seasonal baseline is calculated using data from the previous five years, and the epidemic threshold is 1.645 standard deviations above the seasonal baseline. This method is similar to that used by CDC when calculating pneumonia and influenza mortality, as described in https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm.

The intention of these models is to provide a data driven approach to determining when influenza has reached an epidemic level. Under these models, influenza is considered to be epidemic when the percentage of specimens positive for influenza is at or above the epidemic threshold, and the percentage of visits for ILI is also at or above the epidemic threshold.

Taken together, these figures show that influenza activity is below both the epidemic threshold for week 44. Feedback on the use of these models is welcomed.
Other Causes of Respiratory Infections

During the 2019-2020 season, the following non-influenza respiratory viruses were reported to the National Respiratory and Enteric Surveillance System (NREVSS).

For more information about NREVSS, see https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/index.html.

Figure 10: Respiratory and Enteric Viruses, Washington, 2019-2020 Season to Date

Table 3: Respiratory and Enteric Viruses, 2019-2020 Season to Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reporters</th>
<th>Respiratory Syncytial Virus</th>
<th>Human Parainfluenza Virus</th>
<th>Adenovirus</th>
<th>Coronavirus</th>
<th>Rotavirus</th>
<th>Enteric Adenovirus</th>
<th>Enteric Metapneumovirus</th>
<th>Rhinovirus</th>
<th>Enterovirus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last Updated 11/1/2019
Laboratory Confirmed Influenza-Associated Deaths

Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Associated Deaths

Note that these counts reflect only deaths officially reported to the Washington State Department of Health. Note that each influenza season is reported as week 40 through week 39 of the following year.

One laboratory-confirmed influenza death has been reported since week 40 of 2019, 1 influenza A, 0 influenza B, and 0 type unknown. No deaths have occurred in children.

Table 4: Count and rate of reported laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated deaths by age group, Washington, 2019-2020 season to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group (in years)</th>
<th>Count of Deaths</th>
<th>Death Rate (per 100,000 population)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza-Associated Deaths, Past Seasons

For reference, lab-confirmed influenza death totals reported to the Department of Health for past seasons are presented below in Table 5. Note that for the purposes of tables 4 and 5, each influenza season runs from week 40 of one year to week 39 of the next (roughly October to October).

Past season summaries are available: https://www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/DiseasesandChronicConditions/CommunicableDiseaseSurveillanceData/InfluenzaSurveillanceData

Note that influenza deaths are likely under-reported. The reasons for this under-reporting vary. Influenza may not be listed as a cause of death, influenza testing may not have occurred in a timely fashion to identify the virus, or may not have been performed at all, and lab-confirmed influenza deaths may not have been appropriately reported to public health.

CDC has published information about estimating seasonal influenza-associated deaths: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/us_flu-related_deaths.htm?mobile=nocontent

Table 5: Count of Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza-Associated Deaths, Past Seasons to Week 44 and Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Count of Deaths as of Week 44 of Season</th>
<th>Count of Deaths Reported for the Entire Season (week 40 to week 39)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020, to date</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 6: Count of Deaths Reported to WA DOH by County of Residence

Table 6 shows the count of laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths reported to the Washington State Department of Health by county of residence. Deaths are from week 40 of 2019 through the present. Note that due to reporting lag, counts may be different at the county level. Only deaths reported by the county as “investigation complete” are included in the official Washington State Department of Health counts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Count of Deaths Reported to WA DOH from week 40 of 2019 to present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Resources

International Influenza Data: https://www.who.int/topics/influenza/en/
National Influenza Surveillance Report: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm

Washington DOH Influenza Information for Public Health and Healthcare Providers: https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/InfluenzaFluInformation#recommendation

Washington Local Health Department Influenza Surveillance Reports:
Clark County: https://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/flu
King County: https://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/communicable/diseases/Influenza.aspx
Kitsap County: https://www.kitsappublichealth.org/Respiratory.pdf
Pierce County: https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/provider-resources/disease-information-for-providers/influenza/influenza-reports
Whatcom County: http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/967/Influenza
Yakima County: https://www.yakimacounty.us/365/RSV-Flu-Stats