



# Whatcom County 2017-18 Influenza Report

## Weeks 19-20, May 06-19, 2018

Published by: WCHD Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Division

### Summary

During weeks 19-20 there were zero positive influenza A tests, and zero positive influenza B tests, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. Family Care Network reported zero positive influenza A tests and one positive B influenza test for weeks 19-20. There were two hospitalizations related to influenza-like-illness during week 19, and one hospitalization related to influenza-like-illness during week 20. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 19, 0.41% had influenza-like illnesses and 0.40% in week 20. No new influenza outbreaks were reported by a long term care facility in Whatcom County for weeks 19-20. The outpatient sentinel clinics reported zero ILI (influenza-like illness) visits for weeks 19-20. Thirty-one schools in Whatcom County reported elevated absenteeism rates during week 19, and thirty-seven for week 20.

There have been 7 lab confirmed, influenza-related deaths reported in Whatcom County to date this flu season.

### Laboratory Data

The total number of influenza A and Influenza B tests and the percentage positive is an indicator of influenza activity in the community. The information in the first table is from Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. The information in the second table is from Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing.

#### Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth

CDC Week	15	16	17	18	19	20
End date	04/14/2018	04/21/2018	04/28/2018	05/05/2018	05/12/2018	05/19/2018
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	96	40	36	27	18	18
N(%) Positive A	0(0.0%)	2(5.0%)	1(2.8%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
N(%) Positive B	5(5.2%)	3(7.5%)	0(0.0%)	2(7.4%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)

#### Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing

Date Range	04/07/2018-04/13/2018	04/14/2018-04/20/2018	04/21/2018-04/27/2018	04/28/2018-05/04/2018	05/05/2018-05/11/2018	05/12/2018-05/18/2018
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	26	12	7	6	9	1
N(%) Positive A	5(19.2%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
N(%) Positive B	2(7.7%)	1(8.3%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(11.1%)	0(0.0%)

### Syndromic Surveillance Data

The Whatcom County Health Department monitors emergency department visits at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center through the National Syndromic Surveillance Program. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 19, 0.41% and 0.40% for week 20 had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from 0.48% during week 18.

## Nursing Homes

Influenza reporting requirements include outbreaks of influenza-like-illness in institutional settings such as long term care facilities. Because some elderly people with influenza may not have a prominent fever, outbreaks are defined as acute febrile respiratory illnesses (>2 cases within 72 hours of each other) within the facility, or any resident testing positive for influenza. There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by a long term care facility in Whatcom County during weeks 19-20.

## School Absenteeism

School absenteeism is an indirect measure of influenza activity. Absenteeism increases during influenza season and during outbreaks, but may be due to causes other than influenza. All seven Whatcom County school districts have voluntarily participated in reporting daily absenteeism rates to the Washington State Department of Health. Out of fifty-four schools reporting in Whatcom County, thirty-one schools in week 19 and thirty-seven schools in week 20, reported at least one day on which their absenteeism rate exceeded 10%.

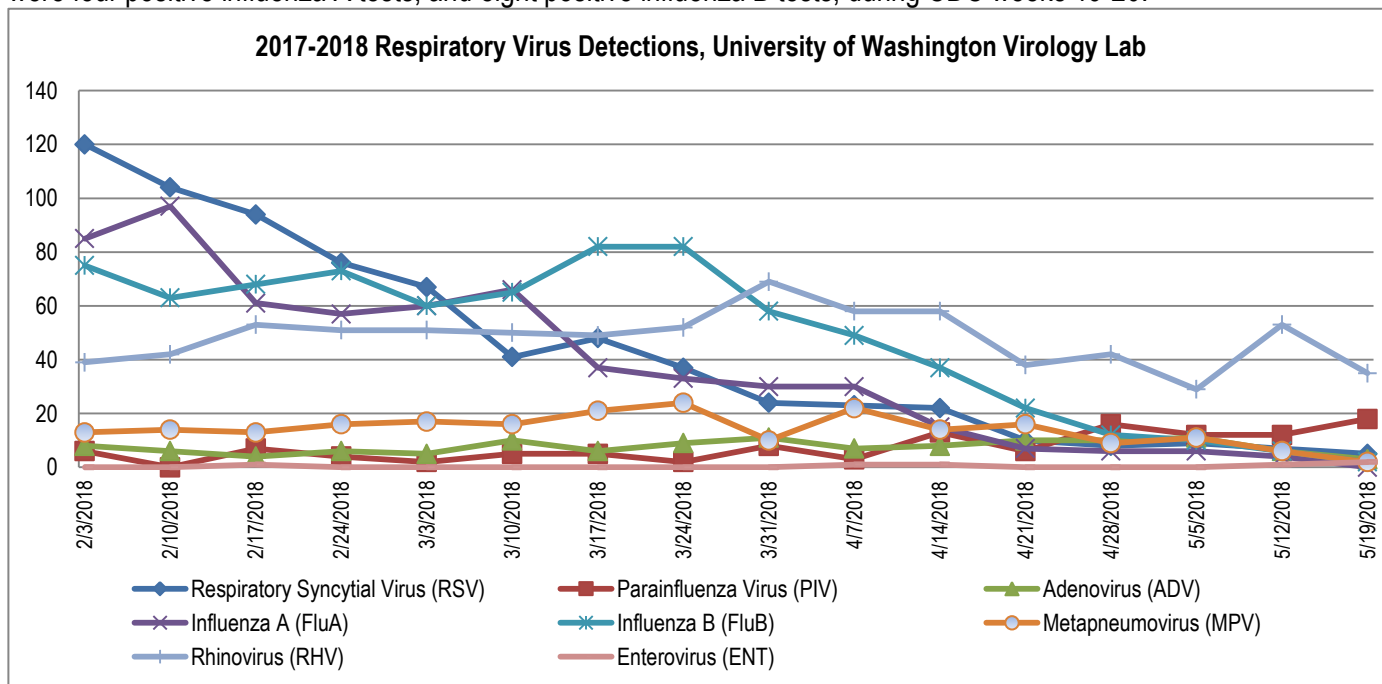
## Outpatient Clinic Visits

Two Whatcom County medical practices are CDC Sentinel Influenza Surveillance sites and report weekly the number of patients seen and number of those with influenza-like-illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever 100 degrees F or 37.8 degrees C (oral or equivalent) or higher AND cough and/or sore throat [in the absence of a known cause other than influenza].

	CDC Week	15	16	17	18	19	20
End date		04/14/2018	04/21/2018	04/28/2018	05/05/2018	05/12/2018	05/19/2018
Clinic A							
	Total visits	401	409	376	387	401	397
	% ILI	0(0.0%)	2(0.5%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)
Clinic B							
	Total visits	9	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
	% ILI	0(0.0%)	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data

## University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were four positive influenza A tests, and eight positive influenza B tests, during CDC weeks 19-20.

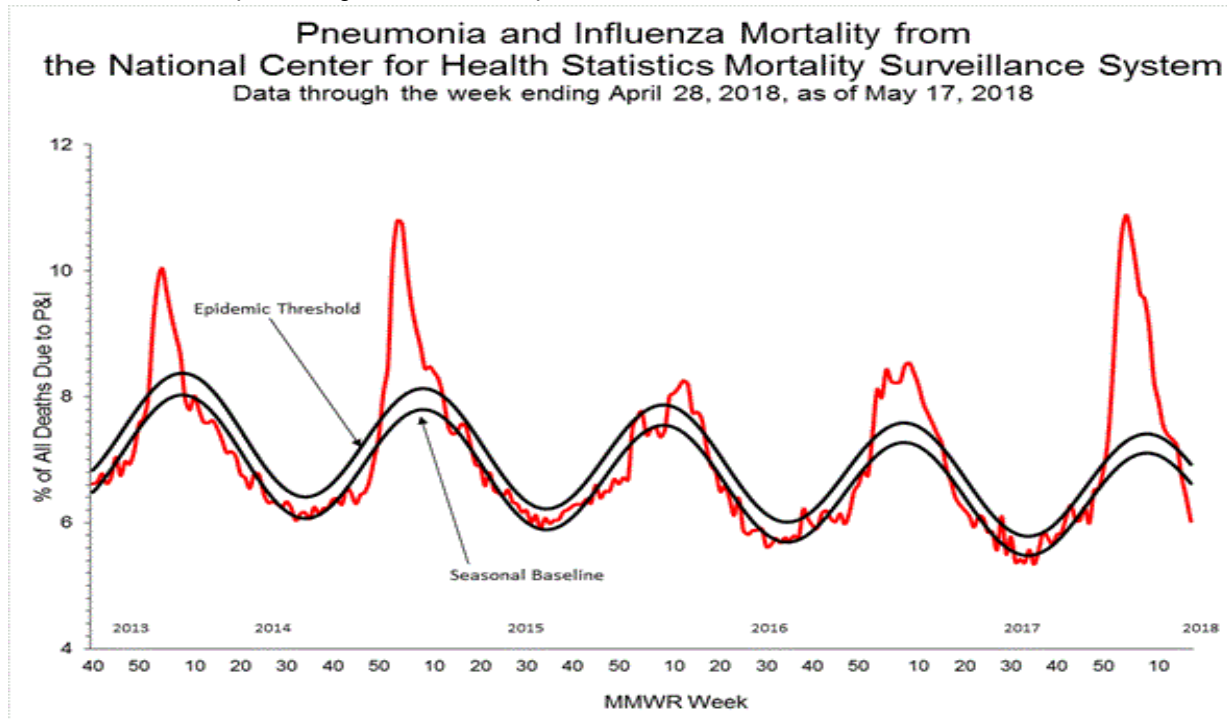


## Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity is decreasing. Two hundred and twenty eight influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2017-2018 season to date. During week 19 (May 6-12, 2018), 0.6 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 19, 4.3 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A and influenza B were reported during week 19. Two hundred and eighty seven lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2017-2018 season to date.

## Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance

The most current National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) mortality surveillance data is included below for reference. Of the deaths occurring during the week ending April 28, 2018 (week 17), 6.0% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.9% for week 17.



## Links to other influenza reports

[WA State Department of Health Weekly Influenza Updates](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

[Centers for Disease Control Weekly Flu View](#)

[University of Washington Respiratory & Enteric Viruses](#)

[World Health Organization Influenza Page](#)

[HealthMap](#)



The mission of the Whatcom County Health Department is to lead the community in promoting health and preventing disease.

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