



# Whatcom County 2019-20 Influenza Report

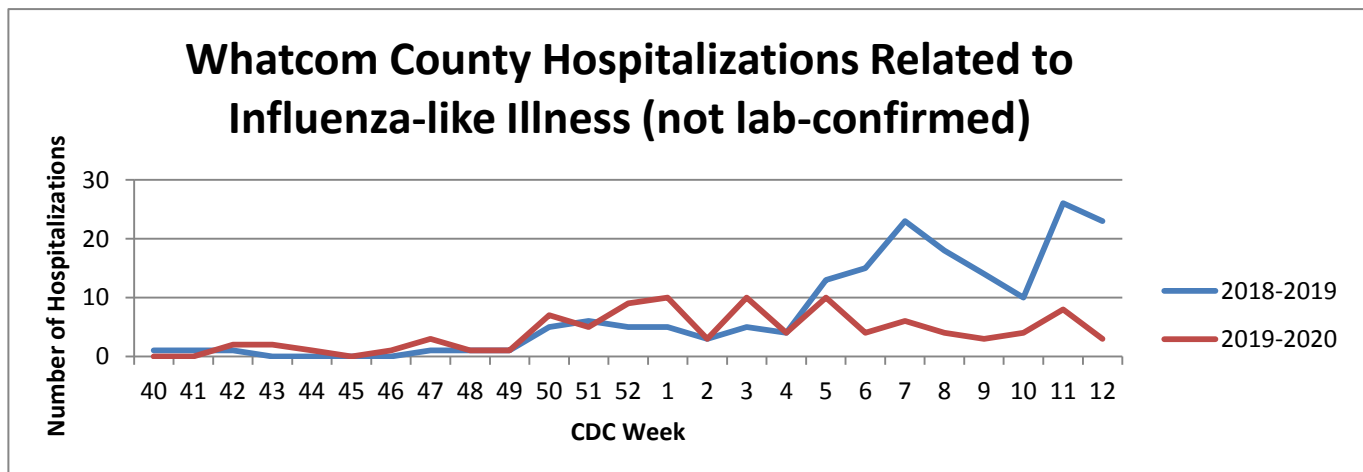
## Week 12, March 15-21, 2020

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### Summary

- PeaceHealth stopped using nasopharyngeal swabs to test for flu in the Emergency Department and inpatient settings as of March 16, 2020 in order to conserve swabs for COVID-19 testing during the current 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19). This likely has affected data.
- During week 12 there were twenty-two positive influenza A tests, and ten positive influenza B tests, reported by Family Care Network, PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital, PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic, and Sea Mar combined.
- There were three hospitalizations related to influenza-like illness during week 12.
- No lab-confirmed deaths related to influenza were reported during week 12.
- Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 12, 3.19% had influenza-like illnesses.
- There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County.
- The outpatient sentinel clinics reported no influenza-like illness visits during week 12.

There have been 4 lab-confirmed, influenza-related deaths reported in Whatcom County to date this flu season.



### Syndromic Surveillance Data

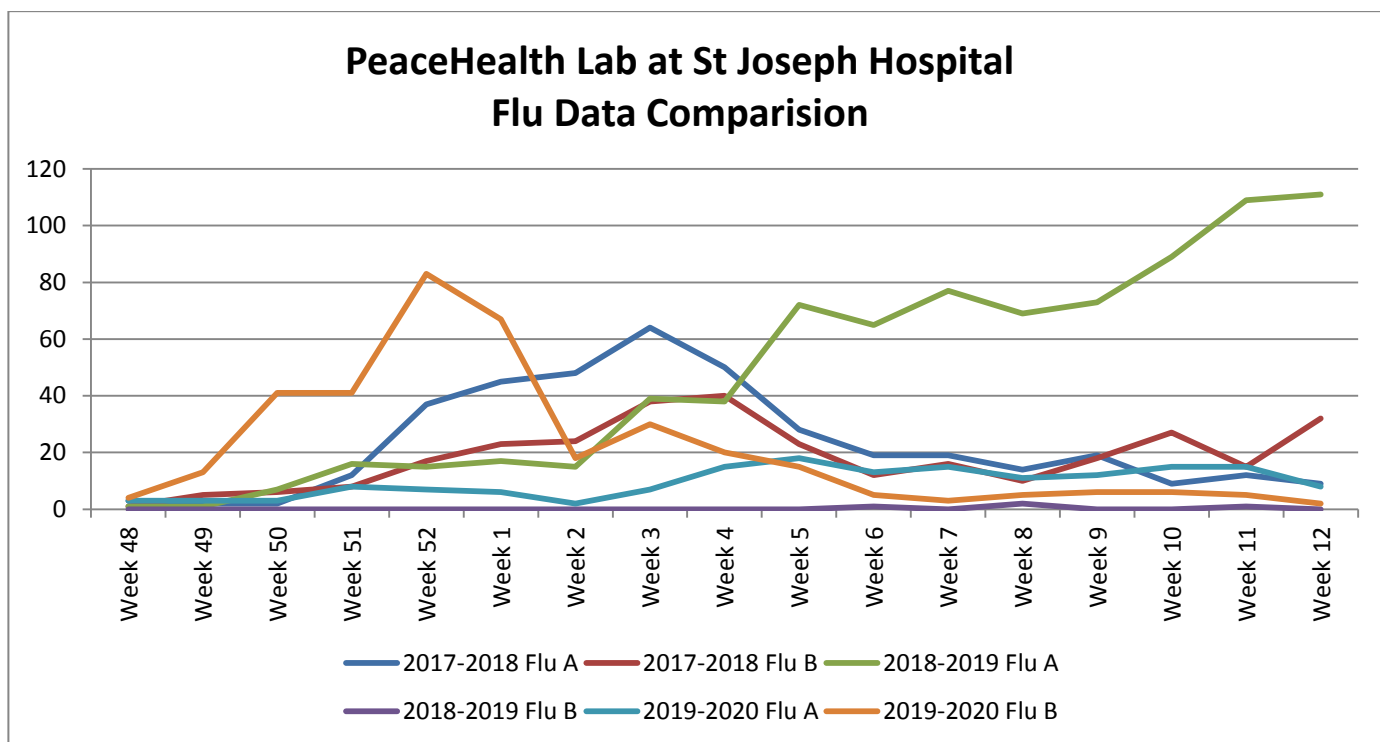
The Whatcom County Health Department monitors emergency department visits at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center through the National Syndromic Surveillance Program. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 12, 3.19% had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from 4.93% of people with influenza-like illnesses during week 11.

## 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 data in the table is from Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing, PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital (for emergency department and inpatient), PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic's Point of Care Testing, and Sea Mar's Point of Care Testing in Whatcom County combined.

### Family Care Network, PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital, PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic, and Sea Mar Data

CDC Week	7	8	9	10	11	12
End date	2/15/2020	2/22/2020	2/29/2020	3/7/2020	3/14/2020	3/21/2020
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	284	294	293	385	442	271
N(%) Positive A	29(10.2%)	24(8.2%)	30(10.2%)	24(6.2%)	45(10.2%)	22(8.1%)
N(%) Positive B	13(4.6%)	10(3.4%)	12(4.1%)	13(3.4%)	13(2.9%)	10(3.7%)



## 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 either more 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 long term care facilities in Whatcom County during week 12. There have been a total of three outbreaks this season.

## 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].

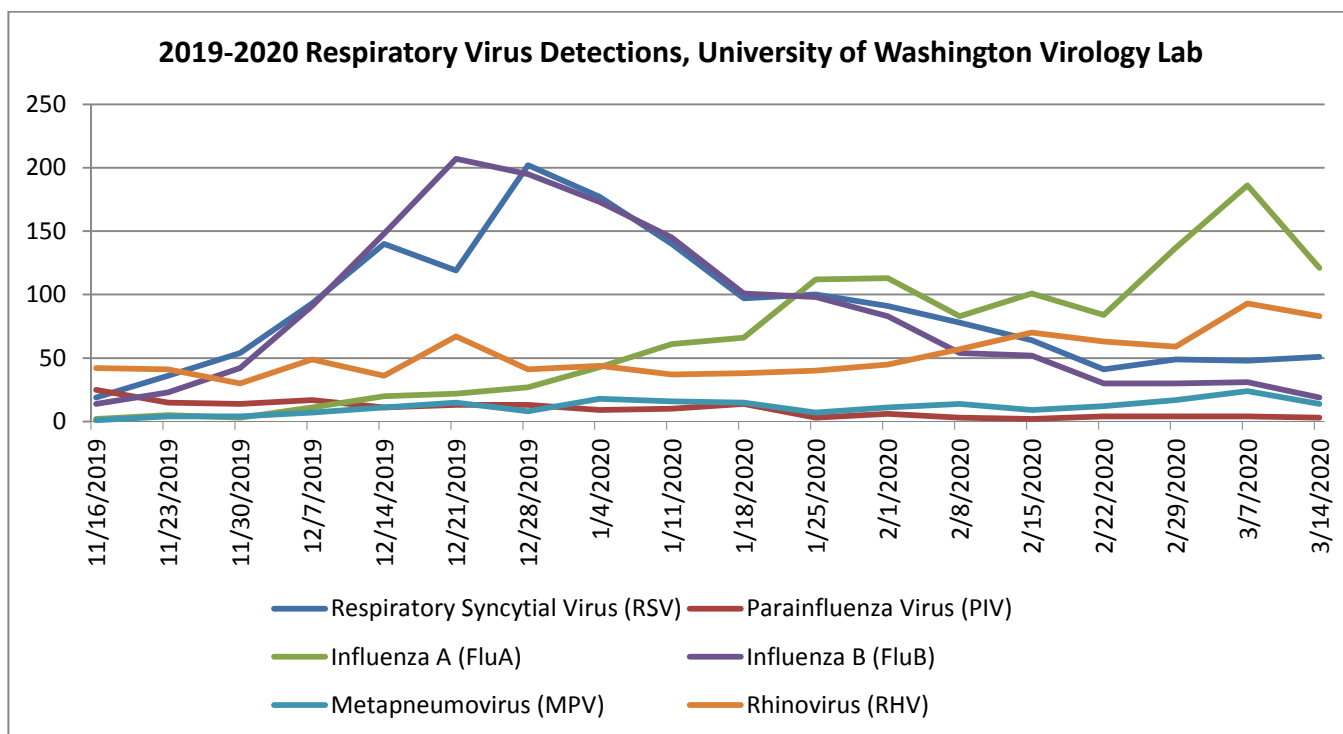
	CDC Week	7	8	9	10	11	12
End date		2/15/2020	2/22/2020	2/29/2020	3/7/2020	3/14/2020	3/21/2020
Clinic A							
	Total visits	315	267	424	385	289	125
	ILI visits	7(2.2%)	0(0%)	4(0.9%)	0(0%)	1(0.3%)	0(0%)
Clinic B							
	Total visits	53	40	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
	ILI visits	5(9.4%)	1(2.5%)	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data

## Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was decreasing during week 11 in Washington. Sixty seven influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2019-2020 season to date. During week 11, 6.7 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, above the baseline of 1.5 percent. During week 11, 8.7 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A and Influenza B were reported during week 11. Eighty six lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2019-2020 season to date.

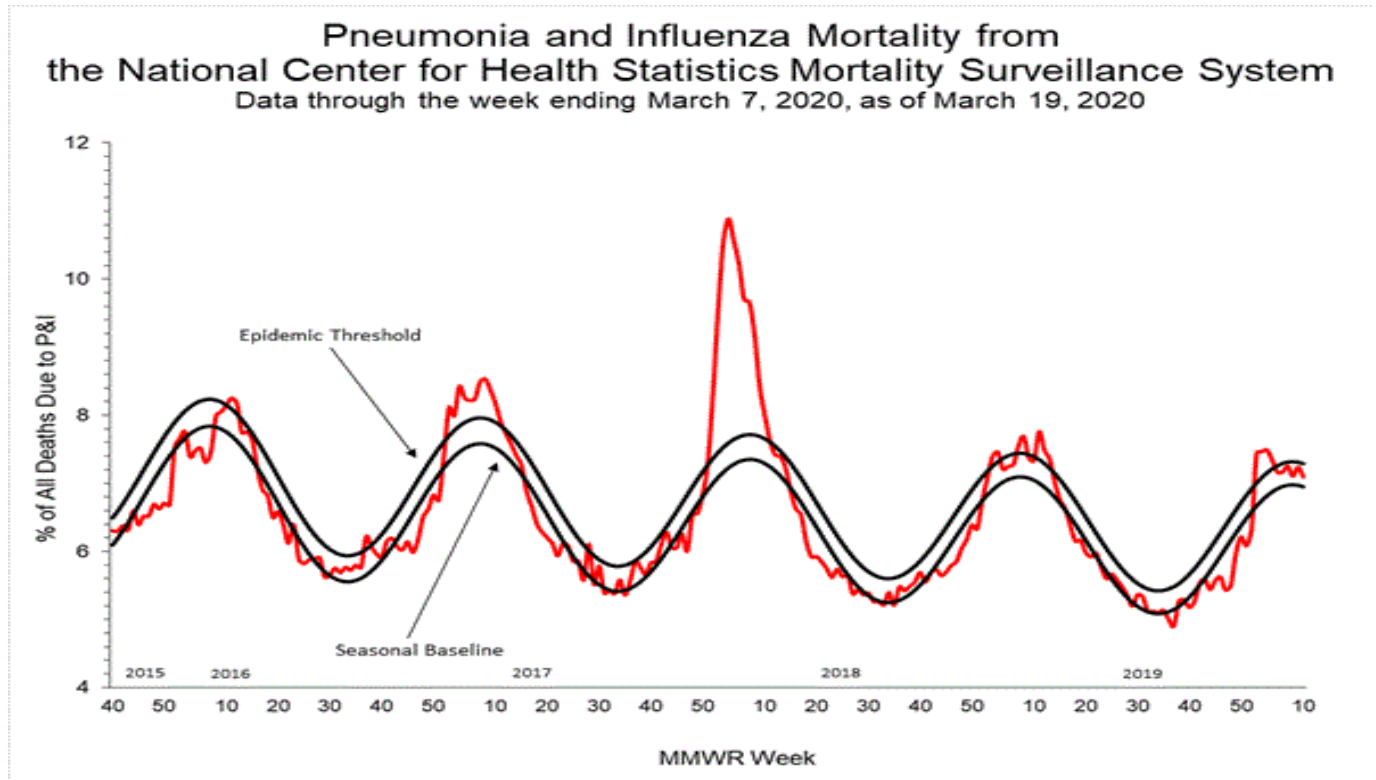
## University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were one hundred twenty-one positive influenza A tests, and nineteen positive influenza B tests, during CDC week 11.



## 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 March 7, 2020 (week 10), 7.1% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.3% for week 10.



## 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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