



# Whatcom County 2018-19 Influenza Report

## Weeks 19-20, May 5-18, 2019

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### Summary

- During weeks 19-20 there were less than ten positive influenza A tests, and less than ten positive influenza B tests, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth and Family Care Network combined.
- There were no hospitalizations related to influenza-like-illness during week 20.
- No deaths related to influenza were reported.
- Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during weeks 20, 0.38% had influenza-like illnesses.
- There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County.
- The outpatient sentinel clinics reported less than ten influenza-like illness visits.

There have been 8 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. Respiratory pathogen data can provide an indicator of other causes of viral respiratory illness in the community. The information in the first table is from Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. Information in the second and third tables is from Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing and Sea Mar's Point of Care Testing.

#### Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth

CDC Week	15	16	17	18	19	20
End date	4/13/2019	4/20/2019	04/27/2019	5/4/2019	5/11/2019	05/18/2019
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	142	124	99	72	48	20
N(%) Positive A	10(7.0%)	<10	<10	<10	0(0%)	0(0%)
N(%) Positive B	<10	0(0%)	<10	0(0%)	<10	0(0%)

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

Date Range	4/6/2019-4/12/2019	4/13/2019-4/20/2019	4/21/2019-4/26/2019	4/27/2019-5/3/2019	5/4/2019-5/10/2019	5/11/2019-5/17/2019
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	32	33	18	18	<10	<10
N(%) Positive A	<10	11(33.3%)	<10	<10	<10	0(0%)
N(%) Positive B	<10	<10	<10	<10	0(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 20, 0.38% had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from 0.54% of people with influenza-like illnesses 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 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 weeks 19-20. There were a total of seven outbreaks this season.

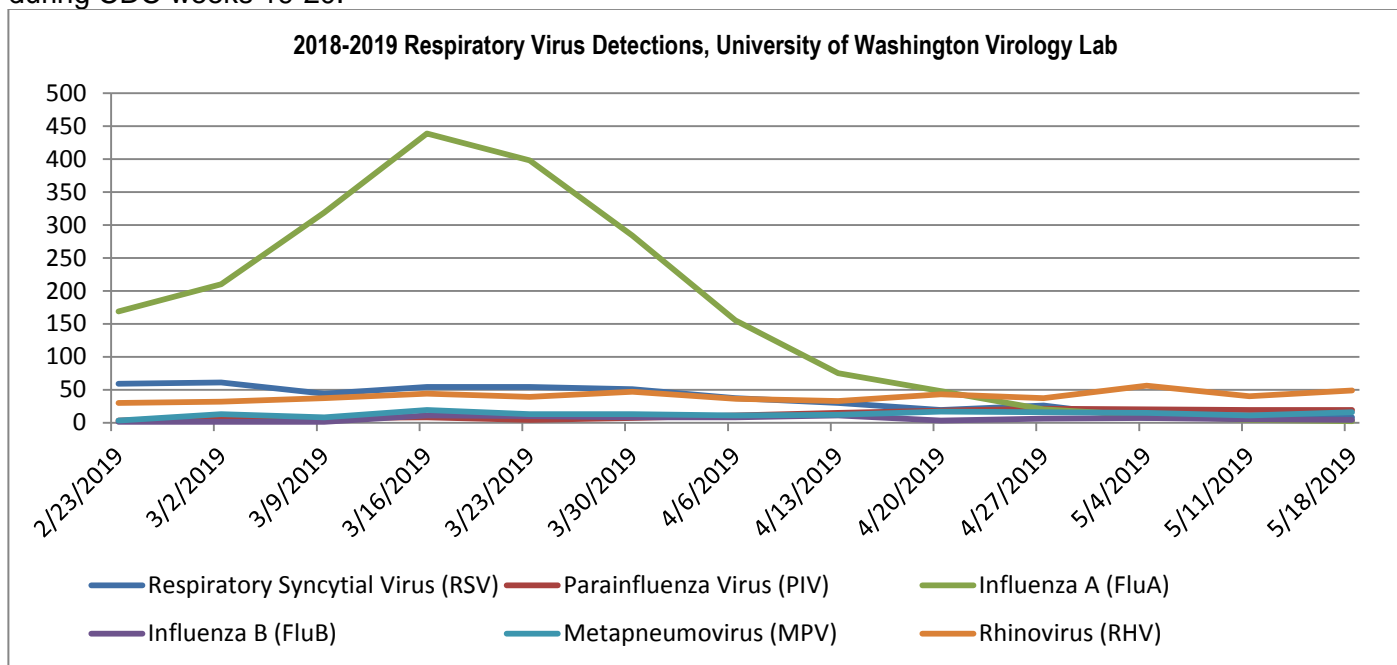
## Outpatient Clinic Visits

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	15	16	17	18	19	20
End date		4/13/2019	4/20/2019	4/27/2019	5/4/2019	05/11/2019	5/18/2019
Clinic A							
	Total visits	387	352	277	359	346	374
	ILI visits	0(0%)	<10	<10	<10	0(0%)	<10
Clinic B							
	Total visits	31	17	6	No Data	No Data	No Data
	ILI visits	<10	0(0%)	0(0%)	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 less than ten positive influenza A tests, and less than ten positive influenza B tests, during CDC weeks 19-20.

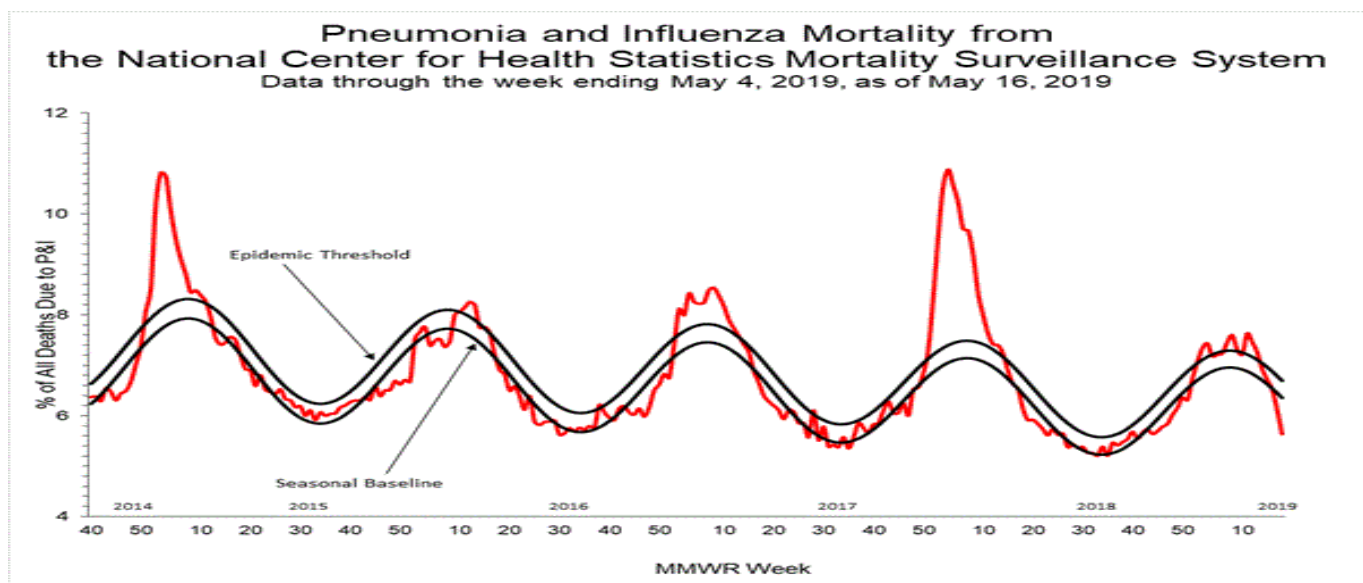


## Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was low during week 19 in Washington. One hundred and thirty-three influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date. During week 19, 0.5 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 19, 1.8 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 twenty-two lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 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 May 4, 2019 (week 18), 5.6% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.7% for week 18.



## 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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