



Whatcom County 2020-21 Influenza Report

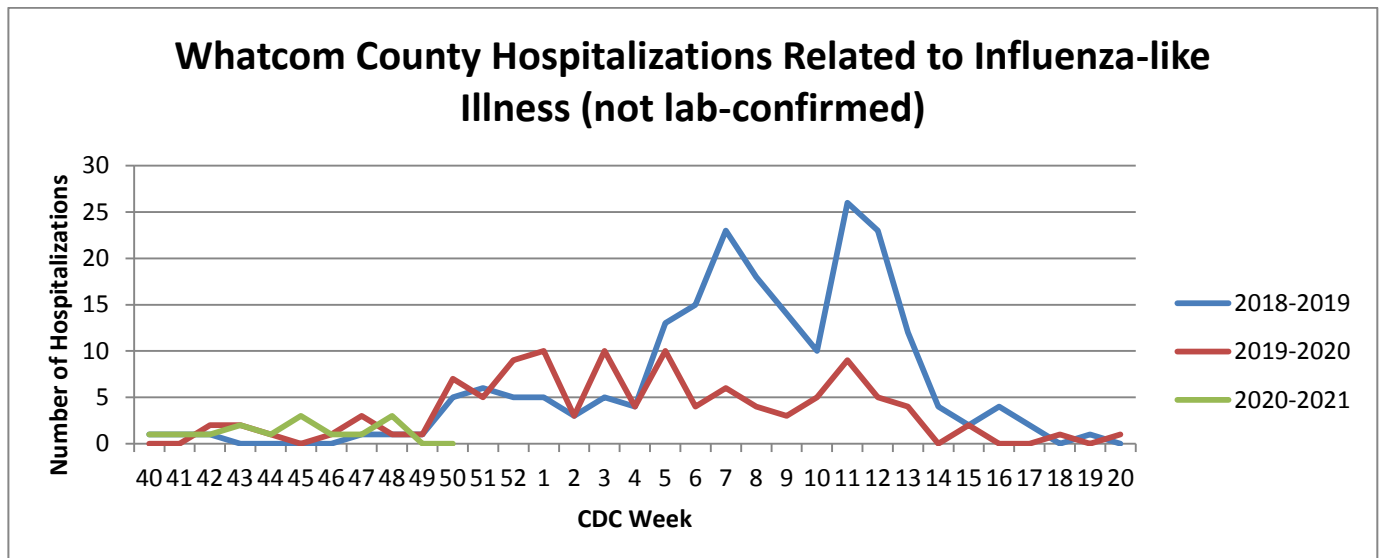
Weeks 49-50, November 29-December 12, 2020

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Summary

- The current COVID-19 pandemic has likely impacted data.
- During weeks 49-50 there was one positive influenza A test reported by Family Care Network, PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic, and Sea Mar combined.
- There were no hospitalizations related to influenza-like illness during weeks 49-50.
- No lab-confirmed deaths related to influenza were reported during weeks 49-50.
- Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 50, 0.31% 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 weeks 49-50.

There have been 0 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 50, 0.31% had influenza-like illnesses. This is up from 0.1% of people with influenza-like illnesses during week 49.

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. Influenza is not a routinely reportable condition, but some clinics have agreed to submit data to assist in looking at current influenza activity locally. 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. *Data for weeks 47-50 does not include PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital.*

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

CDC Week	45	46	47	48	49	50
End date	11/7/2020	11/14/2020	11/21/2020	11/28/2020	12/5/2020	12/12/2020
Influenza						
Total tests	125	99	30	15	20	28
N(%) Positive A	0(0.0%)	2(2.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(6.7%)	1(5.0%)	0(0.0%)
N(%) Positive B	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)

*FCN data is for weeks ending on Friday whereas the rest of the above data is for weeks ending on Saturday.

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 49-50. There have been no influenza outbreaks to date 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].

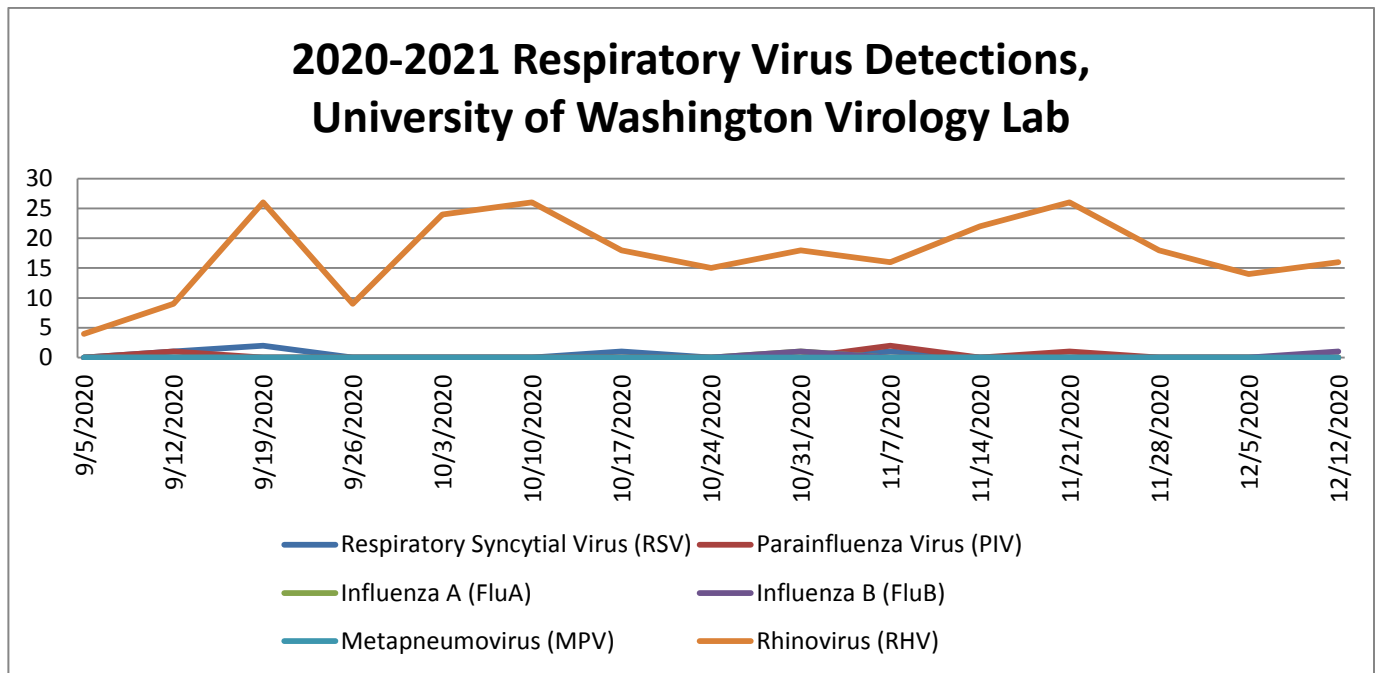
	CDC Week	45	46	47	48	49	50
End date		11/7/2020	11/14/2020	11/21/2020	11/28/2020	12/5/2020	12/12/2020
Clinic A							
	Total visits	144	111	152	47	118	119
	ILI visits	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)
Clinic B							
	Total visits	28	16	32	16	6	15
	ILI visits	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)

Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was low during week 49 in Washington. Zero influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2020-2021 season to date. During week 49, 0.7 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.6 percent. During week 49, 0 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza was not reported to the ILINet surveillance system during week 49. Zero lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2020-2021 season to date.

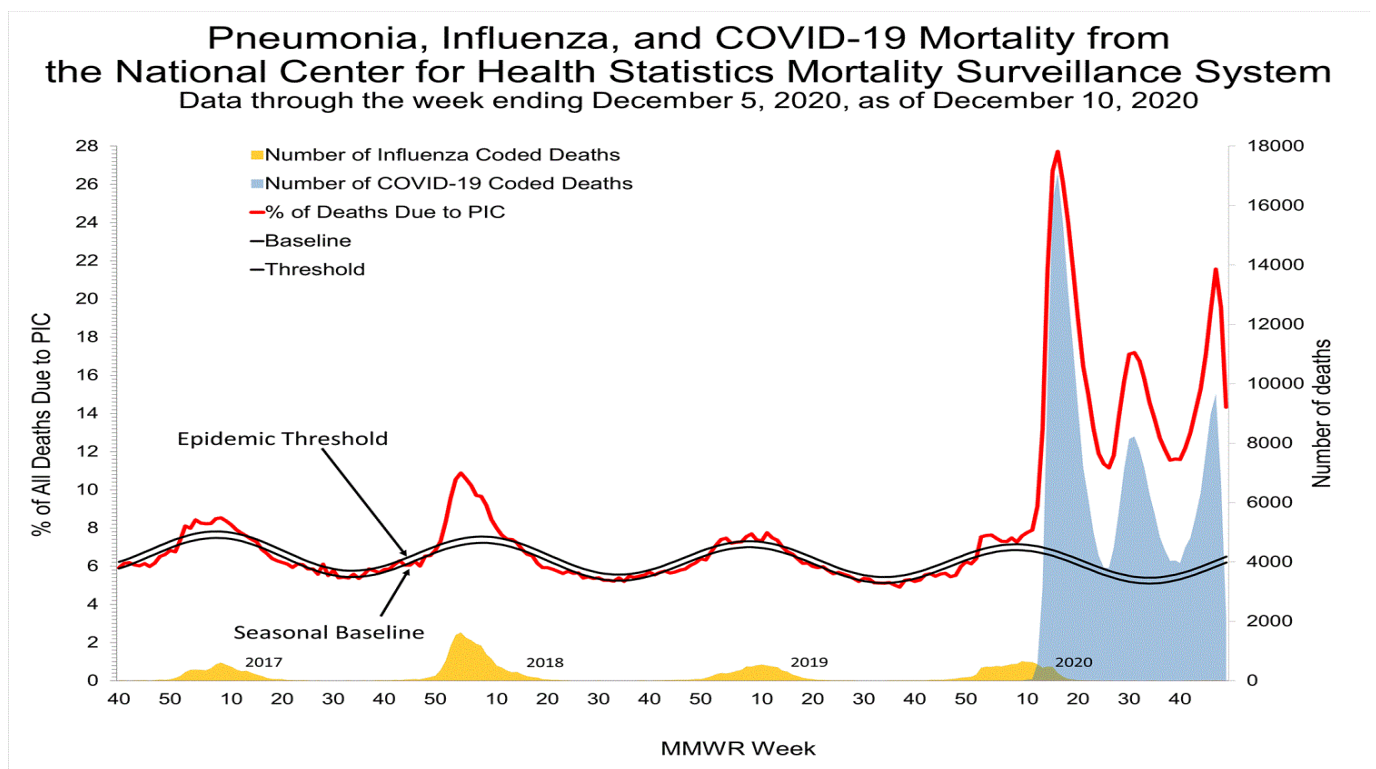
University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there was one positive influenza B test during CDC weeks 49-50.



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 December 5, 2020 (week 49), 14.3% were due to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19. This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 6.5% for week 49.



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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