



Whatcom County 2020-21 Influenza Report

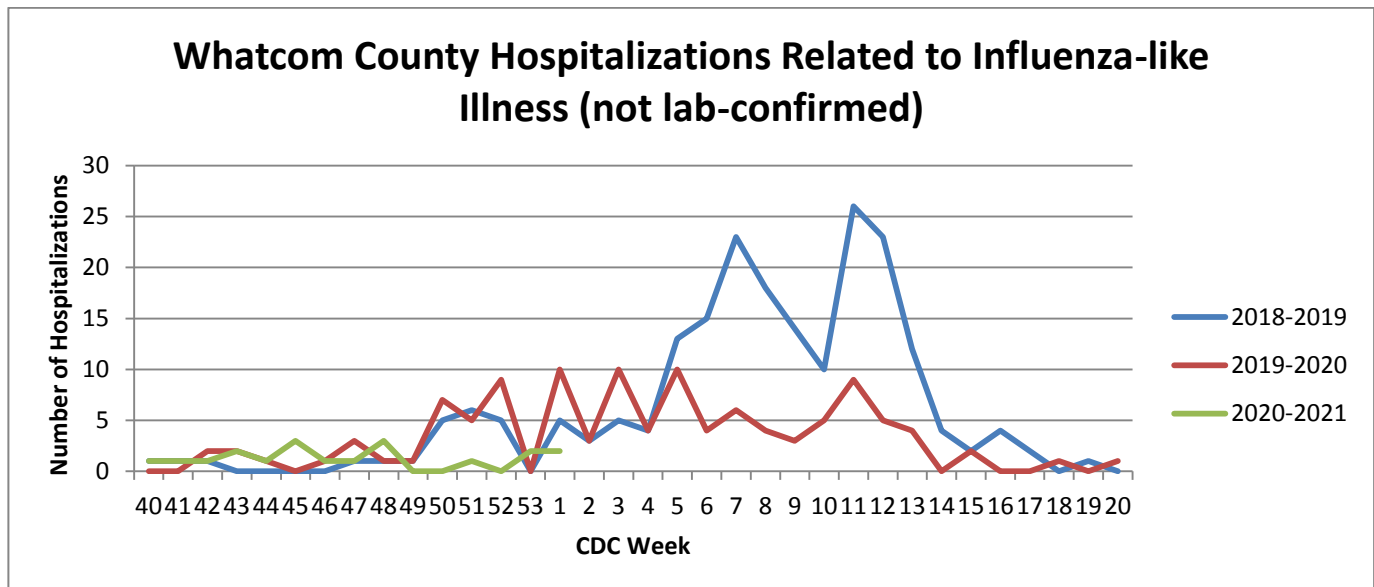
Weeks 53-1, December 27, 2020-January 9, 2021

Published by: WCHD Communicable Disease & Epidemiology Division

Summary

- The current COVID-19 pandemic has likely impacted data.
- During weeks 53-1 there were no positive influenza tests reported by Family Care Network, PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic, or Sea Mar.
- There were four hospitalizations related to influenza-like illness during weeks 53-1.
- No lab-confirmed deaths related to influenza were reported during weeks 53-1.
- Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 1, 0.28% 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 53-1.

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 1, 0.28% had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from 0.4% of people with influenza-like illnesses during week 53.

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 49-2 does not include PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital.*

Family Care Network, PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic, and Sea Mar Data

CDC Week	49	50	51	52	53	1
End date	12/5/2020	12/12/2020	12/19/2020	12/26/2020	1/2/2021	1/9/2021
Influenza						
Total tests	20	28	8	8	12	9
N(%) Positive A	1(5.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	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 53-1. 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].

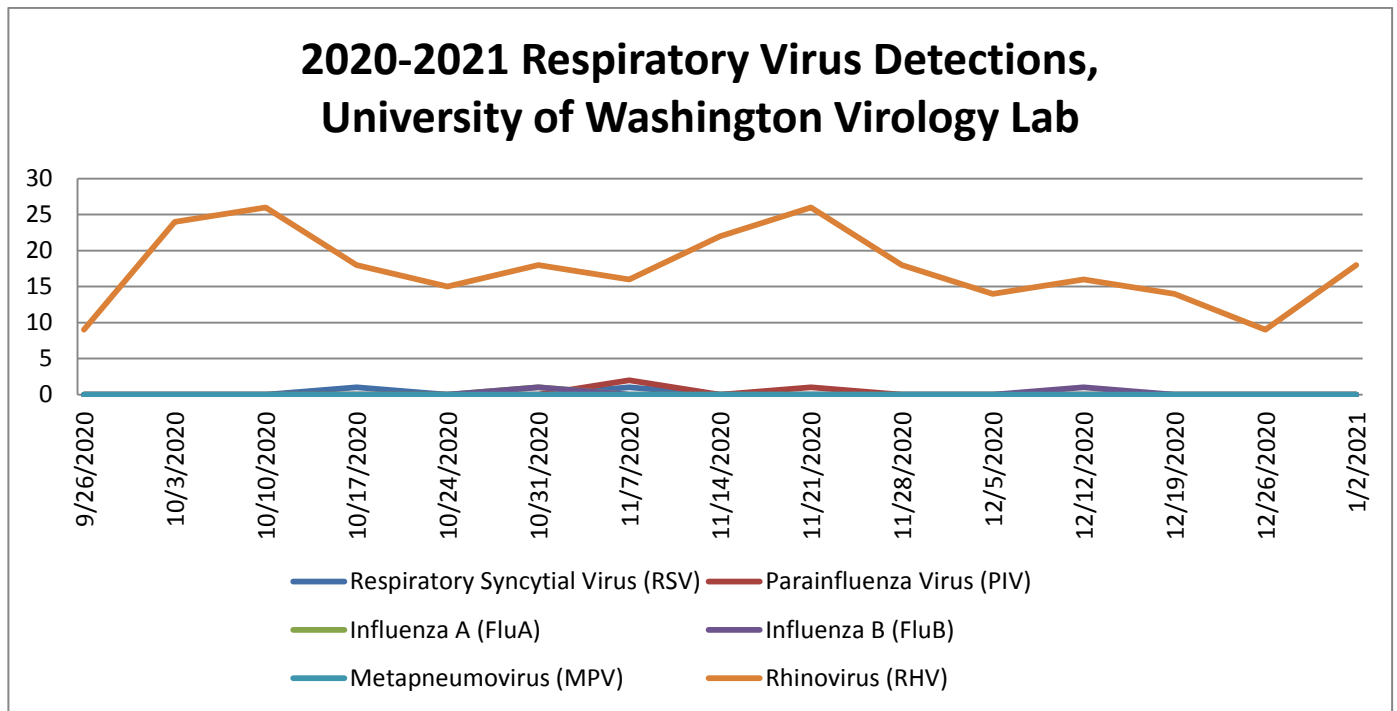
	CDC Week	49	50	51	52	53	1
End date		12/5/2020	12/12/2020	12/19/2020	12/26/2020	01/02/2021	01/09/2021
Clinic A							
	Total visits	118	119	0	0	0	No Data
	ILI visits	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	No Data
Clinic B							
	Total visits	20	37	15	0	7	10
	ILI visits	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)

Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was low during week 53 in Washington. Zero influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2020-2021 season to date. During week 53, 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 53, 0.3 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza B was reported to the ILINet surveillance system during week 53. Zero lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2020-2021 season to date.

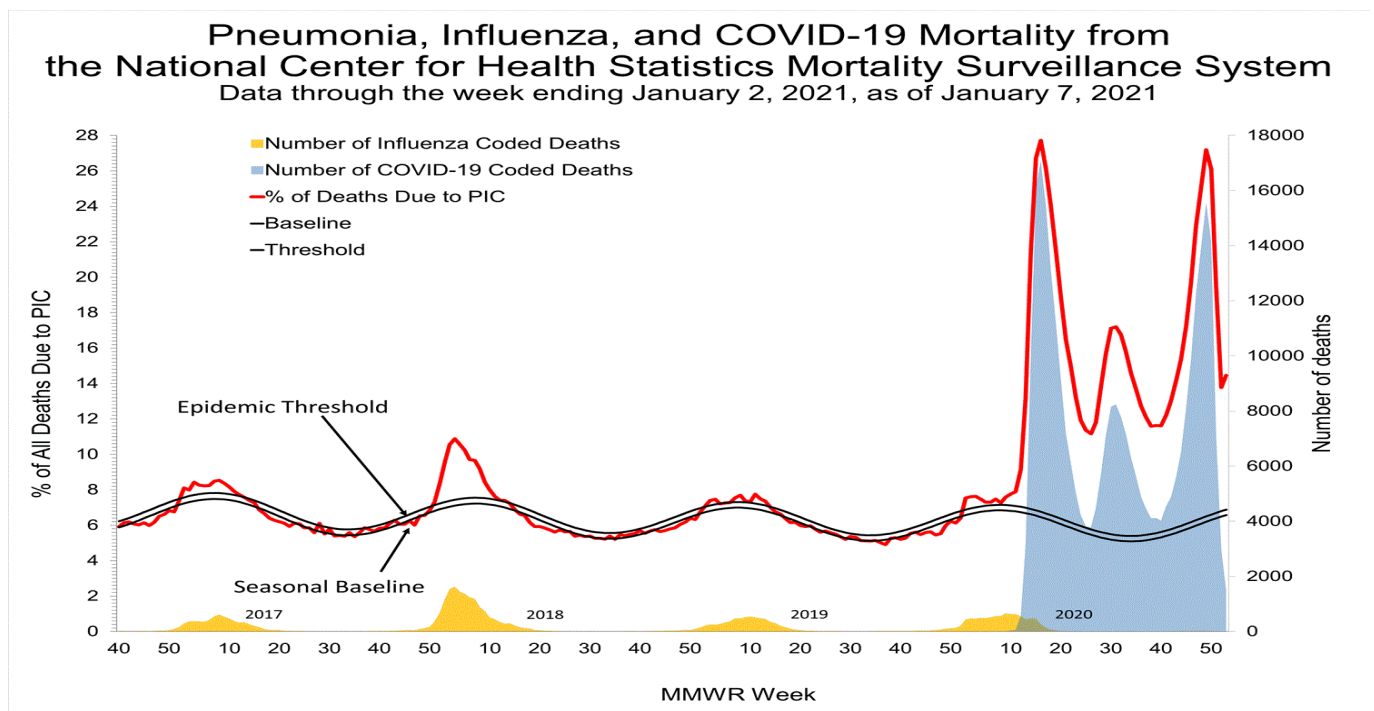
University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report there were no positive influenza tests during CDC weeks 53.



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 January 2, 2021 (week 53), 14.5% were due to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19. This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 6.9% for week 53.



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.

509 Girard Street, Bellingham WA 98225
P (360) 778-6000 F (360) 778-6001

1500 North State Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
P (360) 778-6100 F (360) 778-6101

