



Whatcom County 2022-23 Influenza Report

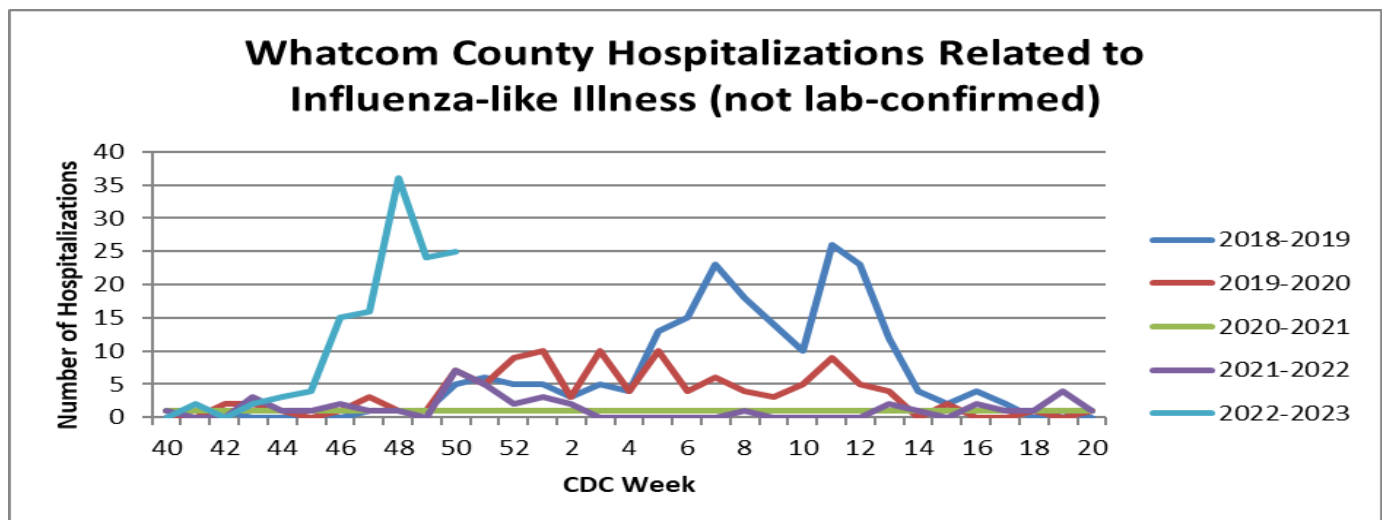
Week 50, December 11-17, 2022

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Summary

- During week 50 there were two hundred six positive influenza A tests, and one positive influenza B test, reported by Family Care Network, PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic, Sea Mar, and Unity Care NW combined.
- There were twenty-five hospitalizations related to influenza-like illness during week 50.
- Two lab-confirmed deaths related to influenza were reported during week 50. One death occurred during week 49, and the second death occurred during week 50.
- Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 50, 12.41% had influenza-like illnesses.
- There was one new influenza outbreak reported by a long-term care facility in Whatcom County.

There have been 3 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, 12.41% had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from 13.36% 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 Medical Group Pediatric Clinic’s Point of Care Testing, PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center Lab, Sea Mar’s Point of Care Testing in Whatcom County, and Unity Care NW’s Point of Care Testing combined.

Family Care Network, PeaceHealth, Sea Mar, and Unity Care NW Data

CDC Week	45	46	47	48	49	50
End date	11/12/2022	11/19/2022	11/26/2022	12/3/2022	12/10/2022	12/17/2022
Influenza						
Total tests	390	583	714	856	820	703
N(%) Positive A	28(7.2%)	137(23.5%)	221(31.0%)	293(34.2%)	267(32.6%)	206(29.3%)
N(%) Positive B	1(0.3%)	4(0.7%)	1(0.1%)	3(0.4%)	3(0.4%)	1(0.1%)

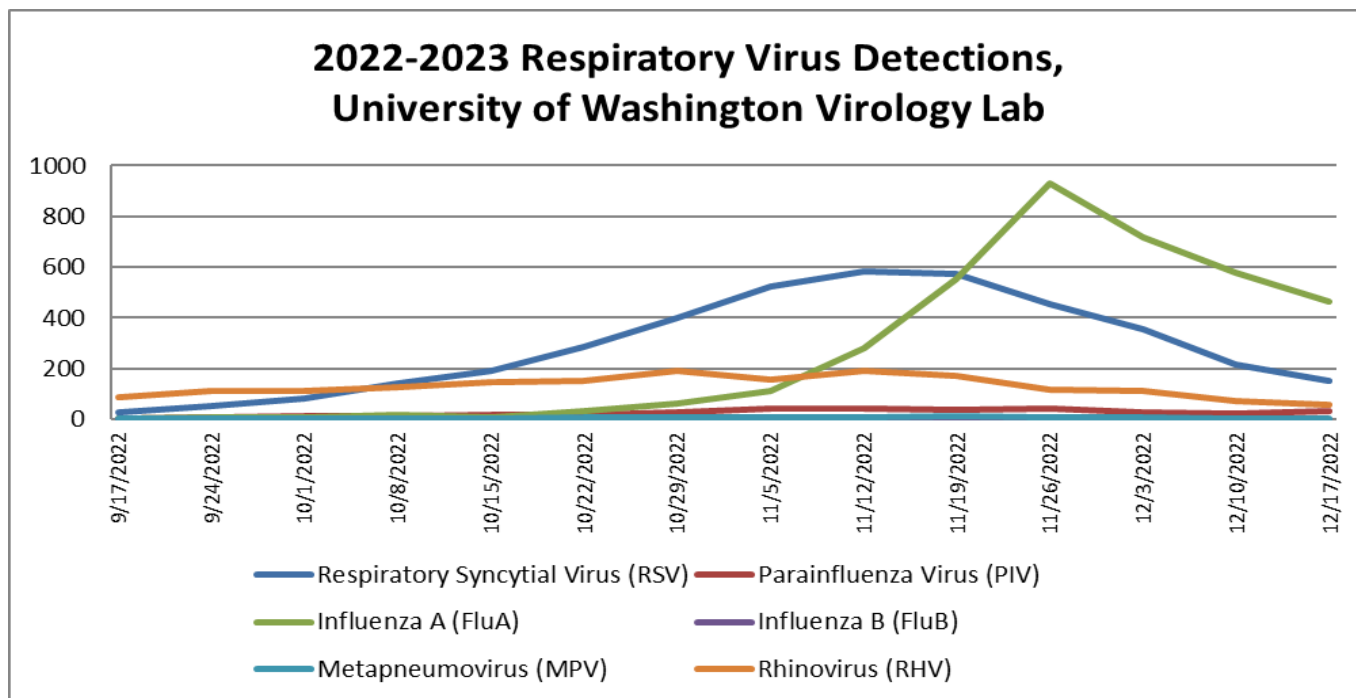
*PeaceHealth St. Joseph data is for weeks ending on Sunday, whereas the rest of the above data is for weeks ending on Saturday.

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 was one new influenza outbreak reported by a long-term care facility in Whatcom County during week 50. There have been three influenza outbreaks to date this season.

University of Washington

According to the University of Washington’s most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report there were four hundred sixty-six positive influenza A tests during CDC week 50.

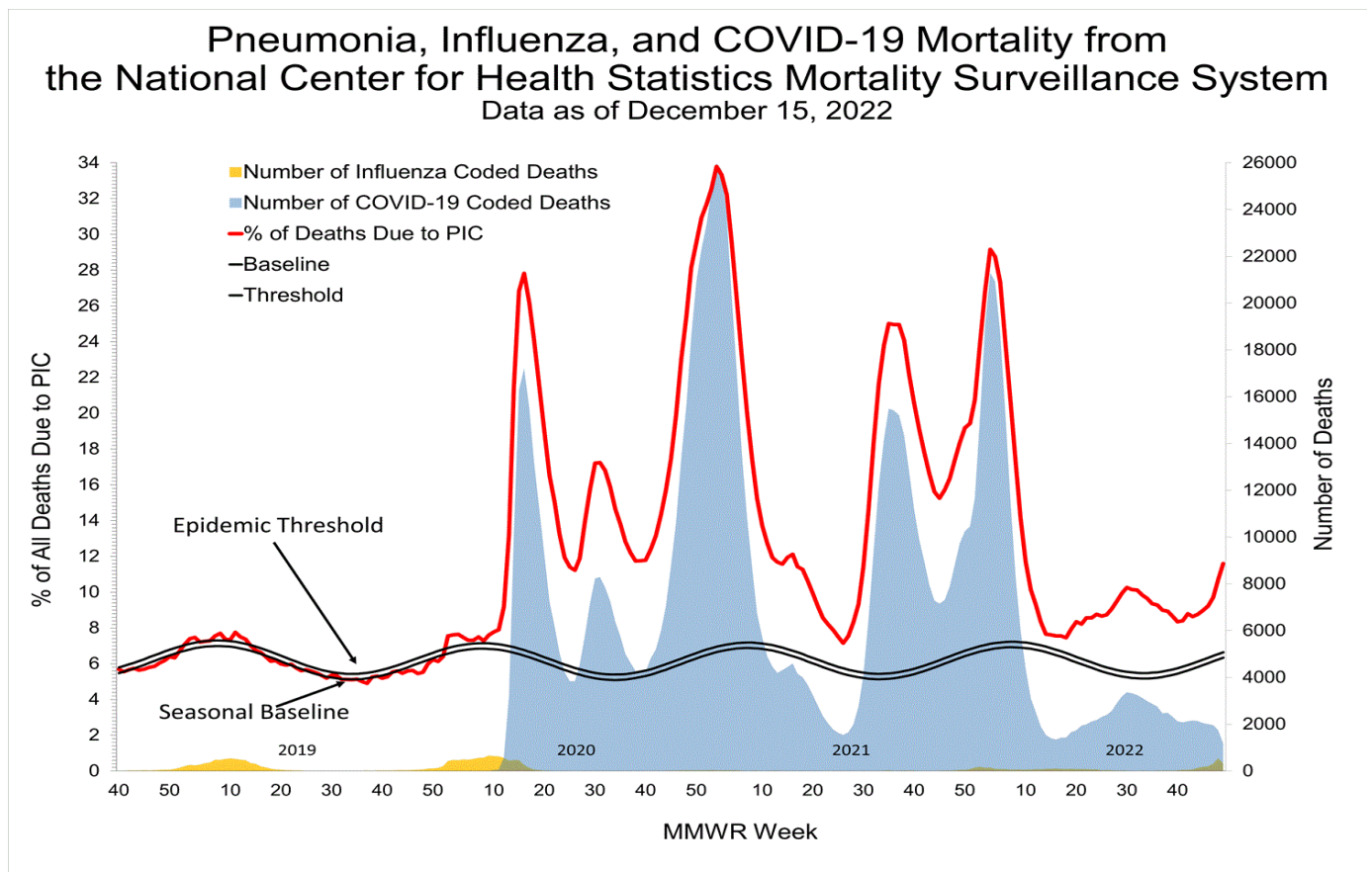


Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was very high in Washington during week 48. Twenty-five influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2022-2023 season to date. During week 48, 11.7 percent of visits among Influenza-like Illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, above the baseline of 1.8 percent. During week 48, 28.3 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A was reported to the ILINet surveillance system during week 48. Twenty-six lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2022-2023 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 that occurred during the week ending December 10, 2022 (week 49), 11.6% were due to pneumonia, influenza, and/or COVID-19. This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 6.6% 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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