



# PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report  
MMWR Week 15: April 8—April 14, 2018

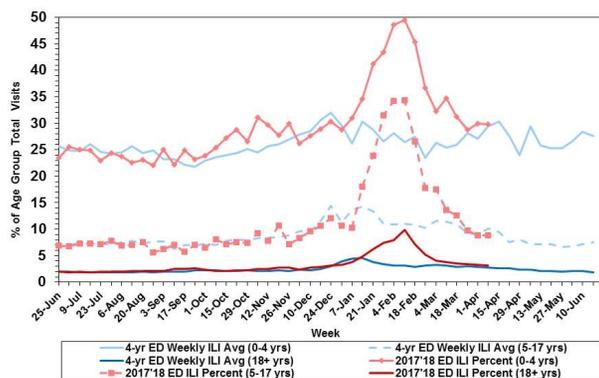
## Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

During week 15, febrile/flu-like illnesses at emergency departments remained largely unchanged across all age groups. Sentinel hospital laboratory surveillance for influenza A and B demonstrated a decrease for influenza B while influenza A remained the same. Both virus types are nearing their baselines. There were 15 reports of severe influenza (Philadelphia resident, positive by rapid test, PCR or culture, and hospitalized for  $\geq 24$  hrs.) during this time frame, of which 10 (66.7%) hospitalizations were due to influenza A. No influenza associated deaths were reported during week 15 and the total number of influenza associated deaths so far this season is 44, including one pediatric case. There were no influenza outbreaks ( $\geq 1$  case of laboratory confirmed influenza case) reported in a long term care facility during week 15.

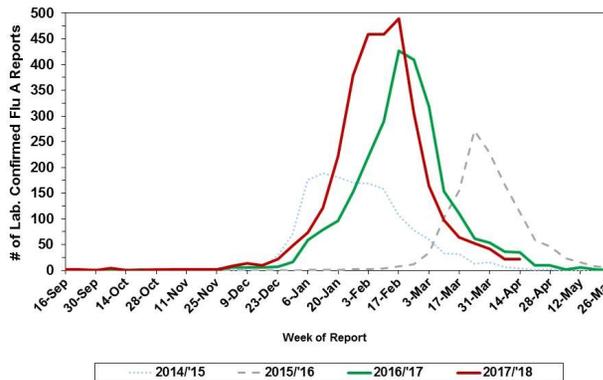
### Febrile/Flu-like Illnesses at Philadelphia Emergency Departments, 2017-18 Data Compared to 4-Year Historical Weekly\* Averages

\*Age group specific weekly average of values from the years 2013 - 2016



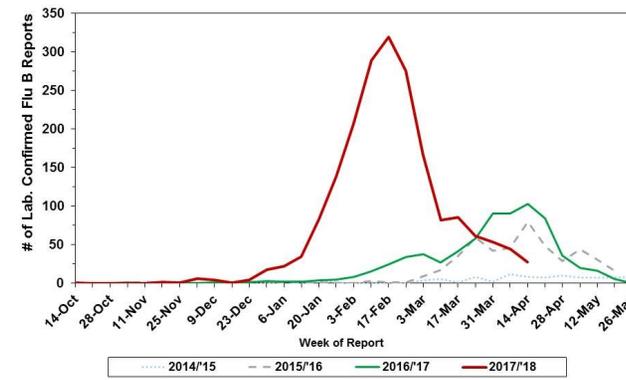
### Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2014/2015 through 2017/2018 Seasons\*

\*Based on select hospital laboratories participating in surveillance across respiratory virus seasons



### Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza B Philadelphia, 2014/2015 through 2017/2018 Seasons\*

\*Based on select hospital laboratories participating in surveillance across respiratory virus seasons



## Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) has reported “regional” influenza activity, which is defined by CDC as outbreaks of influenza or increases in influenza like illness in at least two but less than half the regions of the state. Laboratory, hospital emergency department, and sentinel medical provider data indicate flu activity continues to decrease, however influenza B has been identified in up to 55% of confirmed cases during week 15. The overall influenza activity has peaked at week 6 (week ending 2/10/2018). From 10/1/17 to 4/14/18, there have been 115,707 reports of influenza (positive by rapid test, PCR, or culture). The majority of influenza throughout the state has been identified as influenza A (77,741 reports, 67.2%). There have been 235 influenza related deaths reported this season, including six pediatric deaths, with 12 deaths identified during week 15.

## United States

Influenza activity continued to decrease in the U.S. during week 15. Widespread activity was reported in five states, while 16 states, Puerto Rico and Guam reported regional activity. Local activity was reported by 21 states and sporadic activity was reported by the District of Columbia and six states.

The percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza continued to decrease during week 15. Specifically, 18,803 specimens were tested at US clinical laboratories, and 2,056 (10.9%) specimens tested positive for influenza. Of those positive, 706 (34.3%) specimens tested positive for influenza A and 1,350 (65.7%) specimens tested positive for influenza B. Among the 290 positive influenza specimens received by public health laboratories for confirmatory testing and subtyping, 101 (34.8%) were influenza A and 189 (65.2%) were influenza B. Of the influenza A specimens, 59 (58.4%) were subtyped as H3N2 and 40 (39.6%) were subtyped as A(H1N1)pdm09.

During October 1, 2017-April 18, 2018, CDC has antigenically or genetically characterized 2,707 influenza viruses [665 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 1,139 influenza A(H3N2), and 903 influenza B viruses] collected by U.S. laboratories. The majority of influenza A viruses collected were antigenically similar to the cell-grown reference viruses representing the 2017-2018 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine viruses, although some genetic diversity exists for the H3N2 viruses. In a smaller sample tested, the majority of influenza B viruses were antigenically similar to the vaccine strain, although a majority (72.4%) of the influenza B Victoria viruses contained a 6-nucleotide deletion. Sporadic instances of oseltamivir resistant and peramivir resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 has been identified. A total of 156 influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been identified nationally this season, five during week 15. Two novel infections of influenza A (1 H3N2v and 1 H1N1v) were identified this season in persons who reported direct contact with swine. No human to human transmission has been identified.

**All institutional outbreaks and hospitalized and fatal cases of influenza are to be reported to PDPH.**

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