



PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report
MMWR Week 44: Oct 28—Nov 3, 2018

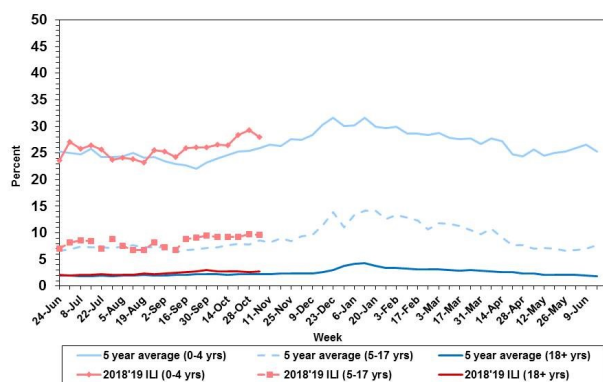
Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Febrile/flu-like illnesses at emergency departments were mildly elevated for people younger than 18 years of age. Sentinel hospital laboratory surveillance for influenza A or B revealed little positivity for week 44. There was 1 report of severe influenza (Philadelphia resident, positive by rapid test, PCR or culture, and hospitalized for ≥ 24 hrs.) during this time frame, a hospitalization due to influenza A. No influenza-associated deaths or institutional outbreaks have been reported thus far this season.

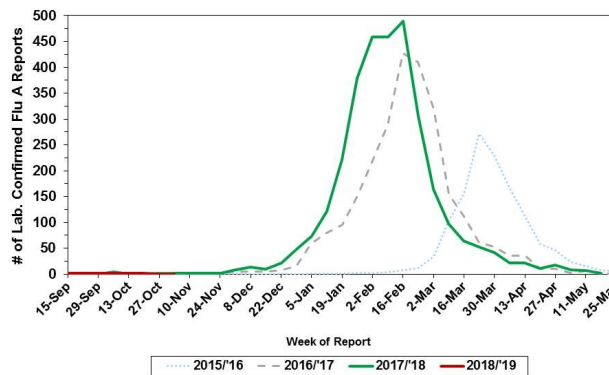
Febrile/Flu-like Illnesses at Philadelphia Emergency Departments, 2018-19 Data Compared to 5-Year Historical Weekly* Averages

*Age group weekly average from the years 2013 - 2017



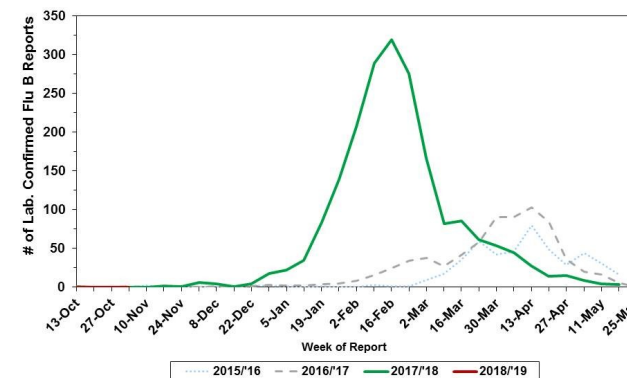
Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2015/2016 through 2018/2019 Seasons*

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



Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza B Philadelphia, 2015/2016 through 2018/2019 Seasons*

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



Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) has reported “sporadic” influenza activity, which is defined by CDC as small numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory confirmed influenza outbreak has been reported, but there is no increase in influenza-like-illness. According to PADOH, all regions of the state are experiencing low influenza activity. From 9/30/18 to 11/3/18, there have been 216 laboratory confirmed cases of influenza (positive by rapid test, PCR, or culture). The majority of influenza throughout the state has been identified as influenza A (141 reports, 65.3%). One influenza related death has been reported this season.

United States

Influenza activity remained low throughout the U.S. during week 44, although small increases in activity were reported. Regional influenza activity was reported by two states (Maryland and Texas) while local activity was reported by six states and Guam. Forty states, DC, and Puerto Rico have reported sporadic activity.

The percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza was low for reporting U.S. clinical laboratories. Specifically, 356 specimens were tested at US clinical laboratories during week 44, and 46 (12.9%) specimens tested positive for influenza. Of those positive, 42 (91.3%) specimens tested positive for influenza A and 4 (8.7%) specimens tested positive for influenza B. Among the 36 positive influenza A specimens received by public health laboratories for confirmatory testing and subtyping, 32 (88.9%) were influenza A (H1N1)pdm09 and 4 (11.1%) were influenza A H3N2.

Since May 20, 2018 CDC has antigenically characterized 242 influenza viruses [109 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 78 influenza A(H3N2), and 55 influenza B viruses] collected by U.S. laboratories. Over 90% of the influenza A/H1N1 and A/H3 viruses matched the vaccine strain. Of the influenza B lineages, all of the Yamagata lineage viruses matched the vaccine strain while 90% of the Victoria lineage viruses matched the vaccine strain.

All viruses tested since late May show susceptibility to oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir. Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been identified nationally this season.

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

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