



# PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report  
MMWR Week 46: Nov 11—Nov 17, 2018

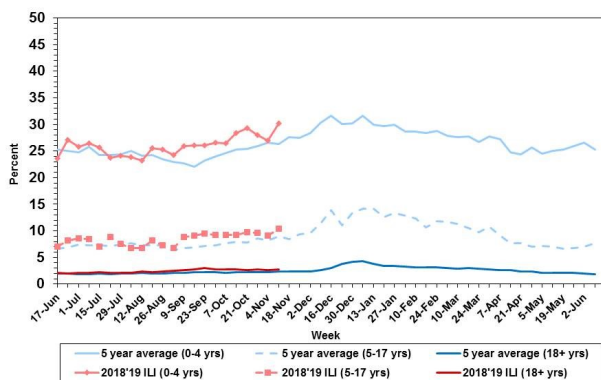
## Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Febrile/flu-like illnesses at emergency departments increased slightly for all ages. Sentinel hospital laboratory surveillance for influenza A and B revealed little positivity for week 46 among the 6 participating laboratories. 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 B. No influenza-associated deaths or institutional outbreaks have been reported thus far this season.

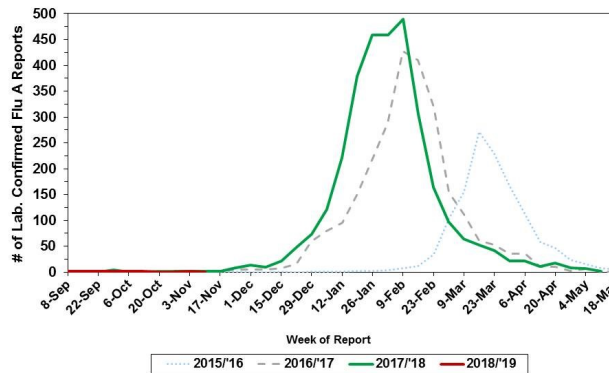
### Febrile/Flu-like Illnesses at Philadelphia Emergency Departments, 2018-19 Data Compared to 5-Year Historical Weekly\* Averages

\*Age group weekly average from the years 2013 - 2017



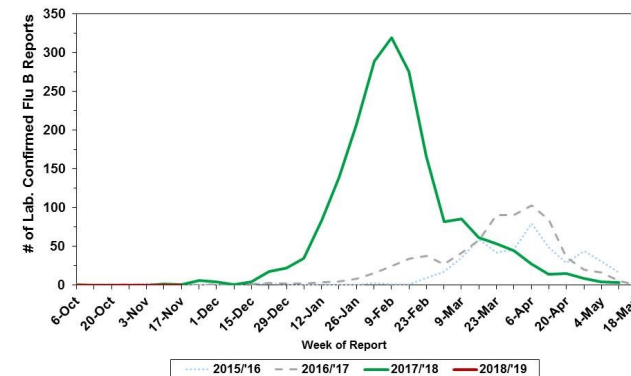
### Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2015/2016 through 2018/2019 Seasons\*

\*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 reports of small numbers of laboratory confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory confirmed influenza outbreak, but no increase in influenza-like-illness. According to PADOH, all regions of the state are experiencing low influenza activity. From 9/30/18 to 11/17/18, there have been 453 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 (338 reports, 74.6%). One influenza related death has been reported so far this season.

## United States

Influenza activity remained low throughout the U.S. during week 46, although small increases in activity were reported. Regional influenza activity was reported by one state (Kentucky), while local activity was reported by 14 states and Guam. Thirty-five states, DC, and Puerto Rico reported sporadic activity.

The percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza was low for reporting U.S. clinical laboratories. Specifically, 16,473 specimens were tested at US clinical laboratories, and 277 (1.7%) specimens tested positive for influenza. Of those positive, 233 (84.1%) specimens tested positive for influenza A and 44 (15.9%) specimens tested positive for influenza B. Among the 79 positive influenza specimens received by public health laboratories for confirmatory testing and subtyping during this week, 78 (98.7%) were influenza A and 1 (1.3%) was influenza B. Of the 60 influenza A specimens subtyped, 11 (18.3%) were subtyped as H3N2 and 49 (81.7%) were subtyped as A(H1N1)pmd09.

Since May 20, 2018, CDC has antigenically characterized 305 influenza viruses [143 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 98 influenza A(H3N2), and 64 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 2018-2019 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine viruses. Of the influenza B lineages, all of the Yamagata lineage viruses matched the vaccine strain while 81.8% of the Victoria lineage viruses matched the vaccine strain. All viruses tested since late May show susceptibility to oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir. Three influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been identified nationally this season, one during week 46.

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

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