



PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report
MMWR Week 18: April 28, 2019—May 4, 2019

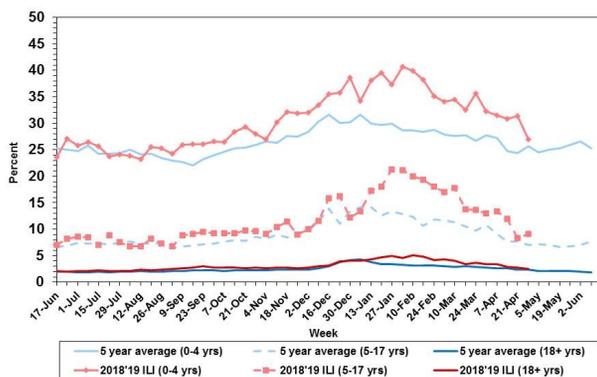
Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Febrile/flu-like illnesses decreased among children 0 – 4 years of age, as well as adults, but increased slightly for person 5-17 years. The number of influenza positive specimens reported from our sentinel hospital laboratory surveillance network remained low, as 9 specimens were positive for flu A and 3 were positive for flu B. There were 2 reports of severe influenza (Philadelphia resident, positive by rapid test, PCR or culture, and hospitalized for ≥ 24 hrs.) during this time frame, of which 1 (50%) was due to influenza A. Twenty-nine influenza-associated deaths have been reported so far this season. There was one influenza outbreak (≥ 1 case of laboratory confirmed influenza) reported in a long term care facility during week 18.

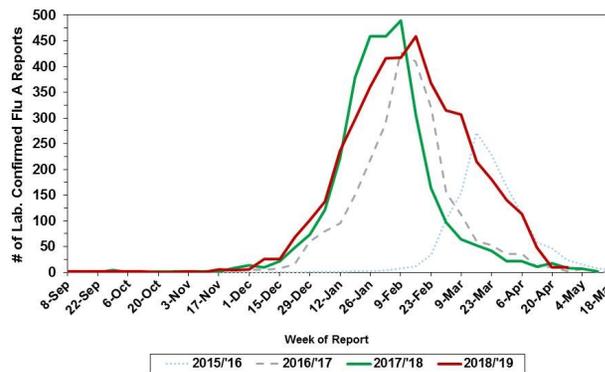
Febrile/Flu-like Illnesses at Philadelphia Emergency Departments, 2018-19 Data Compared to 5-Year Historical Weekly* Averages

*Age group weekly average from the years 2013 - 2017



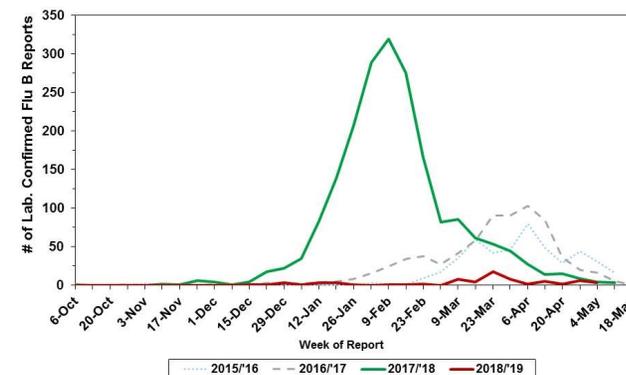
Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2015/2016 through 2018/2019 Seasons*

*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 “local” influenza activity, which is defined by CDC as outbreaks of influenza or increases in influenza-like-illness and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in a single region of the state. According to PADOH, influenza activity has continued to decrease during the past week in all state regions and is below the epidemic threshold. The highest influenza activity was reported in the northwest region. From 9/30/18 to 5/4/19, there have been 98,120 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 (93,808 reports, 95.6%). One hundred forty-two influenza-associated deaths have been reported so far this season, including two pediatric deaths.

United States

Influenza activity continued to decrease in the U.S. during week 18. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominated from October to mid-February and Influenza A(H3N2) viruses have been more commonly identified since late February. Small numbers of influenza B viruses have also been reported. Widespread influenza activity was reported by two states, while regional activity was reported by Puerto Rico and seven states. Local activity was reported by 18 states and sporadic activity was reported by 22 states, D.C, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza decreased for reporting U.S. clinical laboratories. Specifically, 14,666 specimens were tested at US clinical laboratories, and 686 (4.7%) specimens tested positive for influenza. Of those positive, 453 (66%) specimens tested positive for influenza A and 233 (34%) specimens tested positive for influenza B. Among the 49 positive influenza specimens received by public health laboratories for confirmatory testing and subtyping during this week, 41 (83.7%) were influenza A and 8 (16.3%) were influenza B. Of the 34 influenza A specimens subtyped, 6 (17.6%) were subtyped as A(H1N1)pdm09 and 28 (82.4%) were subtyped as A/H3N2. Since September 30, 2018, CDC has antigenically characterized 2,401 influenza viruses [1,142 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 907 influenza A(H3N2), and 352 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, although genetic diversity exists for the H3N2 viruses. Of the influenza B lineages, all of the Yamagata lineage viruses matched the vaccine strain however, antigenically distinct subclades have emerged for the Victoria lineage. The majority of influenza viruses tested show susceptibility to oseltamivir and peramivir. All influenza viruses showed susceptibility to zanamivir. One hundred six influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been identified nationally this season, five during week 18.

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

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