



# PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health  
Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report  
MMWR Week 05: Jan 27, 2019—Feb 2, 2019

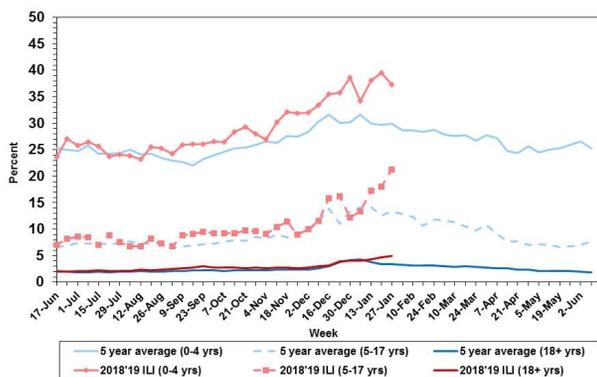
## Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Febrile/flu-like illnesses increased among persons 5-17 years as well as adults. The number of influenza positive specimens reported from our sentinel hospital laboratory surveillance network increased as well, with 21% of all respiratory specimens being positive for influenza. All of the positive specimens were influenza A. There were 45 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 43 (95.6%) were due to influenza A. Eleven influenza-associated deaths have been reported so far this season, three during week 05. There was one influenza outbreak ( $\geq 1$  case of laboratory confirmed influenza) reported in a long term care facility during week 05.

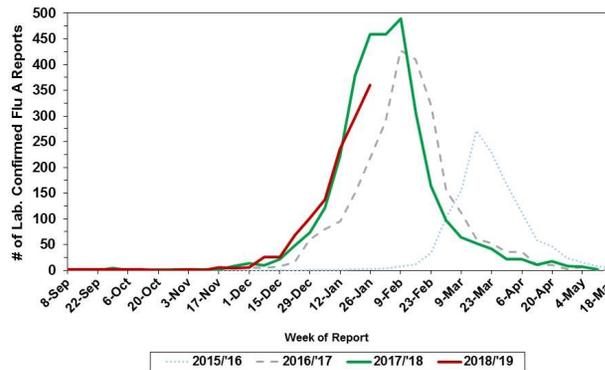
Febrile/Flu-like Illnesses at Philadelphia Emergency Departments, 2018-19 Data Compared to 5-Year Historical Weekly\* Averages

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



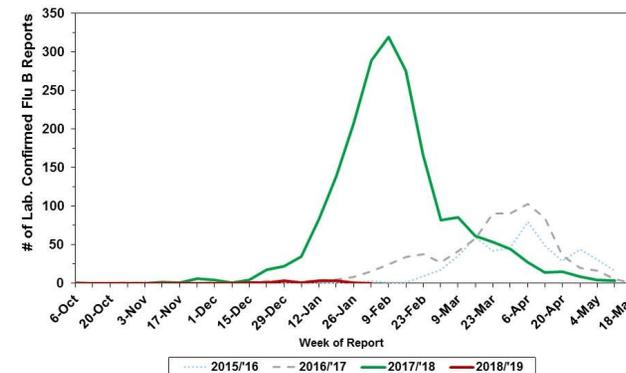
Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2015/2016 through 2018/2019 Seasons\*

\*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 “widespread” influenza activity, which is defined by CDC as outbreaks of influenza or increases in influenza-like-illness and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in at least half the regions in the state. According to PADOH, influenza activity has decreased slightly during the past week in all state regions but is still higher than the epidemic threshold. The highest influenza activity was reported in the northwest and southeast regions. From 9/30/18 to 2/2/19, there have been 24,853 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 (24,010 reports, 96.6%). Thirty-one influenza-associated deaths have been reported so far this season, including one pediatric death.

## United States

Influenza activity increased throughout the U.S. during week 05. Widespread influenza activity was reported by 47 states and Puerto Rico, while regional activity was reported by two states. Local activity was reported by one state and DC and sporadic activity was reported by the US Virgin Islands. The percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza increased for reporting U.S. clinical laboratories. Specifically, 33,362 specimens were tested at US clinical laboratories, and 7,205 (21.6%) specimens tested positive for influenza. Of those positive, 7,080 (98.3%) specimens tested positive for influenza A and 125 (1.7%) specimens tested positive for influenza B. Among the 843 positive influenza specimens received by public health laboratories for confirmatory testing and subtyping during this week, 829 (98.3%) were influenza A and 14 (1.7%) were influenza B. Of the 806 influenza A specimens subtyped, 524 (65%) were subtyped as A(H1N1)pdm09 and 282 (35%) were subtyped as A/H3N2. Since September 30, 2018, CDC has antigenically characterized 769 influenza viruses [450 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 239 influenza A(H3N2), and 80 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 some 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. Sporadic instances of oseltamivir resistant and peramivir resistant influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 has been identified. Twenty-eight influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been identified nationally this season, four during week 05.

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

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