



PHILLY FLU FINDINGS

Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Seasonal Influenza Surveillance Report
MMWR Week 10: Mar 3, 2019—Mar 9, 2019

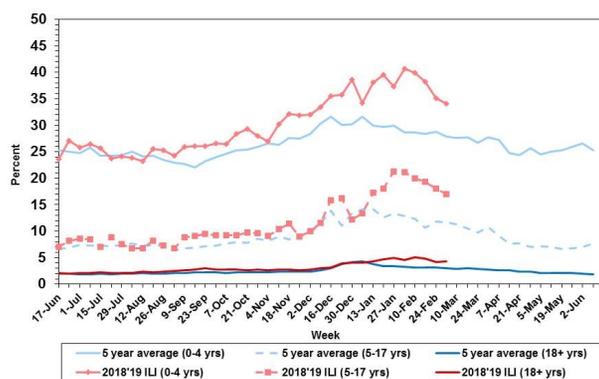
Philadelphia Influenza Activity

Please note these data are provisional and subject to change.

Febrile/flu-like illnesses declined across children and adults ages 18 to 64 years. However, illnesses in persons 65 years and older increased. The number of influenza positive specimens reported from our sentinel hospital laboratory surveillance network decreased. Most of the positive specimens were influenza A. It should be noted that our data indicate influenza A/H3N2 is on an increasing trend. There were 55 reports of severe influenza (Philadelphia resident, positive by rapid test, PCR or culture, and hospitalized for ≥ 24 hrs.) during this time frame, of which 53 (98.1%) were due to influenza A. Eighteen influenza-associated deaths have been reported so far this season, two during week 10. There were three influenza outbreaks (≥ 1 case of laboratory confirmed influenza) reported in a long term care facility during week 10.

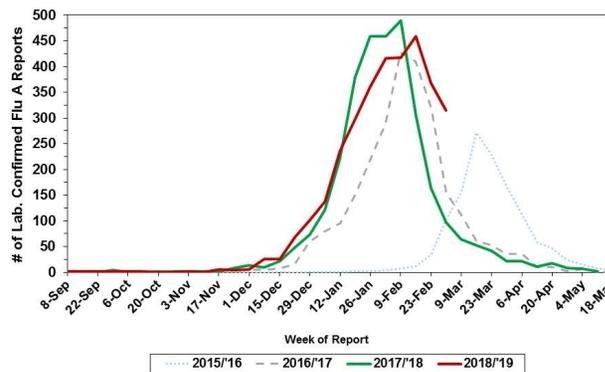
Febrile/Flu-like Illnesses at Philadelphia Emergency Departments, 2018-19 Data Compared to 5-Year Historical Weekly* Averages

*Age group weekly average from the years 2013 - 2017



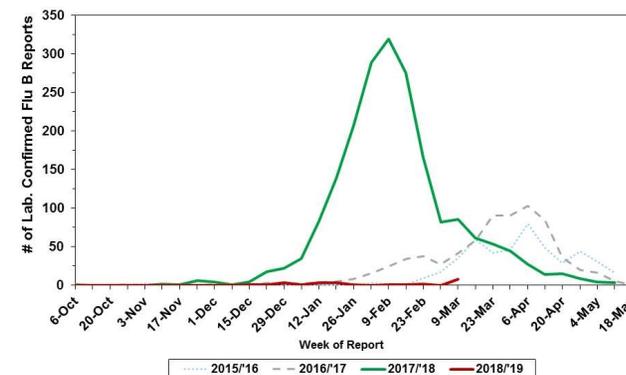
Laboratory-Based Surveillance for Influenza A Philadelphia, 2015/2016 through 2018/2019 Seasons*

*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 remained high during the past week in all state regions with the highest influenza activity reported in the northwest and southeast regions. From 9/30/18 to 3/9/19, there have been 62,501 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 (60,643 reports, 97%). Seventy-five influenza-associated deaths have been reported so far this season, including one pediatric death.

United States

Influenza activity decreased slightly, but remained elevated in the U.S. during week 10. Widespread influenza activity was reported by 46 states and Puerto Rico, while regional activity was reported by four states. Local activity was reported by DC and sporadic activity was reported by the US Virgin Islands.

The percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza decreased slightly for reporting U.S. clinical laboratories. Specifically, 41,054 specimens were tested at US clinical laboratories, and 10,591 (25.8%) specimens tested positive for influenza. Of those positive, 10,296 (97.2%) specimens tested positive for influenza A and 295 (2.8%) specimens tested positive for influenza B. Among the 1,345 positive influenza specimens received by public health laboratories for confirmatory testing and subtyping during this week, 1,309 (97.3%) were influenza A and 36 (2.7%) were influenza B. Of the 1,236 influenza A specimens subtyped, 478 (38.7%) were subtyped as A(H1N1)pmd09 and 758 (61.3%) were subtyped as A/H3N2.

Since September 30, 2018, CDC has antigenically characterized 1,467 influenza viruses [783 influenza A(H1N1)pdm09, 514 influenza A(H3N2), and 170 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. The majority of influenza viruses tested show susceptibility to oseltamivir and peramivir. All influenza viruses showed susceptibility to zanamivir. Sixty-eight influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been identified nationally this season, four during week 10.

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

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