



Whatcom County 2018-19 Influenza Report

Weeks 44-45, October 28-November 10, 2018

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Summary

During weeks 44 and 45 there was one positive influenza A test, and one positive influenza B test, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. There were two positive influenza A tests reported by Family Care Network. There were no hospitalizations related to influenza-like-illness. No deaths related to influenza were reported during weeks 44-45. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during weeks 44-45, nineteen had influenza-like illnesses. There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County. Twenty-seven schools in Whatcom County reported elevated absenteeism rates during week 44, and twenty-one schools during week 45. The outpatient sentinel clinics reported two ILI (influenza-like illness) visits.

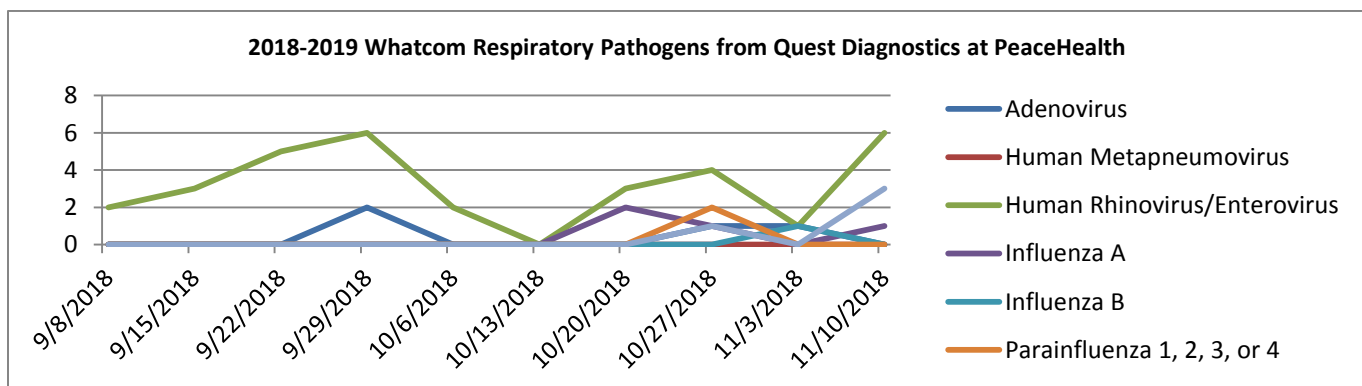
There have been 0 lab confirmed, influenza-related deaths reported in Whatcom County to date this flu season.

Laboratory Data

The total number of influenza A and Influenza B tests and the percentage positive is an indicator of influenza activity in the community. Respiratory pathogen data can provide an indicator of other causes of viral respiratory illness in the community. The information in the first table is from Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. The information in the second table is from Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing.

Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth

CDC Week	40	41	42	43	44	45
End date	10/6/2018	10/13/2018	10/20/2018	10/27/2018	11/3/2018	11/10/2018
Influenza						
Total tests	29	46	53	54	59	79
N(%) Positive A	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(3.8%)	1(1.9%)	0(0%)	1(1.3%)
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(1.7%)	0(0%)



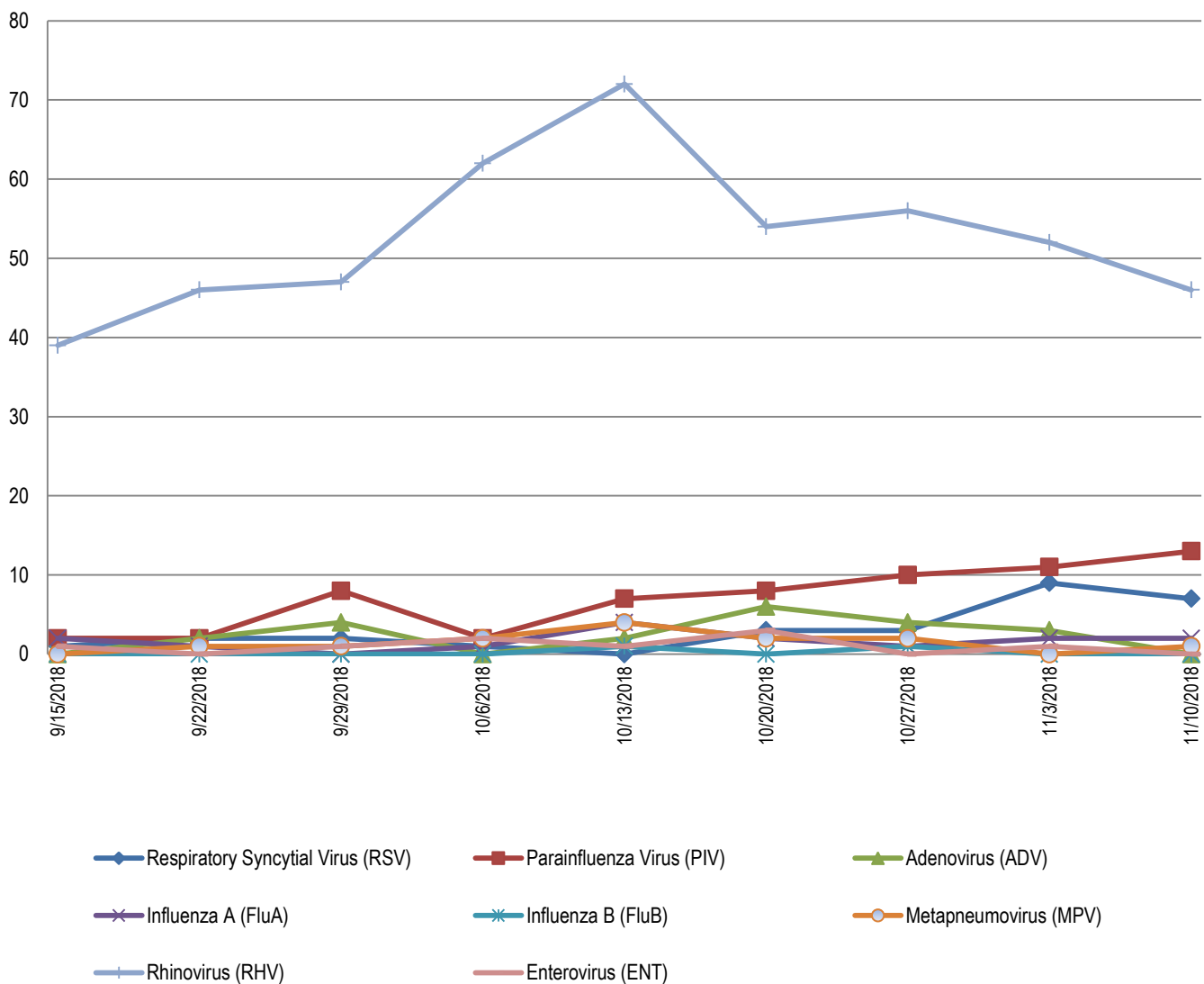
Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was low during week 44 in Washington. Two influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date. During week 44, 0.5 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 44, 0.7 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A and Influenza B were reported during week 44. Two lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.

University of Washington

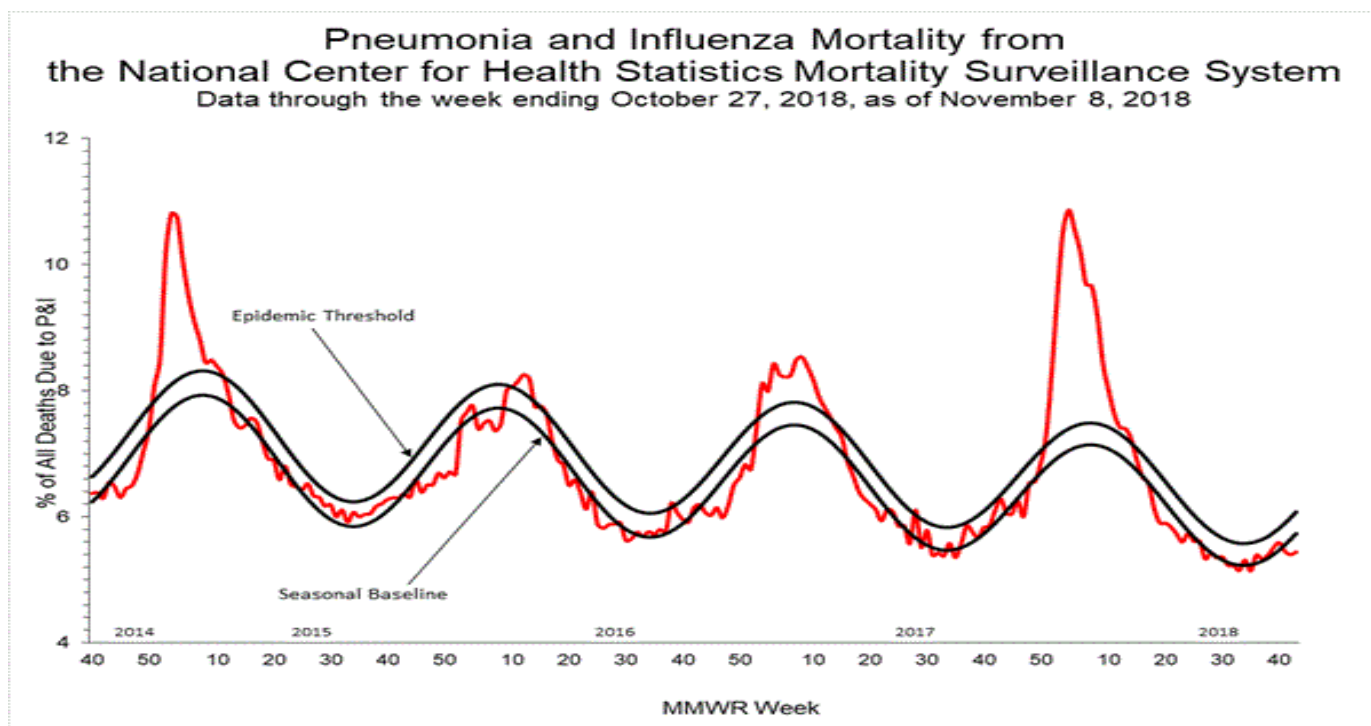
According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were four positive influenza A tests during CDC weeks 44 and 45.

2018-2019 Respiratory Virus Detections, University of Washington Virology Lab



Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality Surveillance

The most current National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) mortality surveillance data is included below for reference. Of the deaths occurring during the week ending October 27, 2018 (week 43), 5.4% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below epidemic threshold of 6.1% for week 43.



Links to other influenza reports

[WA State Department of Health Weekly Influenza Updates](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

[Centers for Disease Control Weekly Flu View](#)

[University of Washington Respiratory & Enteric Viruses](#)

[World Health Organization Influenza Page](#)

[HealthMap](#)



The mission of the Whatcom County Health Department is to lead the community in promoting health and preventing disease.

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