



Whatcom County 2018-19 Influenza Report

Weeks 17-18, April 21-May 4, 2019

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Summary

- During weeks 17-18 there were less than ten positive influenza A tests, and less than ten positive influenza B tests, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth and Family Care Network combined.
- There were less than ten hospitalizations related to influenza-like-illness.
- No deaths related to influenza were reported this week.
- Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during weeks 17-18, twenty-one had influenza-like illnesses.
- There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County.
- The outpatient sentinel clinics reported less than ten influenza-like illness visits.

There have been 8 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. Information in the second and third tables is from Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing and Sea Mar's Point of Care Testing.

Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth

CDC Week	13	14	15	16	17	18
End date	3/30/2019	4/6/2019	4/13/2019	4/20/2019	04/27/2019	5/4/2019
Influenza						
Total tests	240	214	142	124	99	72
N(%) Positive A	54(22.5%)	32(15.0%)	10(7.0%)	<10	<10	<10
N(%) Positive B	<10	<10	<10	0(0%)	<10	0(0%)

Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing

Date Range	3/23/2019-3/29/2019	3/30/2019-4/5/2019	4/6/2019-4/12/2019	4/13/2019-4/20/2019	4/21/2019-4/26/2019	4/27/2019-5/3/2019
Influenza						
Total tests	77	43	32	33	18	18
N(%) Positive A	33(42.9%)	14(32.6%)	<10	11(33.3%)	<10	<10
N(%) Positive B	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

Bellingham and Everson Sea Mar's Point of Care Testing

Date Range	3/24/2019-3/30/2019	3/31/2019-4/6/2019	4/7/2019-4/13/2019	4/14/2019-4/20/2019	4/21/2019-4/27/2019	4/28/2019-5/4/2019
Influenza						
Total tests	16	22	<10	<10	No Data	No Data
N(%) Positive A	<10	<10	0(0%)	<10	No Data	No Data
N(%) Positive B	<10	0(0%)	<10	<10	No Data	No Data

Syndromic Surveillance Data

The Whatcom County Health Department monitors emergency department visits at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center through the National Syndromic Surveillance Program. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during weeks 17-18, twenty-one had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from twenty-seven people with influenza-like illnesses during weeks 15-16.

Nursing Homes

Influenza reporting requirements include outbreaks of influenza-like-illness in institutional settings such as long term care facilities. Because some elderly people with influenza may not have a prominent fever, outbreaks are defined as either more acute febrile respiratory illnesses (>2 cases within 72 hours of each other) within the facility, or any resident testing positive for influenza. There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County during weeks 17-18. There have been a total of seven outbreaks this season to date.

Outpatient Clinic Visits

Two Whatcom County medical practices are CDC Sentinel Influenza Surveillance sites and report weekly the number of patients seen and number of those with influenza-like-illness (ILI). ILI is defined as fever 100 degrees F or 37.8 degrees C (oral or equivalent) or higher AND cough and/or sore throat [in the absence of a known cause other than influenza].

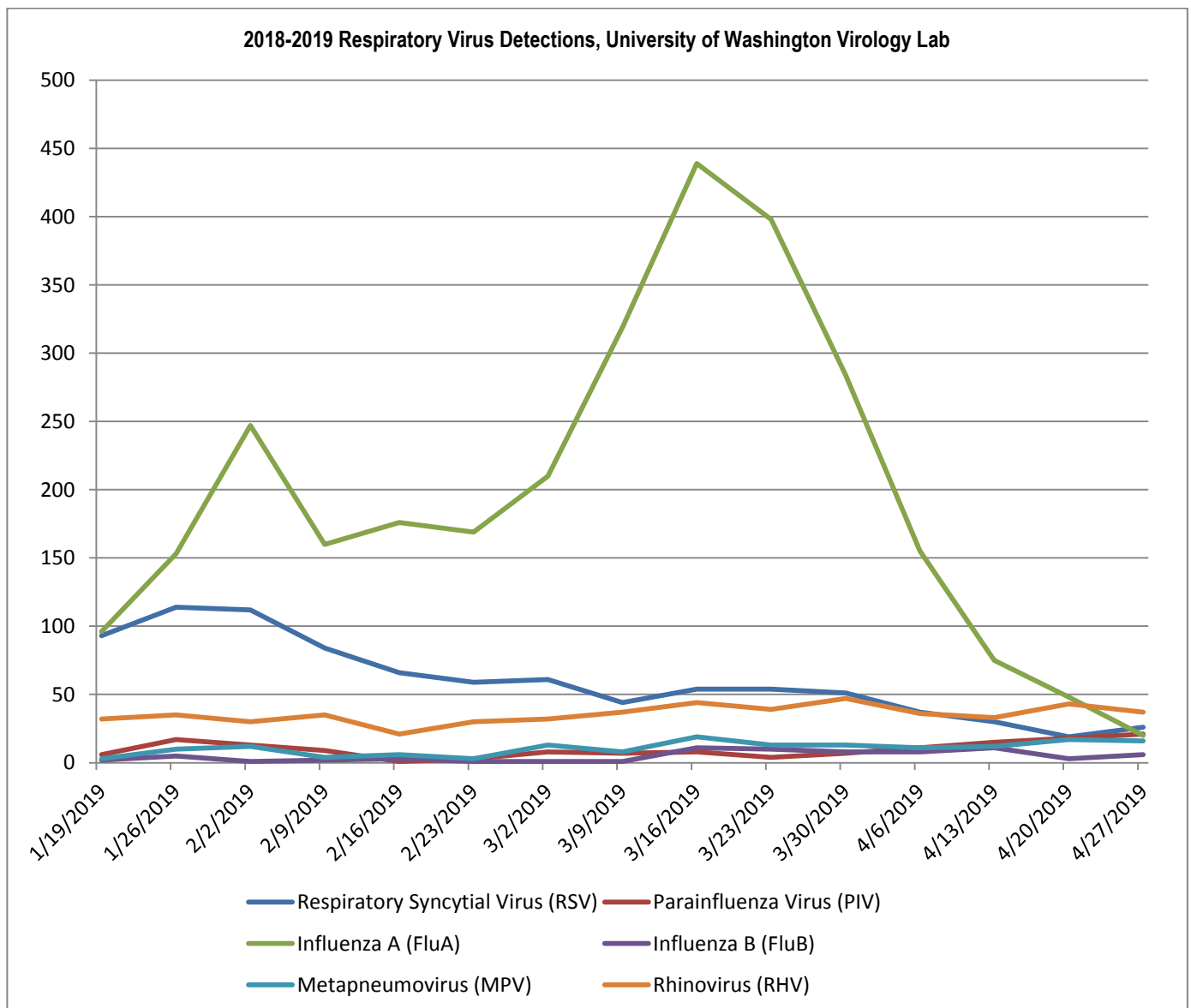
	CDC Week	13	14	15	16	17	18
End date		3/30/2019	4/6/2019	4/13/2019	4/20/2019	4/27/2019	5/3/2019
Clinic A							
	Total visits	0	278	387	352	277	No Data
	ILI visits	0(0%)	<10	0(0%)	<10	<10	No Data
Clinic B							
	Total visits	83	77	31	17	6	No Data
	ILI visits	<10	<10	<10	0(0%)	0(0%)	No Data

Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was low during week 17 in Washington. One hundred and twenty influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date. During week 15, 0.9 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 17, 4.5 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A and Influenza B were reported during week 17. Two hundred and thirteen lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.

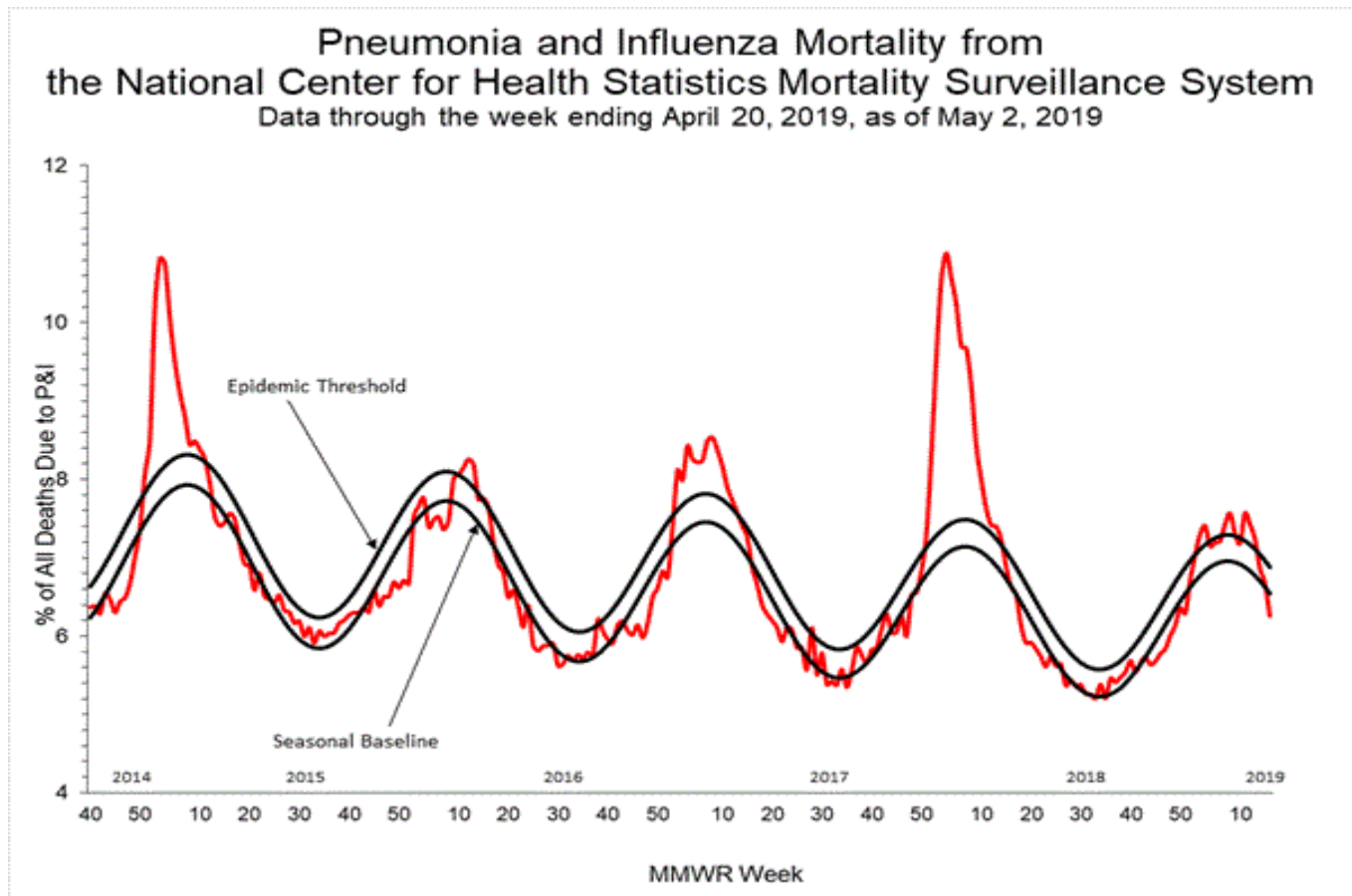
University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were twenty positive influenza A tests, and less than ten positive influenza B tests, during CDC week 17.



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 April 20, 2019 (week 16), 6.3% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 6.9% for week 16.



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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