



# Whatcom County 2017-18 Influenza Report

## Week 14, April 1-7, 2018

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### Summary

During week 14 there were four positive influenza A tests, and ten positive influenza B tests, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. Three positive influenza A tests, and five positive influenza B tests, were reported by Family Care Network. There were four hospitalizations related to influenza-like-illness. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 14, 1.5% had influenza-like illnesses. No new influenza outbreak was reported by a long term care facility in Whatcom County for week 14. The outpatient sentinel clinics reported one ILI (influenza-like illness) visit.

There have been 7 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. 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	9	10	11	12	13	14
End date	03/03/2018	03/10/2018	03/17/2018	03/24/2018	03/31/2018	04/07/2018
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	188	184	147	154	139	114
N(%) Positive A	19(10.1%)	9(4.9%)	12(8.2%)	9(5.8%)	10(7.2%)	4(3.5%)
N(%) Positive B	18(9.5%)	27(14.7%)	15(10.2%)	32(20.8%)	19(13.7%)	10(8.8%)

#### Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing

Date Range	02/24/2018- 03/02/2018	03/03/2018- 03/09/2018	03/10/2018- 03/16/2018	03/17/2018- 03/23/2018	03/24/2018- 03/30/2018	03/31/2018- 04/06/2018
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	62	55	65	42	34	20
N(%) Positive A	9(14.5%)	4(7.3%)	9(13.8%)	3(7.1%)	0(0.0%)	3(15.0%)
N(%) Positive B	7(11.3%)	14(25.9%)	15(23.1%)	7(16.7%)	8(23.5%)	8(25.0%)

### 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 week 14, 1.5% had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from 2.76% during week 13.

## 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 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 a long term care facility in Whatcom County during week 14.

## School Absenteeism

School absenteeism is an indirect measure of influenza activity. Absenteeism increases during influenza season and during outbreaks, but may be due to causes other than influenza. All seven Whatcom County school districts have voluntarily participated in reporting daily absenteeism rates to the Washington State Department of Health. Week 14 was spring break for schools in Whatcom County so there is no absenteeism data to report.

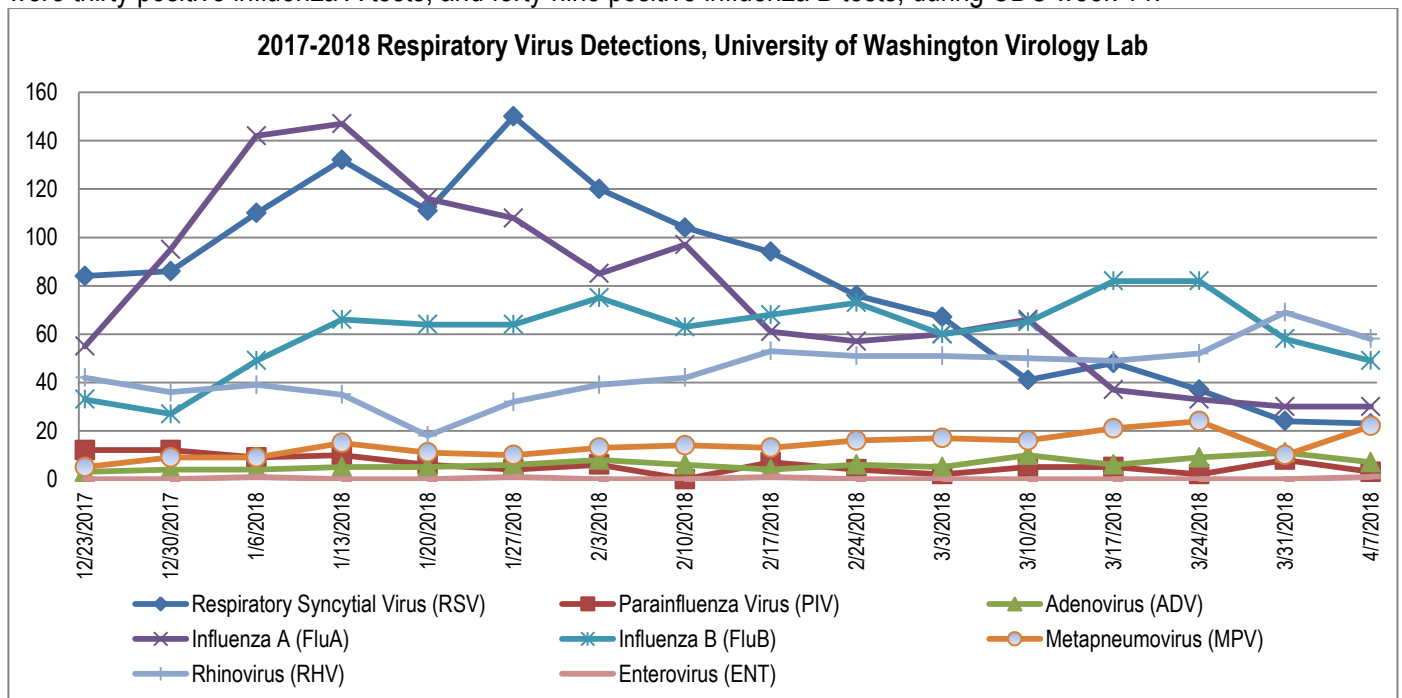
## Outpatient Clinic Visits

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	9	10	11	12	13	14
End date		03/03/2018	03/10/2018	03/17/2018	03/24/2018	03/31/2018	04/07/2018
Clinic A							
	Total visits	422	432	404	273	Clinic Closed	362
	% ILI	1(0.2%)	3(0.7%)	5(1.2%)	1(0.4%)	Clinic Closed	1(0.3%)
Clinic B							
	Total visits	55	36	10	No Data	No Data	No Data
	% ILI	2(3.6%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	No Data	No Data	No Data

## University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were thirty positive influenza A tests, and forty-nine positive influenza B tests, during CDC week 14.

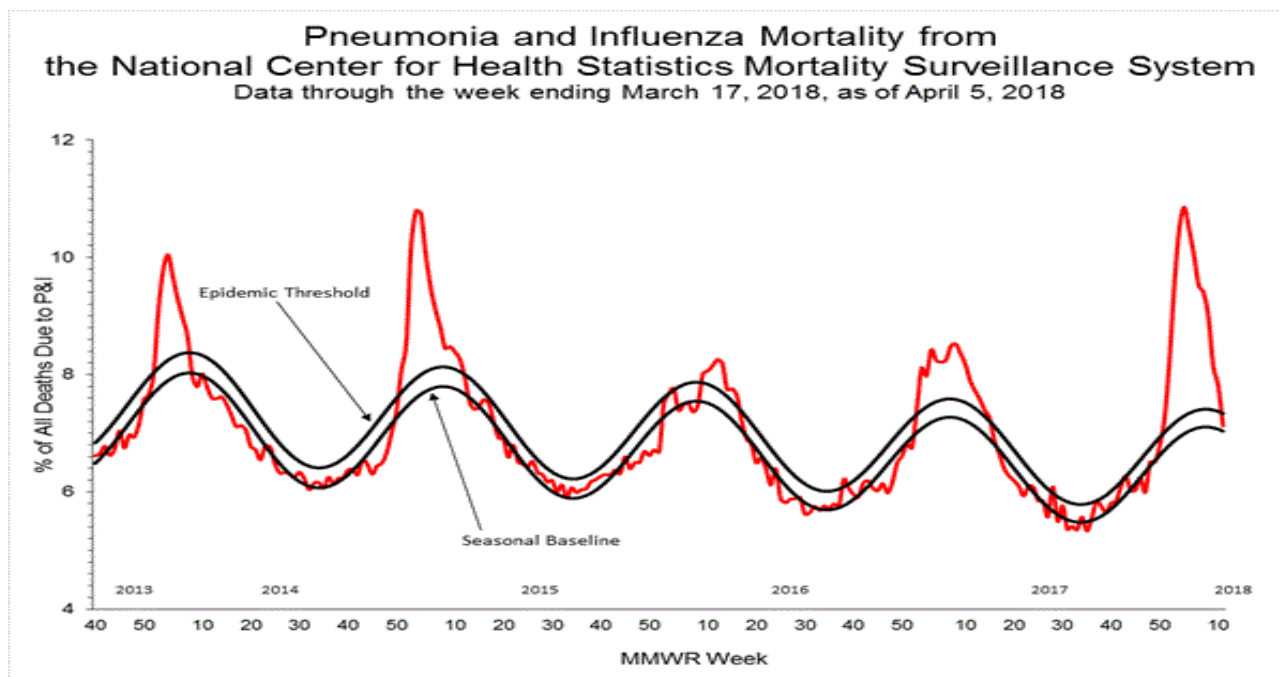


## Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity remains elevated, but some measures are decreasing. Two hundred and thirteen influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2017-2018 season to date. During week 13, 1.9 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, above the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 13, 21.7 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A and influenza B were reported during week 13. Two hundred and fifty two lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2017-2018 season to date.

## 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 5, 2018 (week 11), 7.1% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.3% for week 11.



## 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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