



Whatcom County 2018-19 Influenza Report

Weeks 42-43, October 14-27, 2018

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Summary

During weeks 42 and 43 there were three positive influenza A tests reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. There was one positive influenza A test reported by Family Care Network. There was one hospitalization related to influenza-like-illness. No deaths related to influenza were reported during weeks 42-43. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during weeks 42-43, twelve had influenza-like illnesses. There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County. The outpatient sentinel clinics reported one ILI (influenza-like illness) visit.

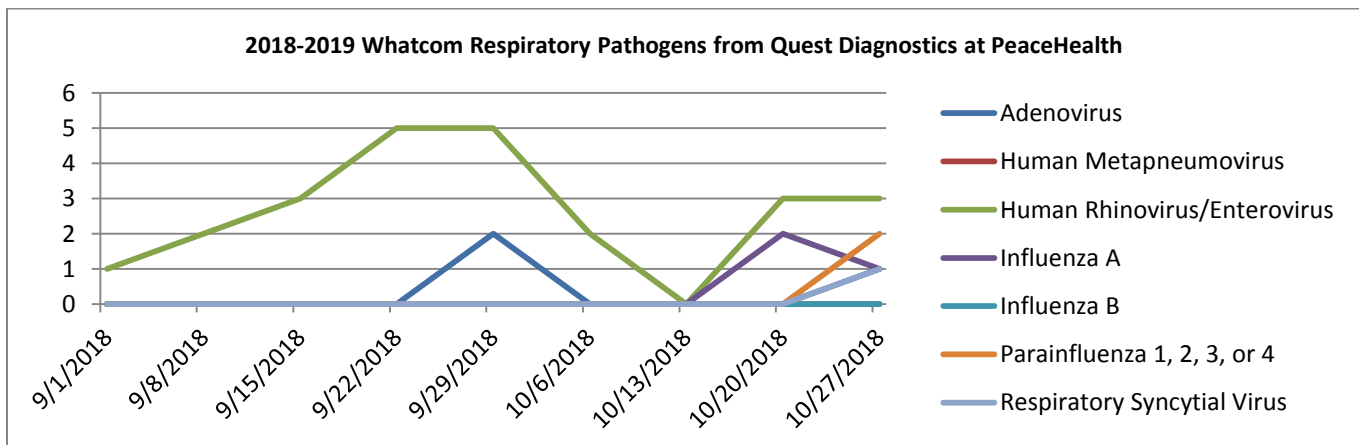
There have been 0 lab confirmed, influenza-related deaths reported in Whatcom County to date this flu season.

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		
End date	10/6/2018	10/13/2018	10/20/2018	10/27/2018		
Influenza						
Total tests	29	46	53	54		
N(%) Positive A	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(3.8%)	1(1.9%)		
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)		



Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing

Date Range	9/29/2018-10/5/2018	10/6/2018-10/12/2018	10/13/2018-10/19/2018	10/20/2018-10/26/2018		
Influenza						
Total tests	2	3	7	3		
N(%) Positive A	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(33.3%)		
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(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 weeks 42-43, twelve had influenza-like illnesses. This is up from six people with influenza-like illnesses during weeks 40-41.

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 42-43.

School Absenteeism

All seven Whatcom County school districts report school absenteeism to the Washington School Information Processing Center. This data included both excused and unexcused absences. Although there may be an association between absences and illness, it is not possible to determine causation from this dataset. No data is currently available for weeks 42-43.

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].

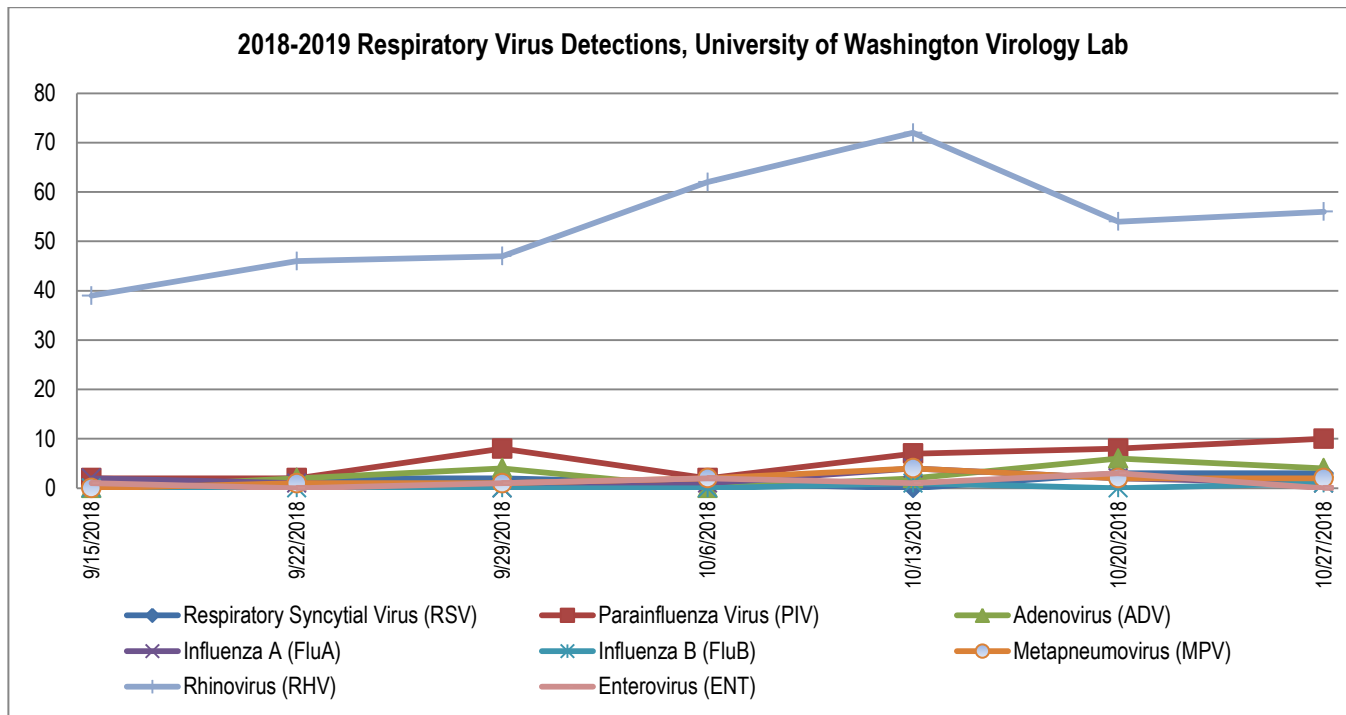
	CDC Week	40	41	42	43		
End date		10/06/2018	10/13/2018	10/20/2018	10/27/2018		
Clinic A							
	Total visits	349	364	382	416		
	% ILI	2(0.6%)	3(0.8%)	0(0%)	1(0.2%)		
Clinic B							
	Total visits	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data		
	% ILI	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data		

Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was low during week 42 in Washington. Two influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date. During week 42, 0.4 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 42, 0.9 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A and Influenza B were reported during week 42. One lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.

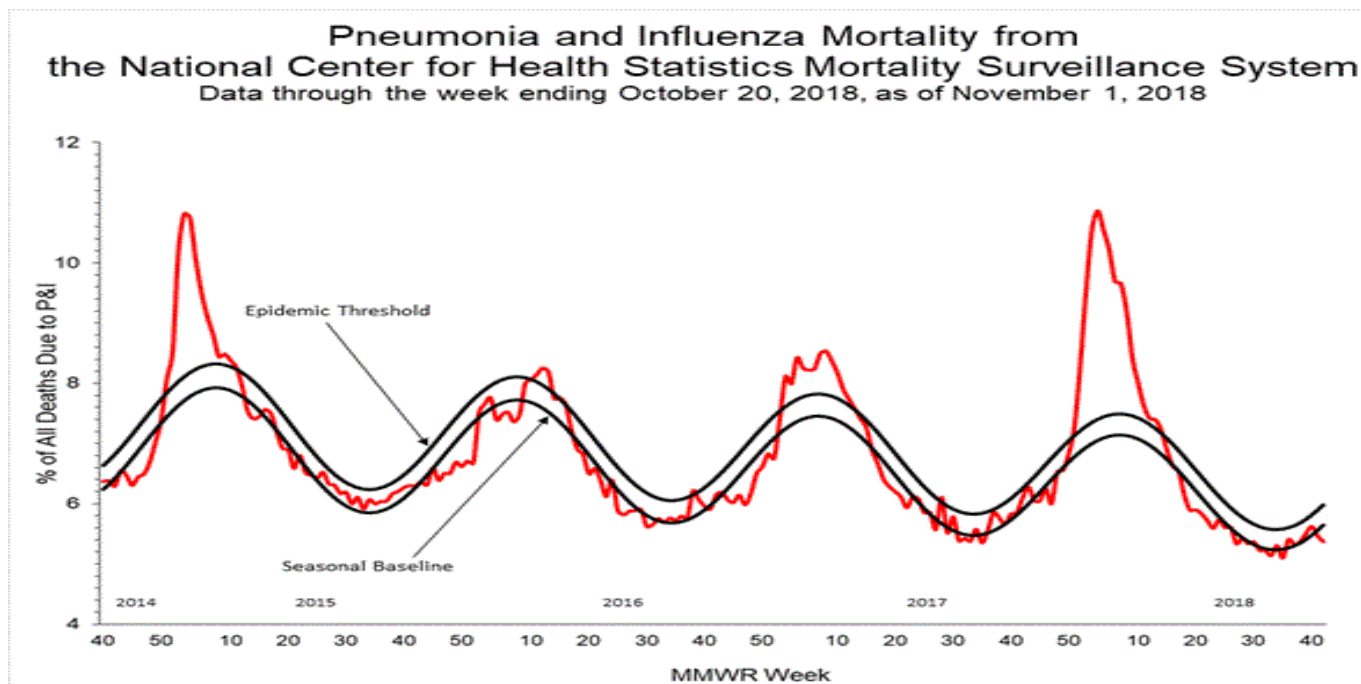
University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were three positive influenza A tests, and one positive influenza B test, during CDC weeks 42 and 43.



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 20, 2018 (week 42), 5.4% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below epidemic threshold of 6.0% for week 42.



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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