



Whatcom County 2018-19 Influenza Report

Week 14, March 31-April 6, 2019

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Summary

- During week 14 there were thirty-two positive influenza A tests, and one positive influenza B test, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth.
- Fourteen positive influenza A tests, and two positive influenza B tests, were reported by Family Care Network.
- Eight positive influenza A tests were reported by Sea Mar.
- There were four 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 week 14, thirty-two had influenza-like illnesses.
- There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County.
- The outpatient sentinel clinics reported two influenza-like illness visits.

There have been 6 lab confirmed, influenza-related deaths reported in Whatcom County to date this flu season.

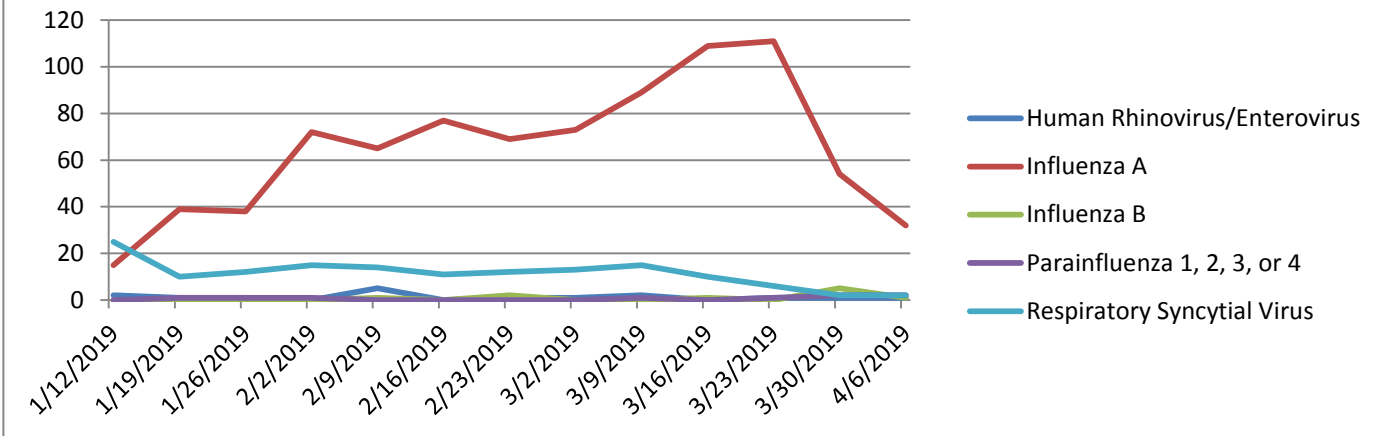
Laboratory Data

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	9	10	11	12	13	14
End date	3/2/2019	3/9/2019	3/16/2019	3/23/2019	3/30/2019	4/6/2019
Influenza						
Total tests	252	279	326	313	240	214
N(%) Positive A	73(29.0%)	89(31.9%)	109(33.4%)	111(35.5%)	54(22.5%)	32(15.0%)
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(0.3%)	0(0%)	5(2.1%)	1(0.5%)

2018-2019 Whatcom Respiratory Pathogens from Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth



Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing

Date Range	2/23/2019-3/1/2019	3/2/2019-3/8/2019	3/9/2019-3/15/2019	3/16/2019-3/22/2019	3/23/2019-3/29/2019	3/30/2019-4/5/2019
Influenza						
Total tests	96	132	157	98	77	43
N(%) Positive A	43(44.8%)	72(54.5%)	87(55.4%)	45(45.9%)	33(42.9%)	14(32.6%)
N(%) Positive B	3(3.1%)	6(4.5%)	3(1.9%)	2(2.0%)	1(1.3%)	2(4.7%)

Bellingham and Everson Sea Mar's Point of Care Testing

Date Range				3/17/2019-3/23/2019	3/24/2019-3/30/2019	3/31/2019-4/6/2019
Influenza						
Total tests				36	16	22
N(%) Positive A				12(33.3%)	6(37.5%)	8(36.4%)
N(%) Positive B				1(2.8%)	2(12.5%)	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 week 14, thirty-two had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from fifty-three people with influenza-like illnesses 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 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 week 14. There have been a total of seven outbreaks this season to date.

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 week 14.

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].

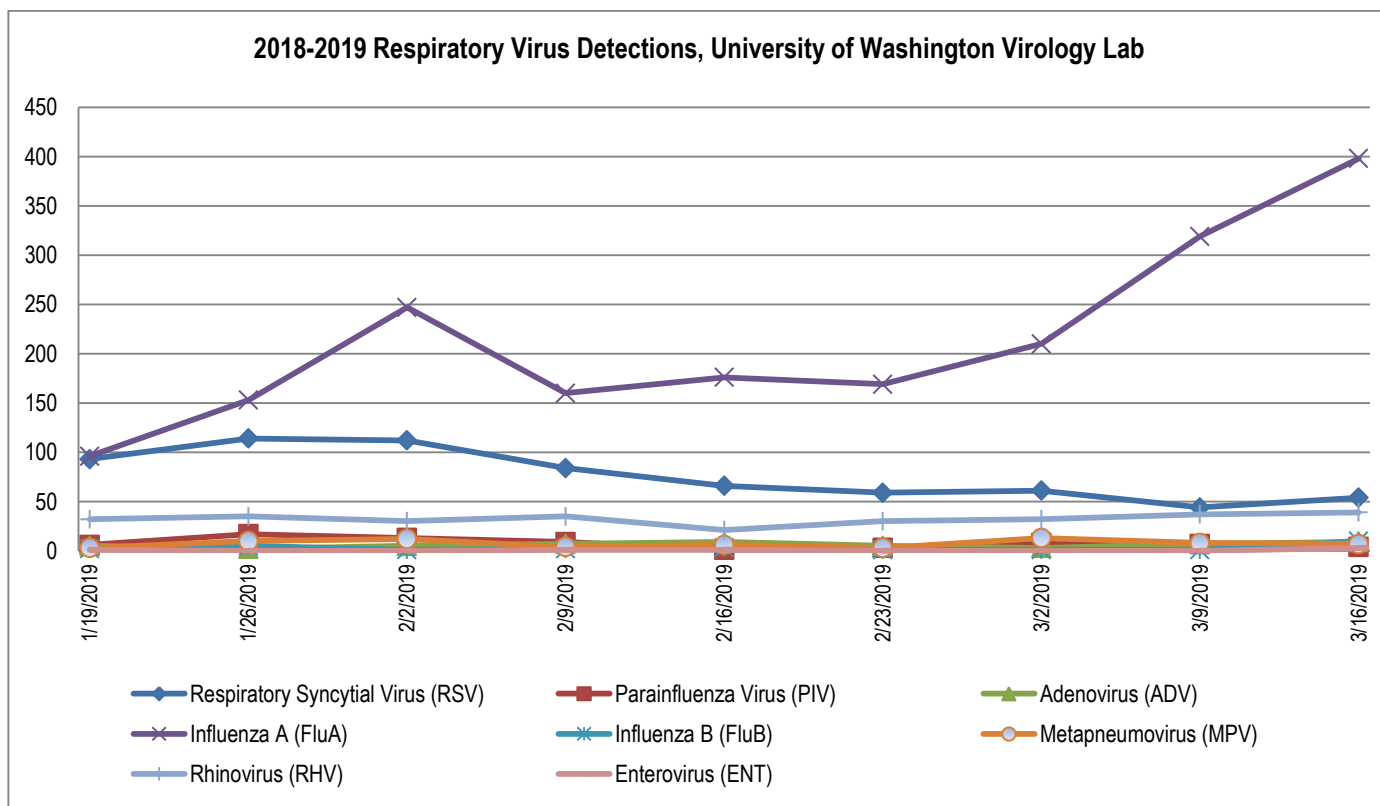
	CDC Week	9	10	11	12	13	14
End date		3/2/2019	3/9/2019	3/16/2019	3/23/2019	3/30/2019	4/6/2019
Clinic A							
	Total visits	384	389	326	259	0	278
	% ILI	2(0.5%)	0(0%)	1(0.3%)	1(0.4%)	0(0%)	1(0.4%)
Clinic B							
	Total visits	72	59	60	38	42	14
	% ILI	1(1.4%)	5(8.5%)	3(5.0%)	3(7.9%)	1(2.4%)	1(7.1%)

Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health’s most recent influenza update, flu activity was elevated during week 13 in Washington. Ninety seven influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date. During week 13, 3 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, above the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 13, 30.3 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. One hundred and sixty lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.

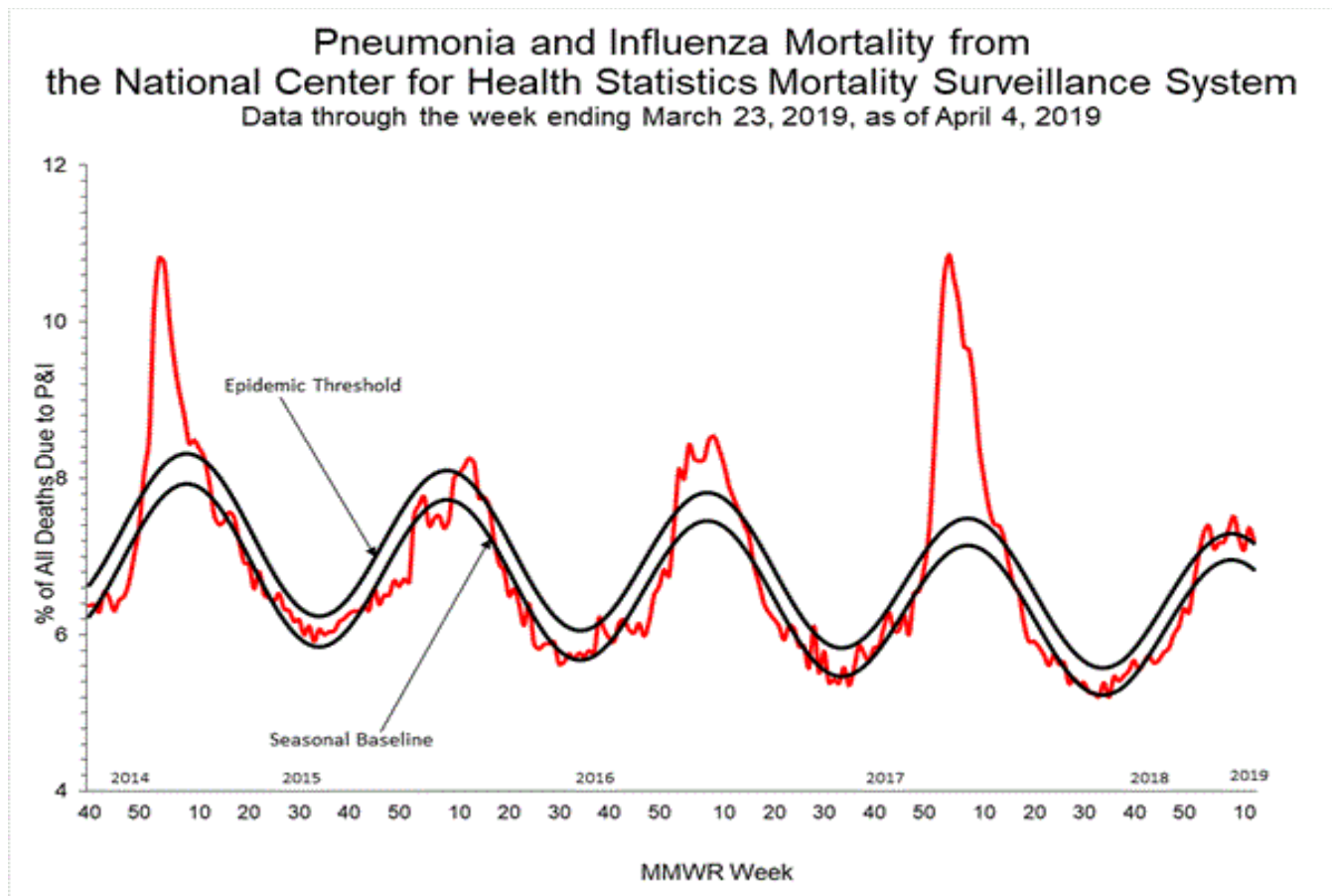
University of Washington

According to the University of Washington’s most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were three hundred and ninety-eight positive influenza A tests, and ten positive influenza B tests, during CDC week 11.



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 March 23, 2019 (week 12), 7.2% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is at the epidemic threshold of 7.2% for week 12.



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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