



# Whatcom County 2018-19 Influenza Report

## Week 15, April 7-13, 2019

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### Summary

- During week 15 there were less than twenty positive influenza A tests, and less than ten positive influenza B tests, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth, Family Care Network, and the Bellingham and Everson Sea Mar clinics 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 week 15, fourteen had influenza-like illnesses.
- There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County.
- The outpatient sentinel clinics reported no influenza-like illness visits.

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

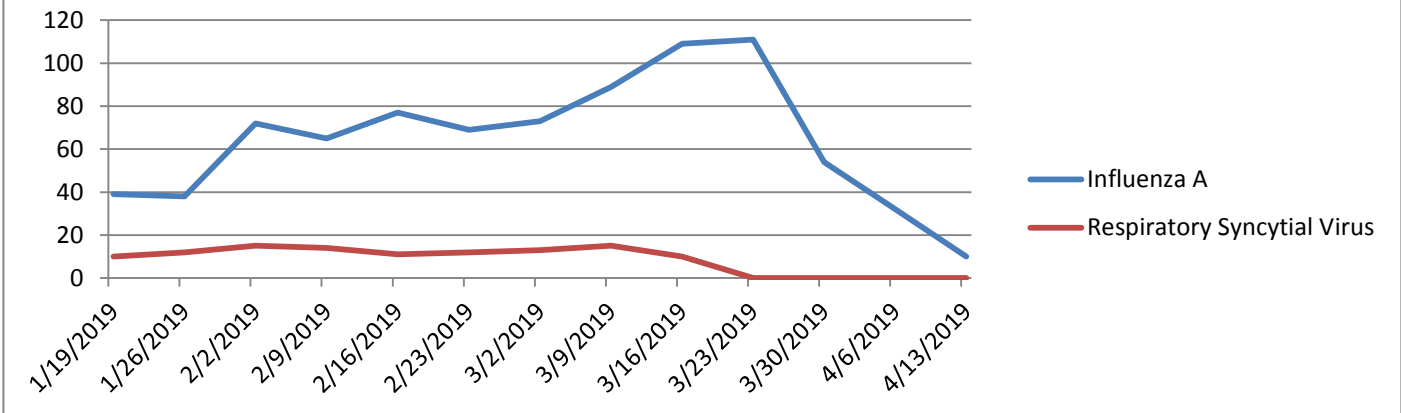
### Laboratory Data

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	10	11	12	13	14	15
End date	3/9/2019	3/16/2019	3/23/2019	3/30/2019	4/6/2019	4/13/2019
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	279	326	313	240	214	142
N(%) Positive A	89(31.9%)	109(33.4%)	111(35.5%)	54(22.5%)	32(15.0%)	10(7.0%)
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	<10	0(0%)	<10	<10	<10

### 2018-2019 Whatcom Respiratory Pathogens from Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth



Note: Counts <10 suppressed

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

Date Range	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	4/6/2019-4/12/2019
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests	132	157	98	77	43	32
N(%) Positive A	72(54.5%)	87(55.4%)	45(45.9%)	33(42.9%)	14(32.6%)	<10
N(%) Positive B	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10

### 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	4/7/2019-4/13/2019
<b>Influenza</b>						
Total tests			36	16	22	<10
N(%) Positive A			12(33.3%)	<10	<10	0(0%)
N(%) Positive B			<10	<10	0(0%)	<10

### 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 15, fourteen had influenza-like illnesses. This is down from thirty-two people with influenza-like illnesses during week 14.

### 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 15. 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 15.

## 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].

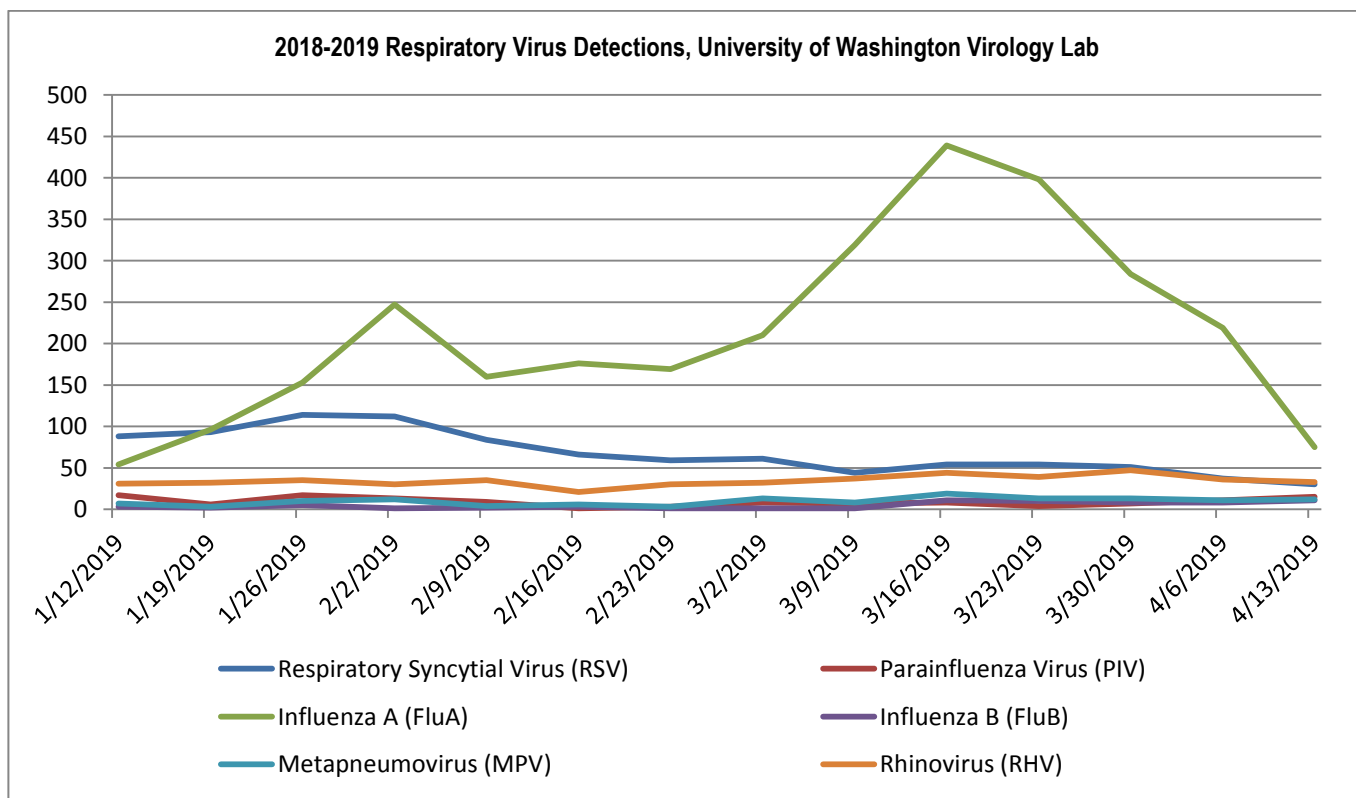
	CDC Week	10	11	12	13	14	15
End date		3/9/2019	3/16/2019	3/23/2019	3/30/2019	4/6/2019	4/13/2019
Clinic A							
	Total visits	389	326	259	0	278	387
	ILI visits	0(0%)	<10	<10	0(0%)	<10	0(0%)
Clinic B							
	Total visits	59	60	38	42	14	No Data
	ILI visits	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	No Data

## Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health’s most recent influenza update, flu activity was elevated, but decreasing during week 14 in Washington. One hundred and three influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date. During week 14, 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 14, 18.1 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. A and Influenza B were reported during week 14. One hundred and seventy six lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.

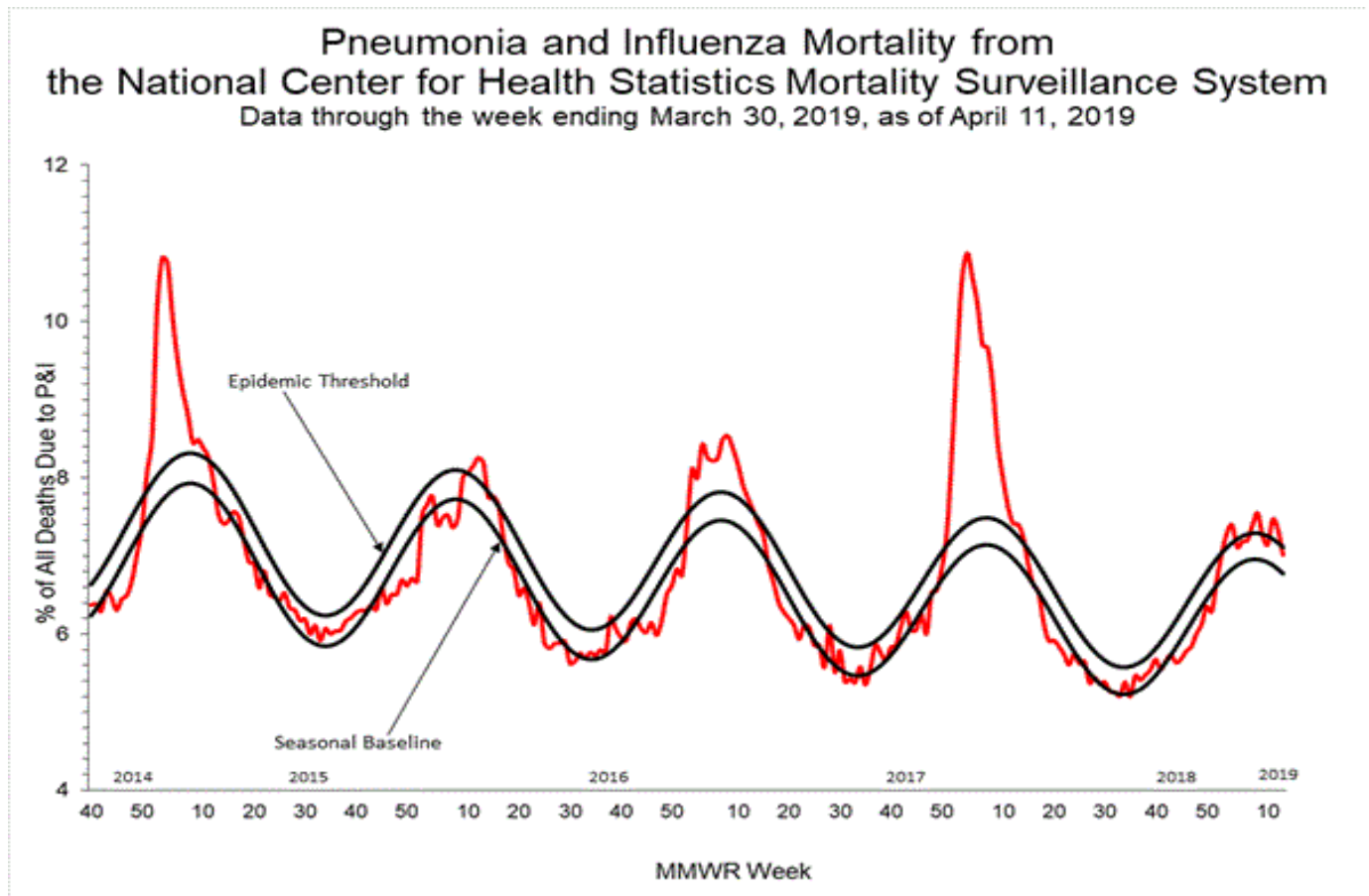
## University of Washington

According to the University of Washington’s most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were seventy-five positive influenza A tests, and eleven positive influenza B tests, during CDC week 15.



## 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 30, 2019 (week 13), 7.0% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.1% for week 13.



## 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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