

## Influenza (Flu)

# Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report

# FLUVIEW



A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division

**Note:** CDC is tracking the COVID-19 pandemic in a weekly publication called [COVIDView](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview.html>).

### Key Updates for Week 49, ending December 5, 2020

**Seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains lower than usual for this time of year.**

## Viruses

### Clinical Labs

The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories is 0.2% this week.

[/flu/weekly/#ClinicalLaboratories](#)

### Public Health Labs

Influenza activity was low during the summer months and few specimens have tested positive in public health labs during recent weeks.

[/flu/weekly/#PublicHealthLaboratories](#)

### Virus Characterization

Influenza virus characterization information will be updated weekly starting later this season.

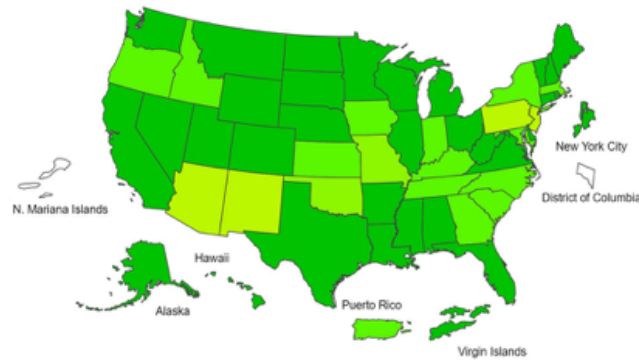
[/flu/weekly/#ivc](#)

## Illness

### Outpatient Illness: ILINet

The percentage of visits to a health care provider for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained at 1.6% for a third consecutive week. This is below the national baseline of 2.6%. ILI surveillance may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.

## Outpatient Illness: ILINet Activity Map



This week, four jurisdictions experienced low ILI activity, and the remaining jurisdictions experienced minimal ILI activity. ILI activity levels may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.

## Severe Disease

### Hospitalizations

Hospitalization rates will be presented once case counts increase to a level that produces stable rates; in the interim, case counts will be reported each week.

### NCHS Mortality

14.3% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC). This is above the epidemic threshold of 6.5%. The majority of PIC deaths are due to COVID-19.

### Pediatric Deaths

The first influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-21 season was reported to CDC this week.

*All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.*

*A description of the CDC influenza surveillance system, including methodology and detailed descriptions of each data component is available on the [surveillance methods](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>) page.*

*Additional information on the current and previous influenza seasons for each surveillance component are available on [FluView Interactive](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluviewinteractive.htm) (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluviewinteractive.htm>).*

### Key Points

- Flu activity is unusually low at this time but may increase in the coming months.
- An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against flu and its potentially serious complications.
- If you haven't gotten your flu vaccine yet, get vaccinated now (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/season/protect-your-health.html>).
- There are also flu antiviral drugs that can be used to treat flu illness.

# U.S. Virologic Surveillance:

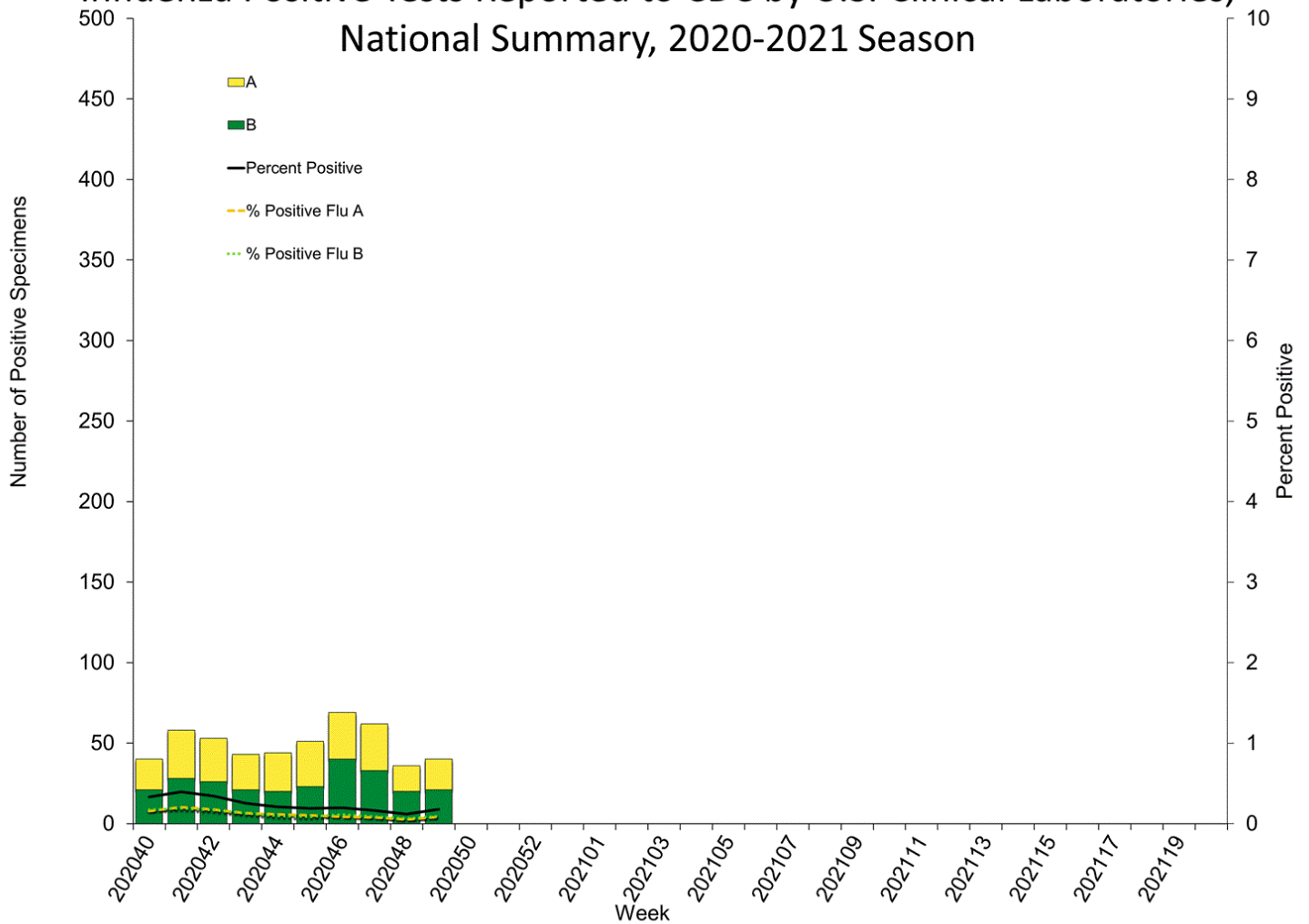
([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1539281228772](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281228772))

## Clinical Laboratories

The results of tests performed by clinical laboratories nationwide are summarized below. Data from clinical laboratories (the percentage of specimens tested that are positive for influenza) are used to monitor whether influenza activity is increasing or decreasing.

	<b>Week 49</b>	<b>Data Cumulative since September 27, 2020 (Week 40)</b>
<b>No. of specimens tested</b>	22,474	232,452
<b>No. of positive specimens (%)</b>	40 (0.2%)	496 (0.2%)
<i>Positive specimens by type</i>		
<b>Influenza A</b>	19 (47.5%)	243 (49.0%)
<b>Influenza B</b>	21 (52.5%)	253 (51.0%)

## Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Clinical Laboratories, National Summary, 2020-2021 Season



(<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html>)

[View Chart Data \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/whoAllregt\\_cl49.html\)](/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/whoAllregt_cl49.html) | [View Full Screen \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/WhoNPHL49.html\)](/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/WhoNPHL49.html)

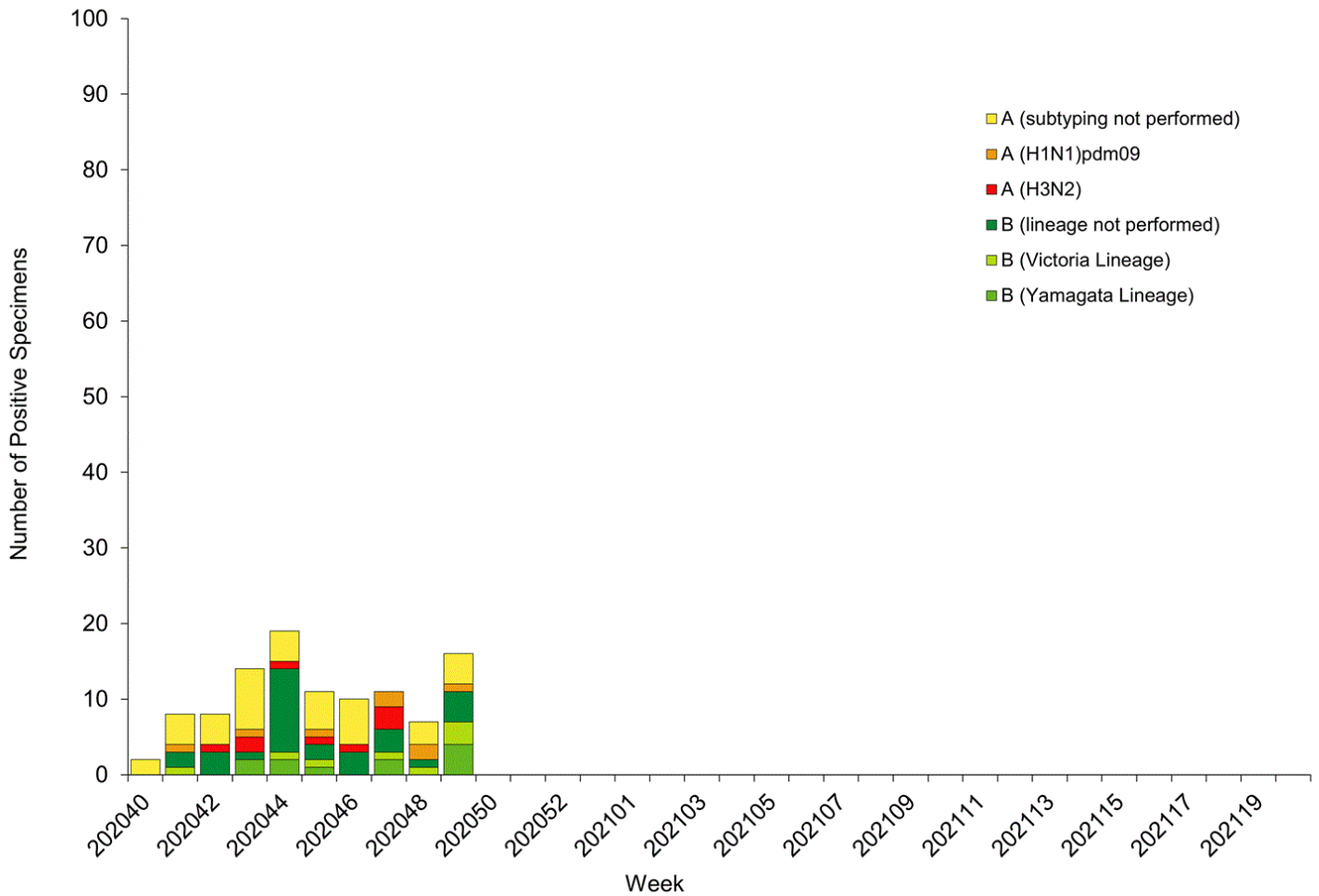
## Public Health Laboratories

The results of tests performed by public health laboratories nationwide are summarized below. Data from public health laboratories are used to monitor the proportion of circulating viruses that belong to each influenza subtype/lineage.

	<b>Week 49</b>	<b>Data Cumulative since September 27, 2020 (Week 40)</b>
<b>No. of specimens tested</b>	16,550	168,660
<b>No. of positive specimens</b>	16	106
<i>Positive specimens by type/subtype</i>		
<b>Influenza A</b>	5 (31.3%)	57 (53.8%)

<b>(H1N1)pdm09</b>	1 (100%)	8 (47.1%)
<b>H3N2</b>	0 (0%)	9 (52.9%)
<b>Subtyping not performed</b>	4	40
<b>Influenza B</b>	11 (68.8%)	49 (46.2%)
<b>Yamagata lineage</b>	4 (57.1%)	11 (57.9%)
<b>Victoria lineage</b>	3 (42.9%)	8 (42.1%)
<b>Lineage not performed</b>	4	30

### Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, 2020-2021 Season



<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html>

[View Chart Data \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/whoAllregt\\_phl49.html\)](/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/whoAllregt_phl49.html) | [View Full Screen \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/WhoPHL49.html\)](/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/WhoPHL49.html)

## Additional virologic surveillance information for current and past seasons:

Surveillance Methods ([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1539281228772](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281228772)) | FluView Interactive: National, Regional, and State Data (<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html>) or Age Data ([http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/flu\\_by\\_age\\_virus.html](http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/flu_by_age_virus.html))

## Influenza Virus Characterization

([/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1571167630754](/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1571167630754))

CDC performs genetic (</flu/about/professionals/genetic-characterization.htm>) and antigenic (</flu/about/professionals/antigenic.htm>) characterization of U.S. viruses submitted from state and local health laboratories using Right Size Roadmap submission guidance. These data are used to compare how similar the currently circulating influenza viruses are to the reference viruses representing viruses contained in the current influenza vaccines and to monitor evolutionary changes that continually occur in influenza viruses circulating in humans. CDC also tests susceptibility of influenza viruses to antiviral medications, including the neuraminidase inhibitors (oseltamivir, zanamivir, and peramivir) and the PA endonuclease inhibitor baloxavir.

Virus characterization data will be updated weekly starting later this season when a sufficient number of specimens have been tested.

## Outpatient Illness Surveillance

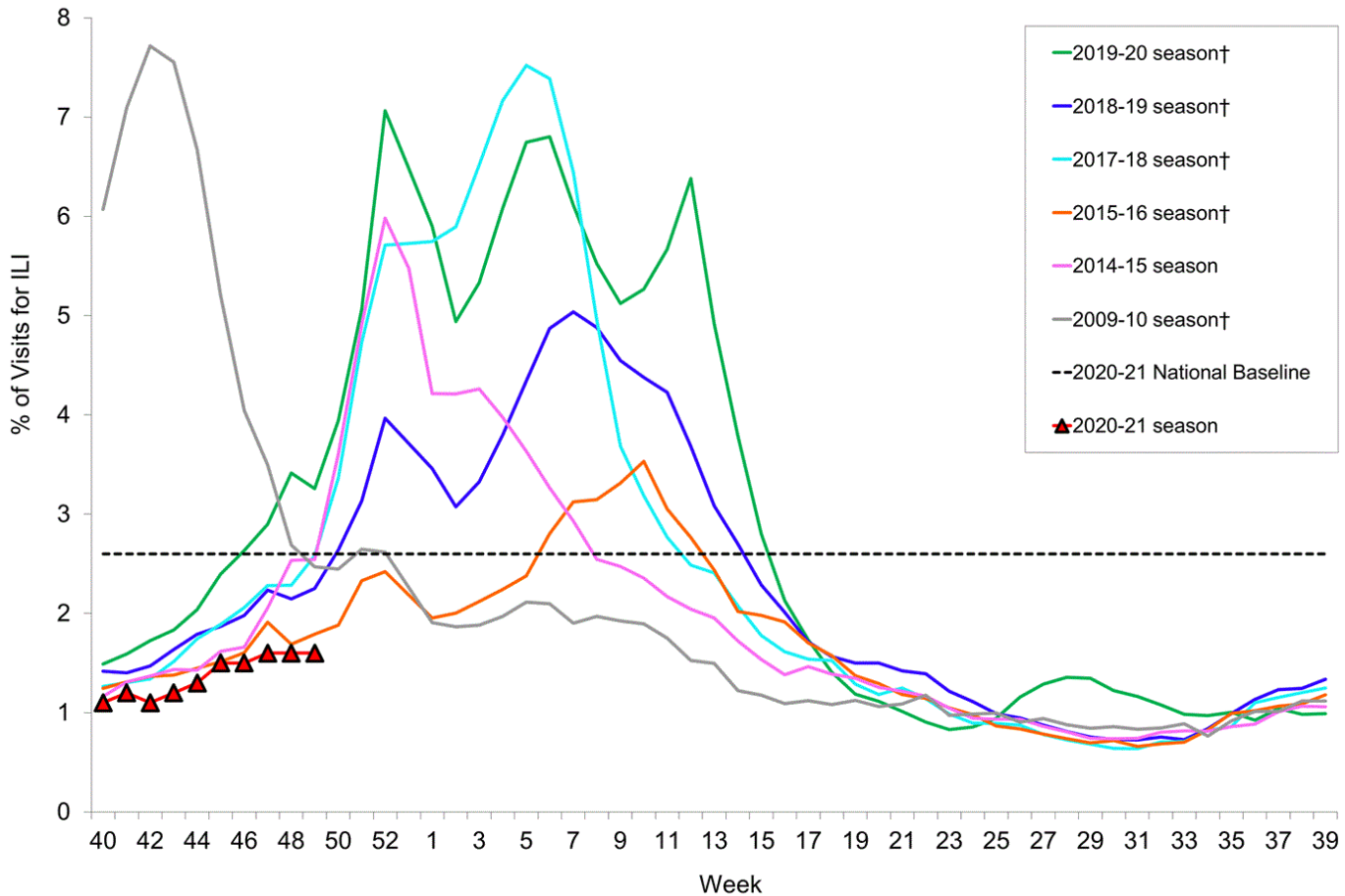
([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1539281266932](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281266932))

Please note, the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet) monitors outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI), not laboratory-confirmed influenza, and as such, will capture visits due to other respiratory pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2, that present with similar symptoms. In addition, healthcare-seeking behaviors have changed dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people are accessing the healthcare system in alternative settings which may or may not be captured as a part of ILINet. Therefore, ILI data, including ILI activity levels, should be interpreted with extreme caution. It is particularly important at this time to evaluate syndromic surveillance data, including that from ILINet, in the context of other sources of surveillance data to obtain a complete and accurate picture of both influenza and COVID-19 activity. CDC is tracking the COVID-19 pandemic in a weekly publication called [COVIDView](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview.html>).

## ILINet

Nationwide during week 49, 1.6% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to ILI. This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.6%.

## Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, 2020-2021 and Selected Previous Seasons



†These seasons did not have a week 53, so the week 53 value is an average of week 52 and week 1.

<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html> View Chart Data (current season only) (</flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/senAllregt49.html>) | [View Full Screen \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/ILI49.html\)](/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/ILI49.html)

During week 49 compared with week 48, one region (Region 2) had an increase in the percentage of visits for ILI, one region (Region 10) had a decrease in percentage of visits for ILI, and the remaining regions remained stable (change of  $\leq 0.1\%$ ). All ten regions reported a percentage of outpatient visits for ILI below their region-specific baselines.

## ILI Activity Map

Data collected in ILINet are used to produce a measure of [ILI activity\\*](#)

([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1571167821424](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1571167821424)) by state/jurisdiction and Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA).

Activity Level	Number of Jurisdictions		Number of CBSAs	
	Week 49 (Week ending Dec. 5, 2020)	Week 48 (Week ending Nov. 28, 2020)	Week 49 (Week ending Dec. 5, 2020)	Week 48 (Week ending Nov. 28, 2020)
Very High	0	0	0	0

High	0	0	4	3
Moderate	0	0	13	15
Low	4	4	53	60
Minimal	49	50	547	543
Insufficient Data	2	1	312	308

## A Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report Prepared by the Influenza Division

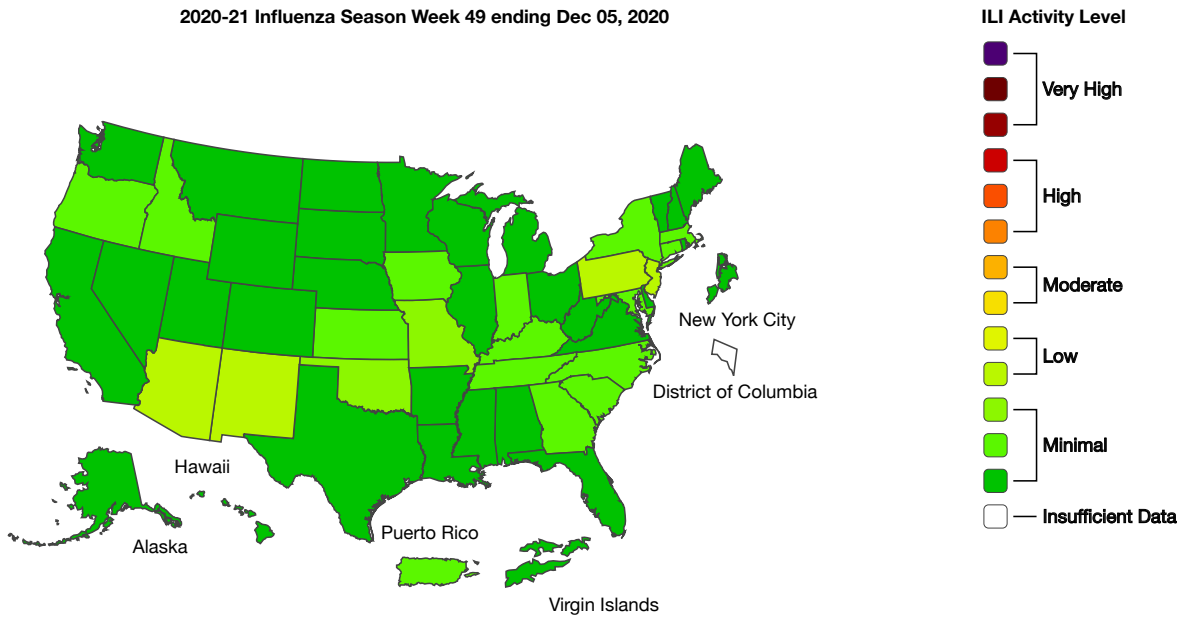
### Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

weeks

State CBSA

2020-21 Influenza Season Week 49 ending Dec 05, 2020



Season: 2020-21 ▲

Download Image

Download Data

(<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/flureport.xml>)View Full Screen (<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/main.html>)



\*Data collected in ILINet may disproportionately represent certain populations within a jurisdiction or CBSA, and therefore, may not accurately depict the full picture of influenza activity for the entire jurisdiction or CBSA. Differences in the data presented here by CDC and independently by some health departments likely represent differing levels of data completeness with data presented by the health department likely being the more complete.

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**Additional information about medically attended visits for ILI for current and past seasons:**

Surveillance Methods ([https://wcm5-wp.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1539281266932](https://wcm5-wp.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281266932)) | FluView Interactive: National, Regional, and State Data (<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html>) or ILI Activity Map (<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/main.html>)

## Geographic Spread of Influenza as Assessed by State and Territorial Epidemiologists

([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1568388833450](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1568388833450))

The geographic spread of influenza as reported by state and territorial epidemiologists indicates geographic spread of influenza viruses but does not measure the severity of influenza activity. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on ILI surveillance, and the fact that the state and territorial epidemiologists report relies heavily on ILI activity, reporting for this system will be suspended for the 2020-21 influenza season. Data from previous seasons is available on FluView Interactive.

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**Additional geographic spread surveillance information for current and past seasons:**

Surveillance Methods ([https://wcm5-wp.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1568388833450](https://wcm5-wp.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1568388833450)) | FluView Interactive (<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/FluView8.html>)

## Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations:

(<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#Hospitalization>)

The Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Network (FluSurv-NET) conducts population-based surveillance for laboratory-confirmed influenza-related hospitalizations in select counties in the Emerging Infections Program (EIP) states and Influenza Hospitalization Surveillance Project (IHSP) states.

A total of 61 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported by FluSurv-NET sites between October 1, 2020 and December 5, 2020 which is lower than average for this point in the season and comparable to counts seen at this point during the 2011-12 season. Hospitalization rates will be presented once case counts increase to a level that produces stable rates; in the interim, case counts will be reported each week.

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**Additional hospitalization surveillance information for current and past seasons and additional age groups:**

Surveillance Methods (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#Hospitalization>) | FluView Interactive: Rates by Age (<https://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/FluHospRates.html>) or Patient Characteristics (<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/FluHospChars.html>)

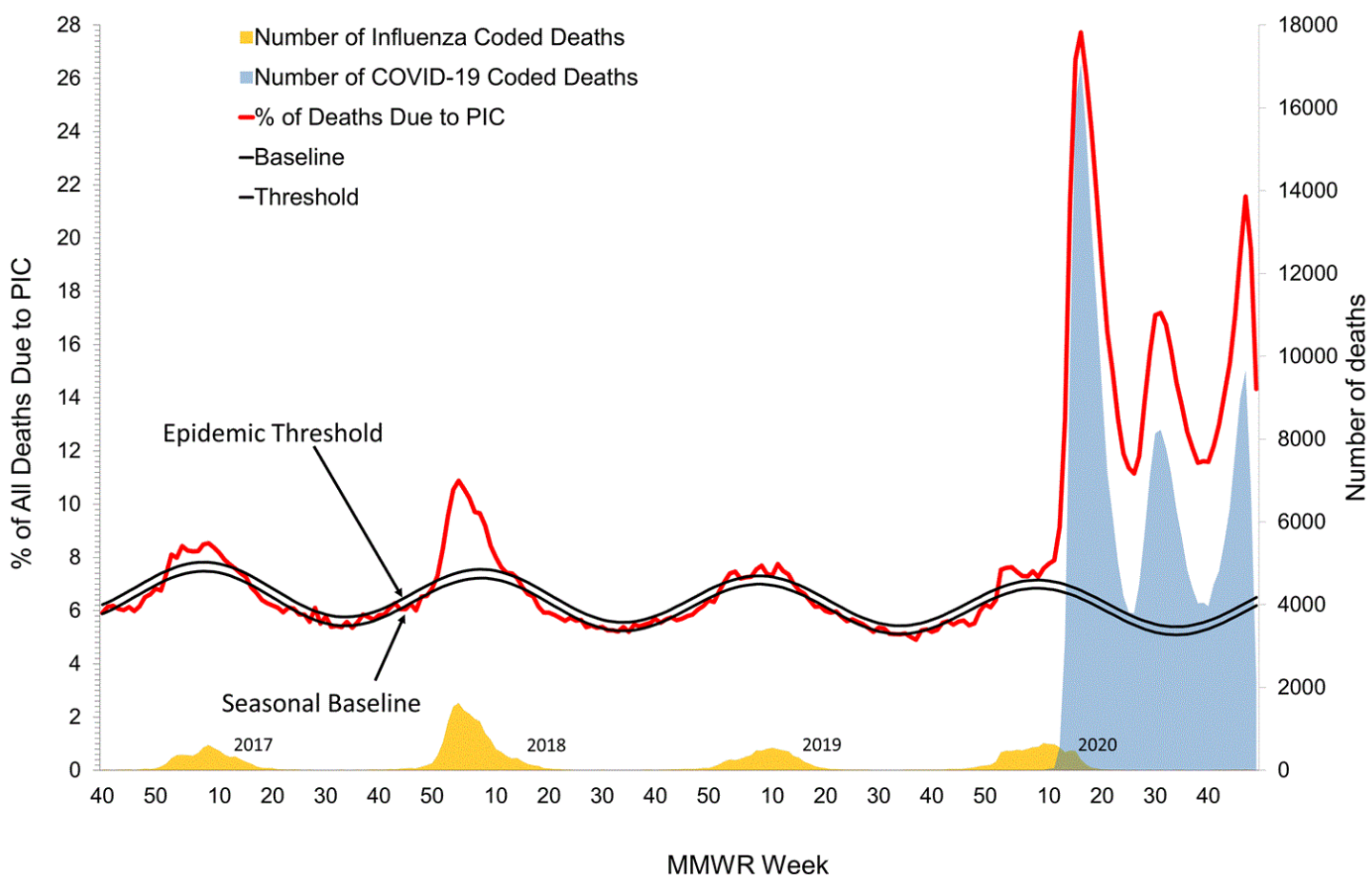
## National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance

([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1539281356004](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281356004))

Based on NCHS mortality surveillance data available on December 10, 2020, 14.3% of the deaths occurring during the week ending December 5, 2020 (week 49), were due to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19 (PIC). This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 6.5% for week 49. Among the 3,052 PIC deaths reported for week 49, 2,113 had COVID-19 listed as an underlying or contributing cause of death on the death certificate and five listed influenza, indicating that the current increase in PIC mortality is due primarily to COVID-19 and not influenza.

Weekly mortality surveillance data include a combination of machine coded and manually coded causes of death collected from death certificates. Percentages of deaths due to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC) are higher among manually coded records than more rapidly available machine coded records. Due to the additional time needed for manual coding, the initially reported PIC percentages are likely to increase as more data are received and processed.

## Pneumonia, Influenza, and COVID-19 Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System Data through the week ending December 5, 2020, as of December 10, 2020



<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/mortality.html> View Chart Data  (/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/NCHSData49.csv) | View Full Screen (/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/NCHS49.html)

### Additional pneumonia and influenza mortality surveillance information for current and past seasons:

Surveillance Methods ([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1539281356004](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281356004)) | FluView Interactive

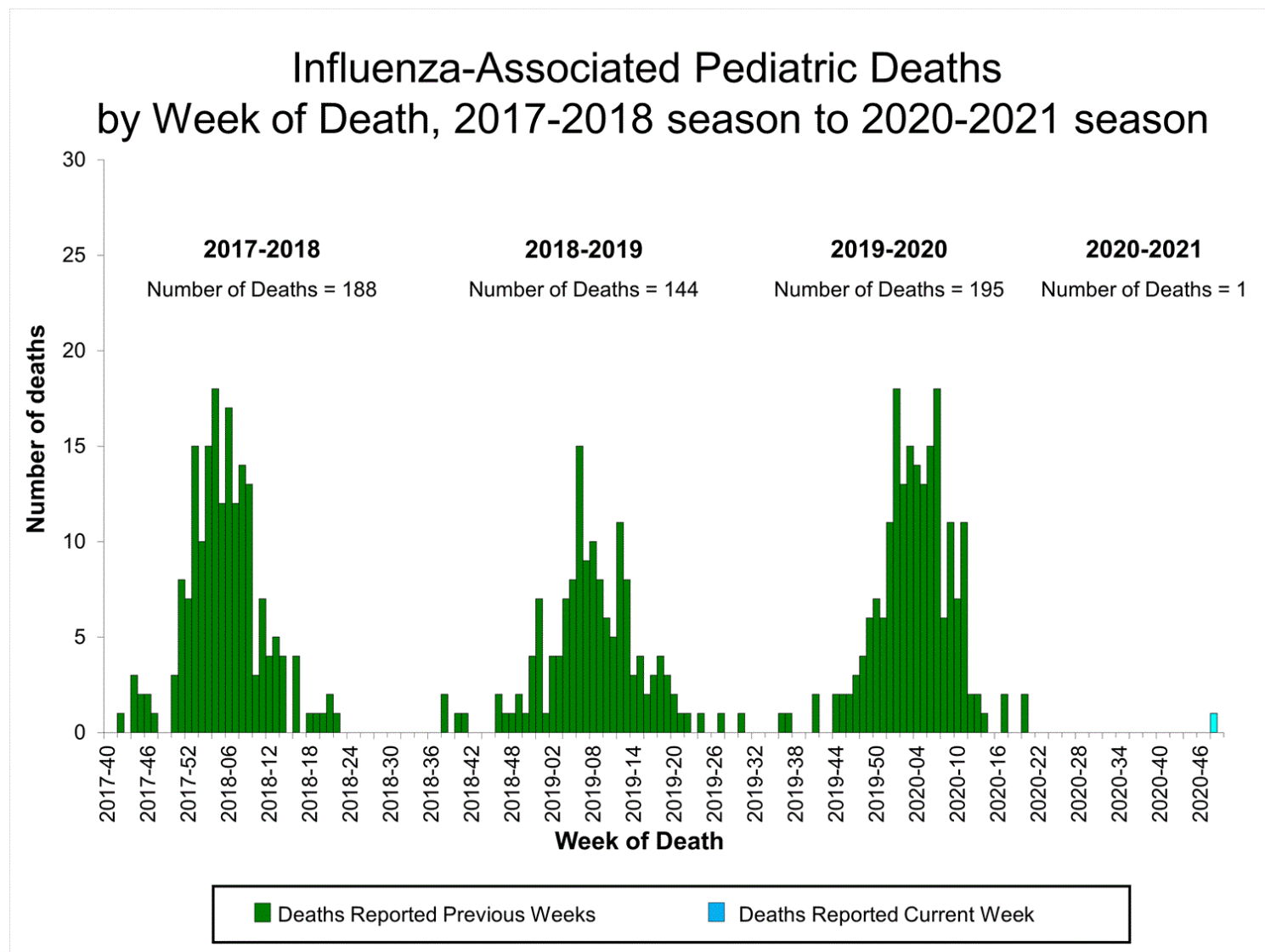
(<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/mortality.html>)

# Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1571168571051](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1571168571051))

One influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-2021 season was reported to CDC during week 49. This death was associated with an influenza B virus with no lineage determined and occurred during week 48 (the week ending November 28, 2020).

A total of one influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-2021 season has been reported to CDC.



(<http://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/PedFluDeath.html>)

[View Full Screen \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/PedFlu49.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/PedFlu49.html)

## Additional pediatric mortality surveillance information for current and past seasons:

Surveillance Methods ([https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor\\_1571168571051](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1571168571051)) | [FluView Interactive](#)

(<https://gis.cdc.gov/GRASP/Fluview/PedFluDeath.html>)

## Additional National and International Influenza Surveillance Information

**FluView Interactive:** FluView includes enhanced web-based interactive applications that can provide dynamic visuals of the influenza data collected and analyzed by CDC. These [FluView Interactive applications](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluviewinteractive.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluviewinteractive.htm>) allow people to create customized, visual interpretations of influenza data, as well as make comparisons across flu seasons, regions, age groups and a variety of other demographics.

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health:** Monthly surveillance data on the prevalence of health-related workplace absenteeism among full-time workers in the United States are [available from NIOSH](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/absences/default.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/absences/default.html>).

**U.S. State and local influenza surveillance:** Select a jurisdiction below to access the latest local influenza information.

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Alabama (<http://adph.org/influenza/>)

Alaska (<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/influ>)

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Colorado (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/influenza>)

Connecticut (<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Epidemiolog>)

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Georgia (<https://dph.georgia.gov/epidemiology/influenza/flu-activity-georgia>)

Hawaii (<http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/resources/rep>)

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Iowa (<http://idph.iowa.gov/influenza/surveillance>)

Kansas (<http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/surveillance.htm>)

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Maryland (<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/influenza/fluwatch/>)

Massachusetts (<https://www.mass.gov/influenza>)

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Missouri  
(<http://health.mo.gov/living/healthcondiseases/communicable/influenza/reports.php>)

Montana (<http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/d>)

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New Jersey (<http://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/flu.shtml>)

New Mexico (<https://nmhealth.org/about/erd/ideb/>)

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Ohio (<http://www.flu.ohio.gov>)

Oklahoma  
([https://www.ok.gov/health/Prevention\\_and\\_Prepared](https://www.ok.gov/health/Prevention_and_Prepared))

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South Carolina  
(<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/DiseasesandConditions/InfectiousDiseases/Flu/FluData/>)

South Dakota (<https://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectio>)

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Vermont (<http://www.healthvermont.gov/immunizations-infectious-disease/influenza/flu-activity-and-surveillance>)

Virginia (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/i>)

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Wyoming (<https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/influenza/>)

New York City (<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/provi>)

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### World Health Organization:

Additional influenza surveillance information from participating WHO member nations is available through FluNet [↗](http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html) ([http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs\\_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/influenza/gisrs_laboratory/flunet/en/index.html)) and the Global Epidemiology Reports. [↗](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/en/) ([http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/en/))

### **WHO Collaborating Centers for Influenza:**

Australia [✉](http://www.influenzacentre.org/surveillance_samplesreceived.htm) ([http://www.influenzacentre.org/surveillance\\_samplesreceived.htm](http://www.influenzacentre.org/surveillance_samplesreceived.htm)), China [✉](http://www.chinaivdc.cn/cnic/) (<http://www.chinaivdc.cn/cnic/>), Japan [✉](http://idsc.nih.go.jp/index.html) (<http://idsc.nih.go.jp/index.html>), the United Kingdom [✉](https://www.crick.ac.uk/research/worldwide-influenza-centre) (<https://www.crick.ac.uk/research/worldwide-influenza-centre>), and the United States (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>) (CDC in Atlanta, Georgia)

### **Europe:**

The most up-to-date influenza information from Europe is available from WHO/Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control [✉](http://www.flunewseurope.org/) (<http://www.flunewseurope.org/>).

### **Public Health Agency of Canada:**

The most up-to-date influenza information from Canada is available in Canada's weekly FluWatch report [✉](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/) (<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fluwatch/>).

### **Public Health England:**

The most up-to-date influenza information from the United Kingdom is available from Public Health England [✉](http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SeasonalInfluenza/) (<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SeasonalInfluenza/>).

**Any links provided to non-Federal organizations are provided solely as a service to our users. These links do not constitute an endorsement of these organizations or their programs by CDC or the Federal Government, and none should be inferred. CDC is not responsible for the content of the individual organization web pages found at these links.**

A description of the CDC influenza surveillance system, including methodology and detailed descriptions of each data component is available on the [surveillance methods](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm) (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm>) page.

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Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/>), National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) (<https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/index.html>)