Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report

Note: Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, the week 52 and week 53 FluView reports will be released on Monday, December 30 instead of Friday, December 27 and Monday, January 4th, instead of Friday,January 1st, respectively.

Note: CDC is tracking the COVID-19 pandemic in a newly published called FluSurv-NET.

FluView for Week 51, ending December 21, 2019

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

Viruses

Clinical Labs	Public Health Labs	Virus Characterization
The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories is 2.0% this week.	Influenza activity was low during the summer months. Most jurisdictions have issued reports of sporadic influenza data during recent weeks.	Influenza virus characterization information will be updated weekly starting next this season.

Illness

Outpatient Illness: fluNet

The percentage of visits to a health care provider for influenza-like illness (ILI) increased at 1.3% this week. This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.4%. The percentage of visits for pneumonia and influenza attributed to COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.

Outpatient Illness: fluNet Activity Map

This week, one jurisdiction reported widespread influenza activity and the remaining jurisdictions experienced minimal to sporadic. ILI activity levels may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.

Severe Disease

Hospitalizations	NCHS Mortality	Pediatric Deaths
Hospitalization rates will be updated when more complete data are available. Current rates are lower than those of the last 3 seasons.	15.3% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PI). This is above the epidemic threshold of 6.9%. The majority of deaths are due to COVID-19 at this time.	No new influenza associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC this week. The total for the 2019-20 season is one.

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 page.

Additional clinical details on the current season of influenza viruses for each surveillance component are available on FluView Interactive.

Key Points

- Flu activity is unusually low at this time but may increase in the coming months.
- It is not too late to get the flu vaccine. It takes about two weeks for flu vaccine to provide protection against flu and its potentially serious complications.
- If you haven't gotten your flu vaccine yet, get vaccinated now.
- There are also flu antiviral drugs that can treat or prevent flu illness.

U.S. Virology Surveillance:

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 virus is circulating.

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

Percent Positive
100
75
50
25
0
Week 40
Week 45
Week 50
Week 5
Week 10
Week 15
Week 20
Week 25
Week 30
Week 35