

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 52, ending December 26, 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 0.3% this week.

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

Public Health Labs

The number of influenza positives reported by public health labs remains much lower than normal despite a higher than normal number of tests performed.

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

Virus Characterization

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

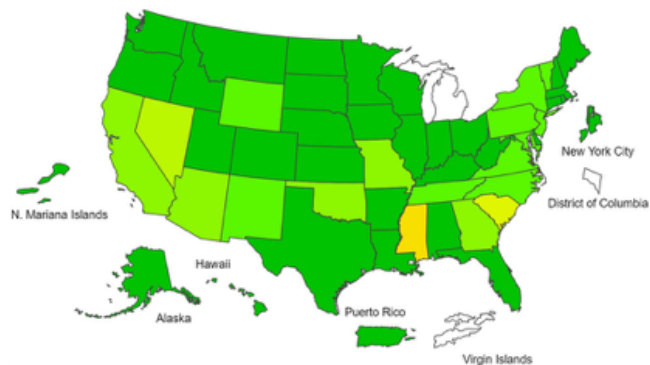
[/flu/weekly/#ivc](#)

Illness

Outpatient Illness: ILINet

The percentage of visits to a health care provider for influenza-like illness (ILI) is at 1.6% this week, similar to week 51 (change $\leq 0.1\%$). 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, one jurisdiction experienced moderate ILI activity, two jurisdictions experienced low activity, and the remaining jurisdictions experienced minimal 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

13.6% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC). This is above the epidemic threshold of 6.8%. The majority of PIC deaths are due to COVID-19.

Pediatric Deaths

No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC this week. The total for the 2020-21 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](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:

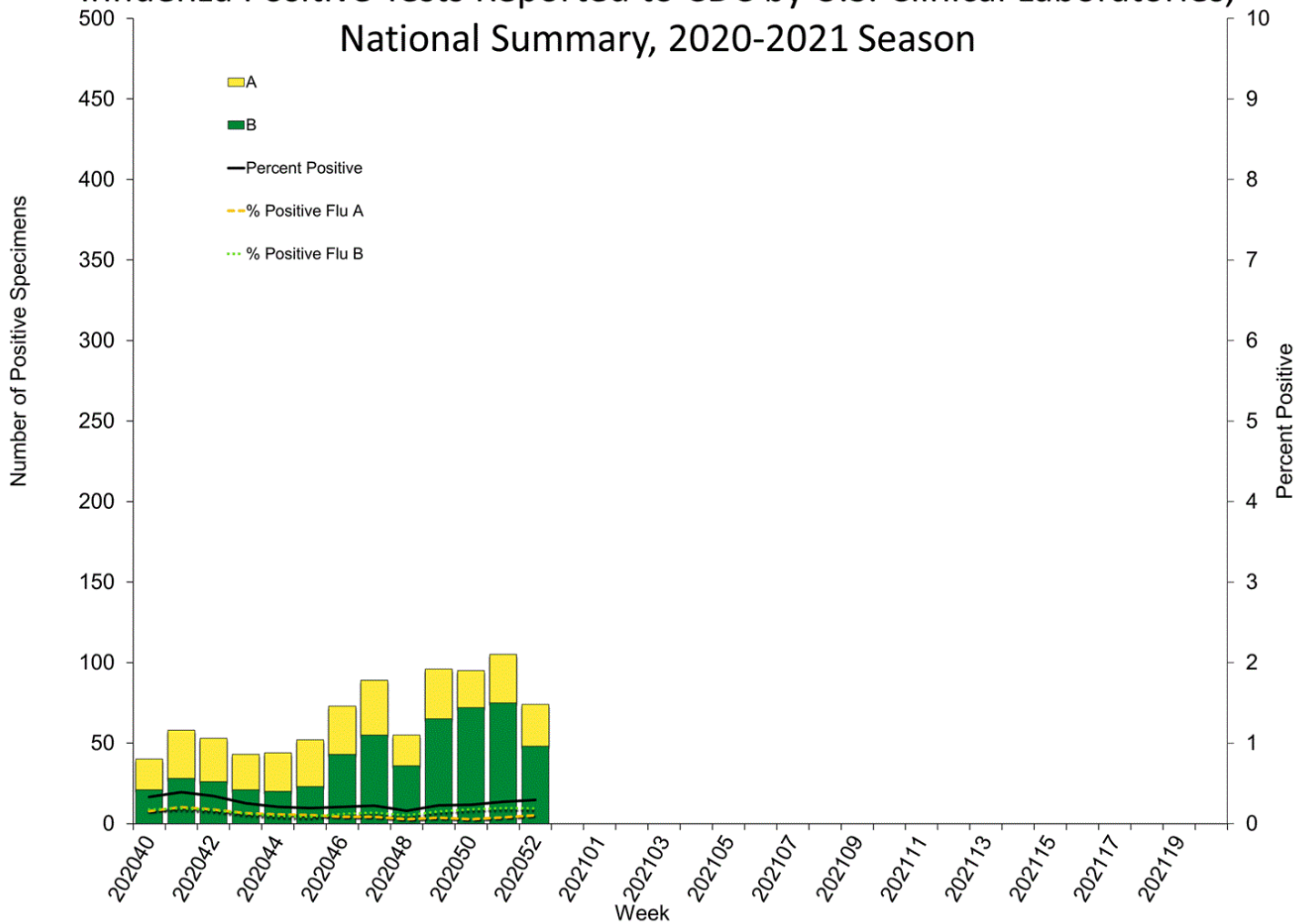
(https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281228772)

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.

	Week 52	Data Cumulative since September 27, 2020 (Week 40)
No. of specimens tested	25,148	363,627
No. of positive specimens (%)	74 (0.3%)	877 (0.2%)
<i>Positive specimens by type</i>		
Influenza A	26 (35.1%)	344 (39.2%)
Influenza B	48 (64.9%)	533 (60.8%)

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 \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/whoAllregt_cl52.html\)](#) | [View Full Screen \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/WhoNPHL52.html\)](#)

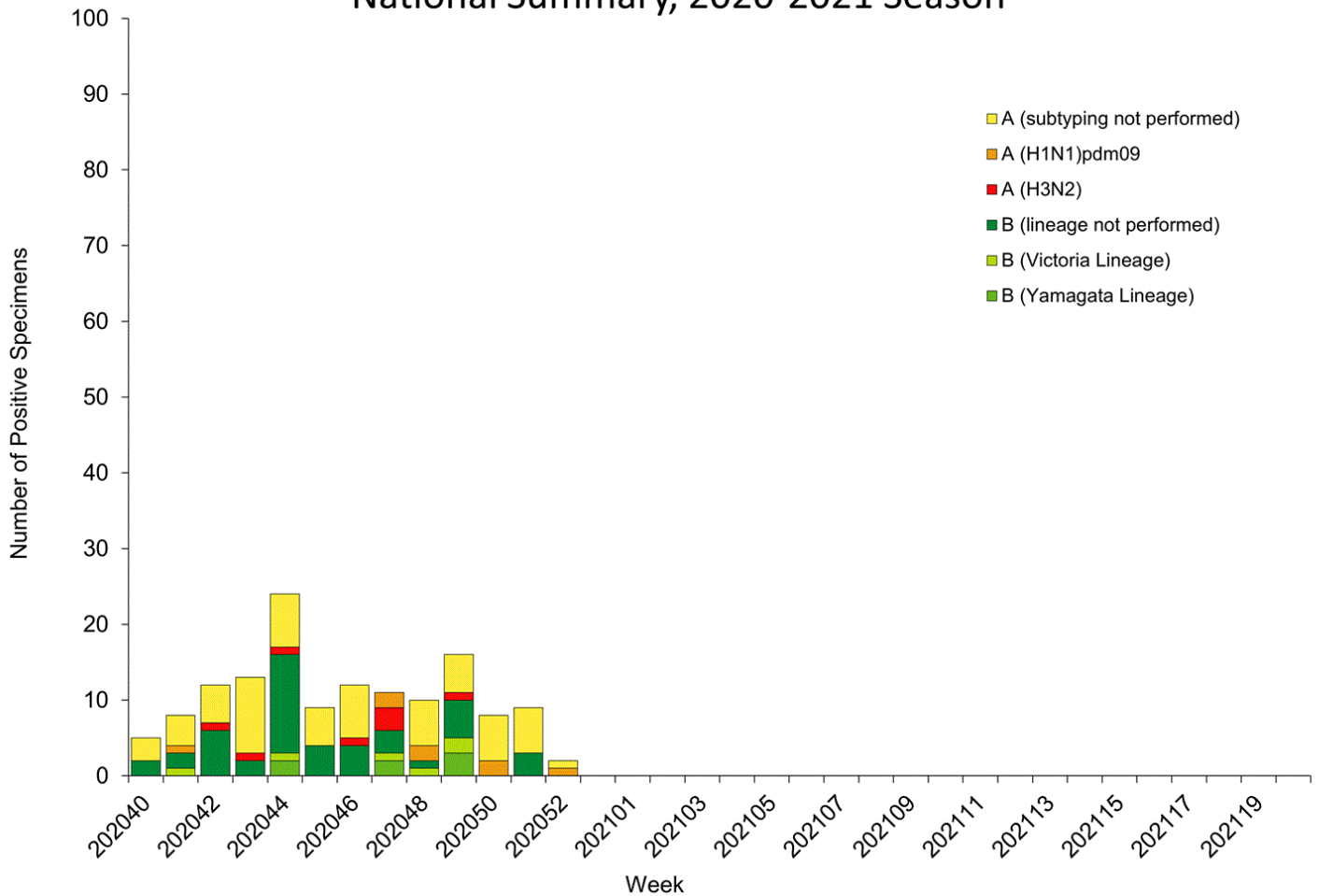
Public Health Laboratories

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.

	Week 52	Data Cumulative since September 27, 2020 (Week 40)
No. of specimens tested	11,805	209,116
No. of positive specimens	2	139
Positive specimens by type/subtype		
Influenza A	2 (100.0%)	81 (58.3%)

(H1N1)pdm09	1 (100.0%)	8 (50.0%)
H3N2	0 (0%)	8 (50.0%)
Subtyping not performed	1	65
Influenza B	0 (0 %)	58 (41.7%)
Yamagata lineage	0 (0%)	7 (53.8%)
Victoria lineage	0 (0%)	6 (46.2%)
Lineage not performed	0	45

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 \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/whoAllregt_phl52.html\)](/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/whoAllregt_phl52.html) | [View Full Screen \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/WhoPHL52.html\)](/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/WhoPHL52.html)

Additional virologic surveillance information for current and past seasons:

Surveillance Methods (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)

Influenza Virus Characterization

(/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

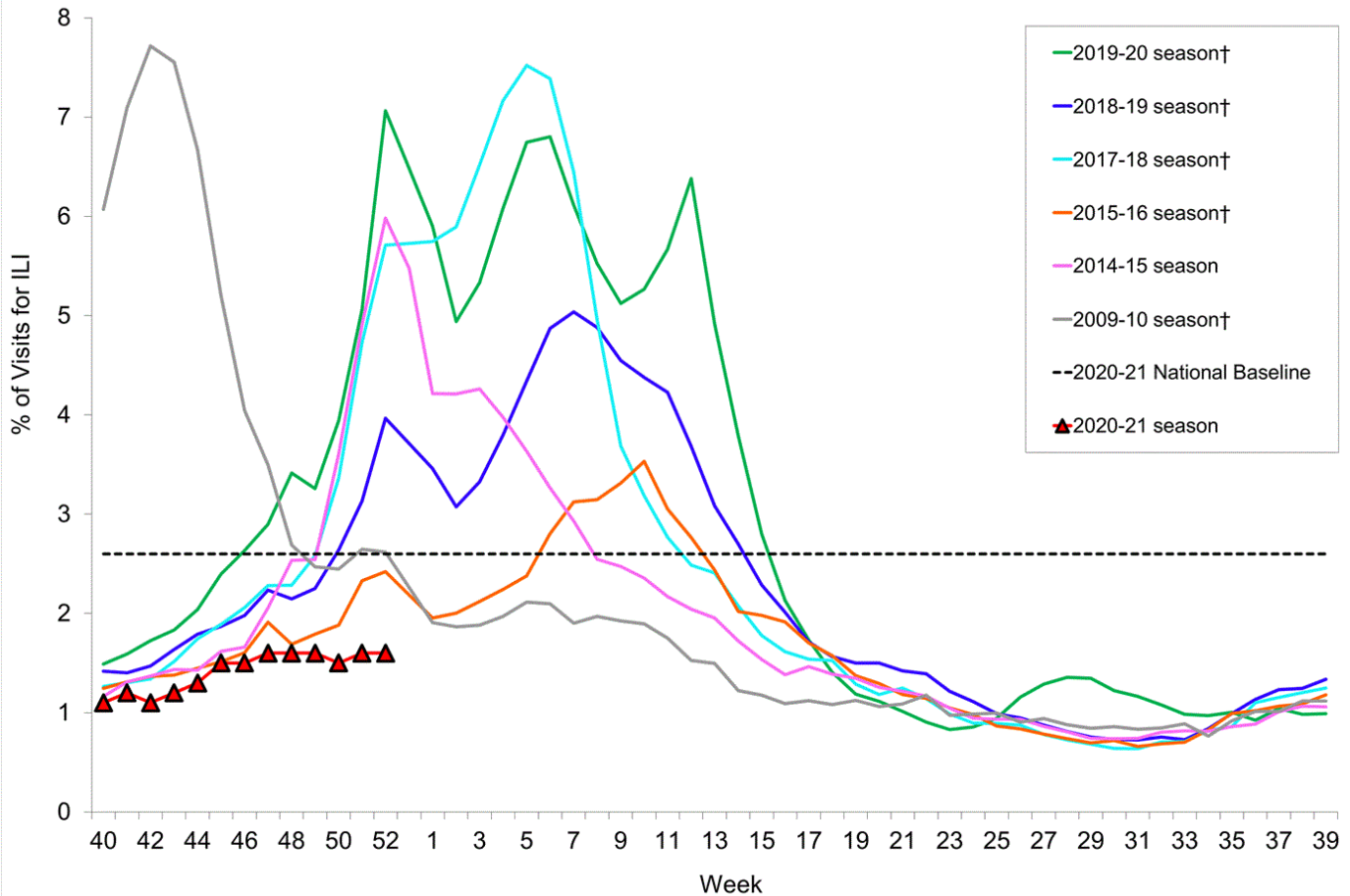
(https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281266932)

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 52, 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



(<http://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/fluportaldashboard.html>)View Chart Data (current season only) (</flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/senAllregt52.html>) | View Full Screen (</flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/ILI52.html>)

During week 52, compared with week 51, the percentage of visits for ILI decreased in one region (Region 2) and remained stable (change of $\leq 0.1\%$) in nine regions. All 10 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) by state/jurisdiction and Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA).

Activity Level	Number of Jurisdictions		Number of CBSAs	
	Week 52 (Week ending Dec. 26, 2020)	Week 51 (Week ending Dec. 19, 2020)	Week 52 (Week ending Dec. 26, 2020)	Week 51 (Week ending Dec. 19, 2020)
Very High	0	0	0	1

*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.

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) | 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)

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.

Additional geographic spread surveillance information for current and past seasons:

Surveillance Methods (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 101 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations occurring between October 1, 2020 and December 26, 2020 were reported by FluSurv-NET sites. This number 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.

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

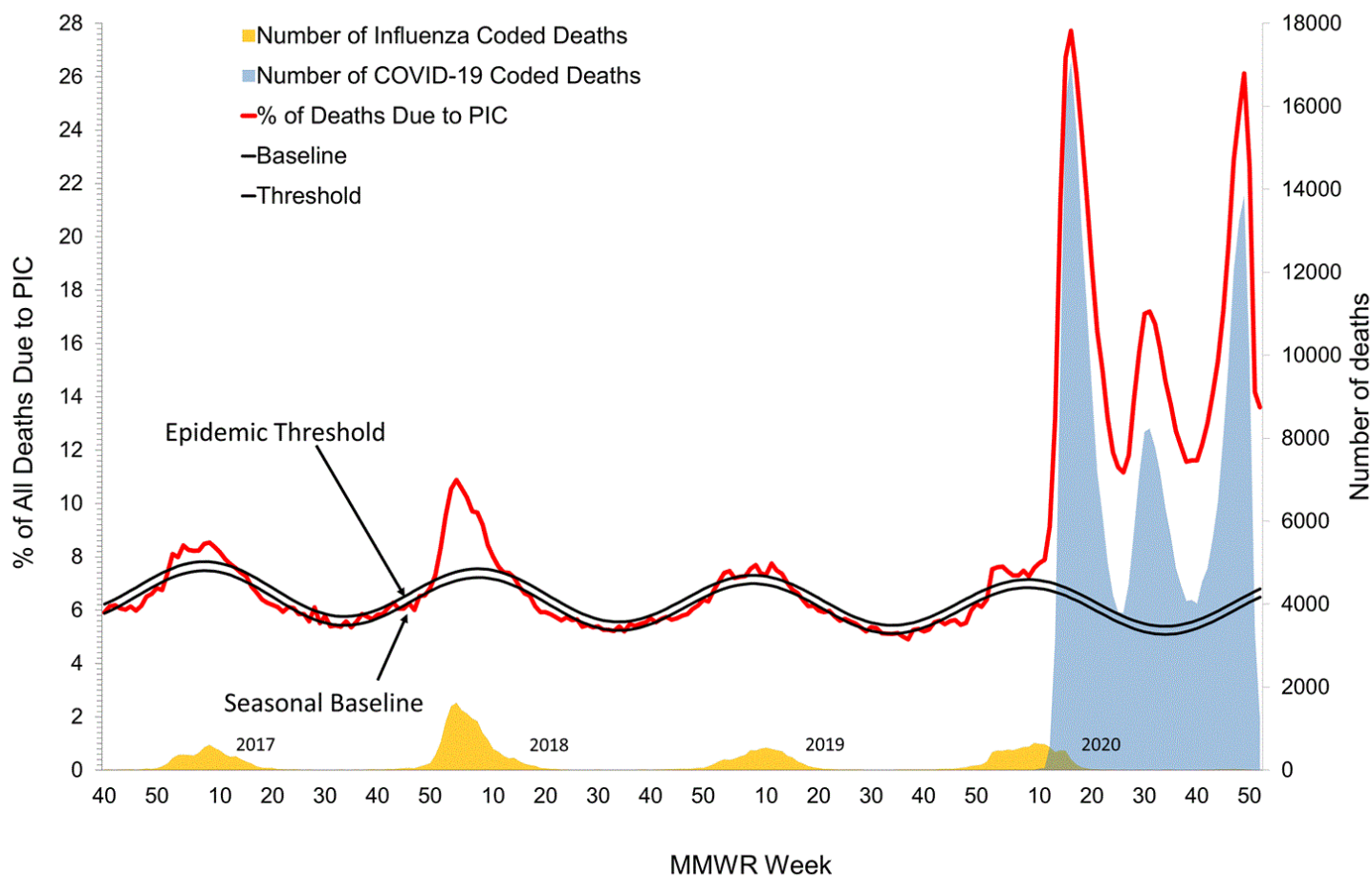
(https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1539281356004)

Based on NCHS mortality surveillance data available on December 30, 2020, 13.6% of the deaths occurring during the week ending December 26, 2020 (week 52), were due to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19 (PIC). This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 6.8% for week 52. Among the 1,848 PIC deaths reported for week 52, 1,215 had COVID-19 listed as an underlying or contributing cause of death on the death certificate and three 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. Because of the large number of deaths reported in recent weeks and the holidays, the delay in availability of manually coded records may be longer than usual.

Pneumonia, Influenza, and COVID-19 Mortality from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Surveillance System

Data through the week ending December 26, 2020, as of December 30, 2020



<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/mortality.html> View Chart Data  (/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/data/NCHSData52.csv) | View Full Screen (/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/NCHS52.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) | FluView Interactive

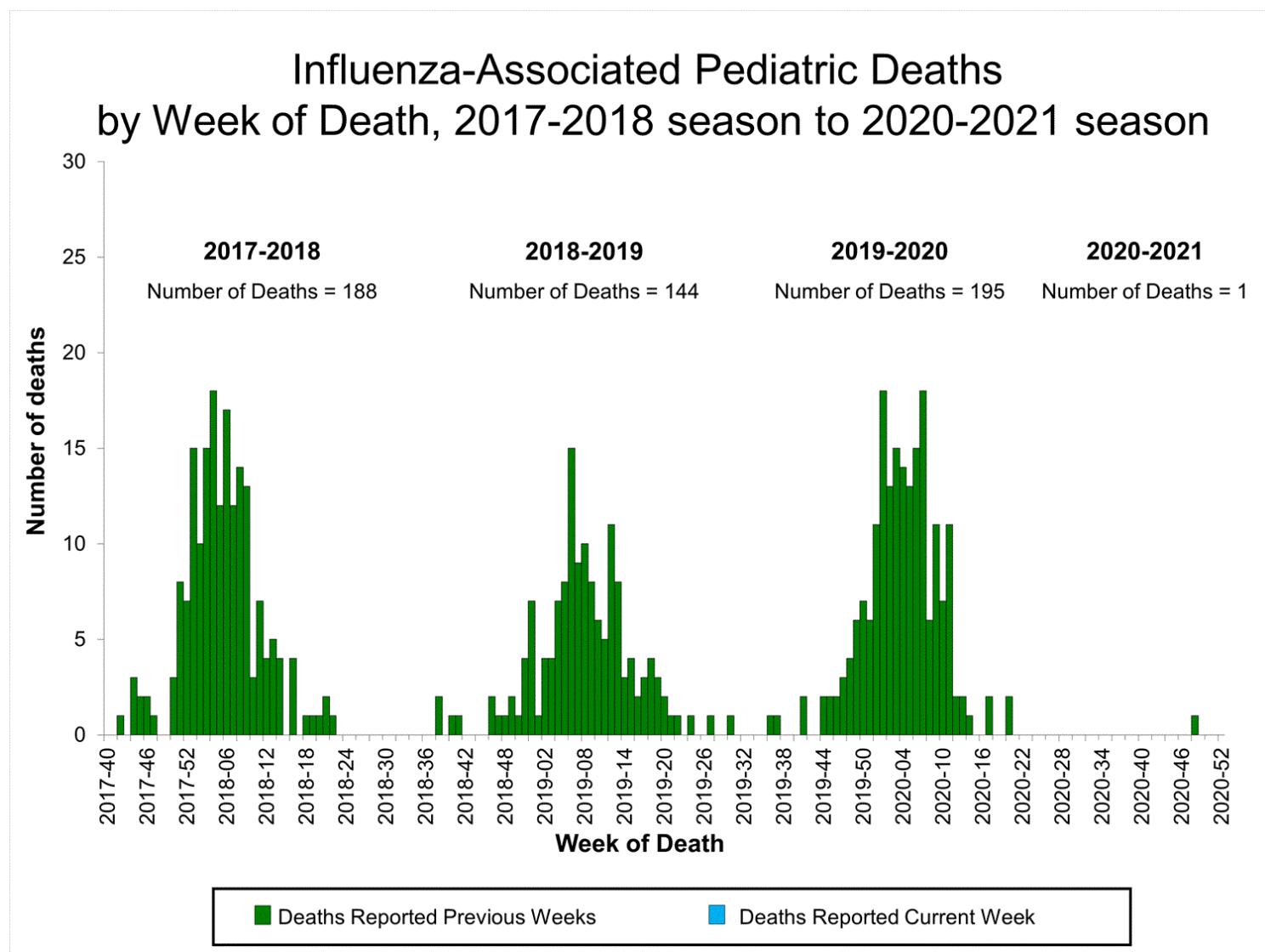
(<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/fluview/mortality.html>)

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality

(https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1571168571052)

No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 52.

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 \(/flu/weekly/weeklyarchives2020-2021/PedFlu52.html\)](#)

Additional pediatric mortality surveillance information for current and past seasons:

Surveillance Methods (https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/overview.htm#anchor_1571168571052) | [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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Oklahoma](https://www.ok.gov/health/Prevention_and_Prepared)
(https://www.ok.gov/health/Prevention_and_Prepared)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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) and the Global Epidemiology Reports. [🔗](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), 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.

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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>)