



Whatcom County 2018-19 Influenza Report

Week 6, February 3-9, 2019

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Summary

During week 6 there were sixty-five positive influenza A tests, and one positive influenza B test, reported by Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth. Thirty-four positive influenza A tests, and one positive influenza B test, were reported by Family Care Network. There were fifteen hospitalizations related to influenza-like-illness. No deaths related to influenza were reported during week 6. Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 6, seventy-two had influenza-like illnesses. There was one new influenza outbreak reported by a long term care facility in Whatcom County. Eight schools in Whatcom County reported elevated absenteeism rates during week 6.

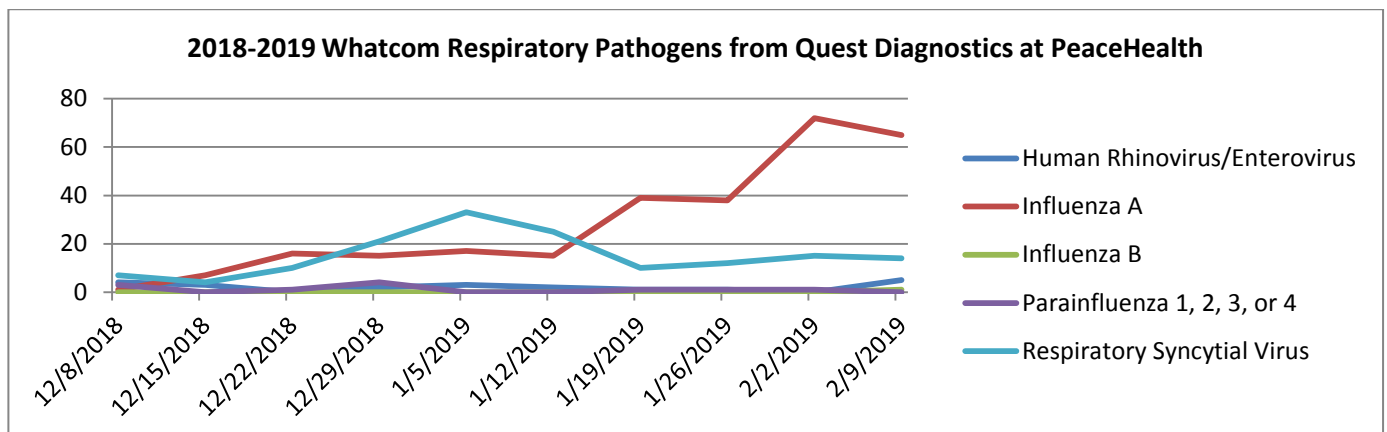
There have been 0 lab confirmed, influenza-related deaths reported in Whatcom County to date this flu season.

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. The information in the second table is from Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing.

Quest Diagnostics at PeaceHealth

CDC Week	1	2	3	4	5	6
End date	01/05/2019	01/12/2019	01/19/2019	01/26/2019	2/2/2019	2/9/2019
Influenza						
Total tests	188	181	179	176	236	233
N(%) Positive A	17(9.0%)	15(8.3%)	39(21.8%)	38(21.6%)	72(30.5%)	65(27.9%)
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1(0.4%)



Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing

Date Range	12/29/2018-1/4/2019	1/5/2019-1/11/2019	1/12/2019-1/18/2019	1/19/2019-1/25/2019	1/26/2019-2/1/2019	2/2/2019-2/8/2019
Influenza						
Total tests	32	23	51	59	75	94
N(%) Positive A	6(18.8%)	5(21.7%)	22(43.1%)	18(30.5%)	34(45.3%)	34(36.2%)
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	0(0%)	2(3.9%)	1(1.7%)	0(0%)	1(1.1%)

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 6, seventy-two had influenza-like illnesses. This is equal to seventy-two people with influenza-like illnesses during week 5.

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 was one new influenza outbreak reported by a long term care facility in Whatcom County during week 6.

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. Eight schools (out of twenty-seven schools reporting) in Whatcom County reported at least one day during week 5 on which their absenteeism rate exceeded 10%. There was less reporting this week as a result of the winter weather.

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].

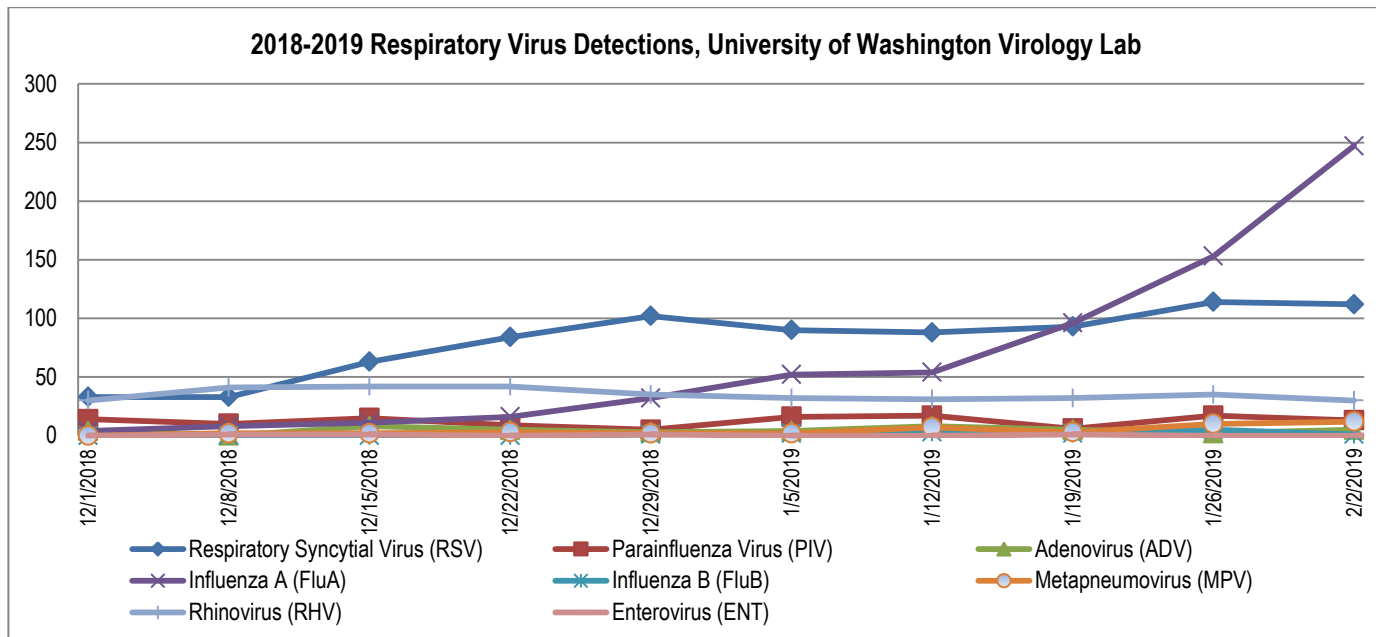
	CDC Week	1	2	3	4	5	6
End date		1/5/2019	1/12/2019	1/19/2019	1/26/2019	2/2/2019	2/9/2019
Clinic A							
	Total visits	0	309	409	343	No Data	No Data
	% ILI	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	No Data	No Data
Clinic B							
	Total visits	40	97	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
	% ILI	1(2.5%)	14(14.4%)	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data

Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was elevated during week 5 in Washington. Seventeen influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date. During week 5, 2.8 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, above the baseline of 1.1 percent. During week 5, 25.1 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Influenza A and Influenza B were reported during week 5. Thirty one lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.

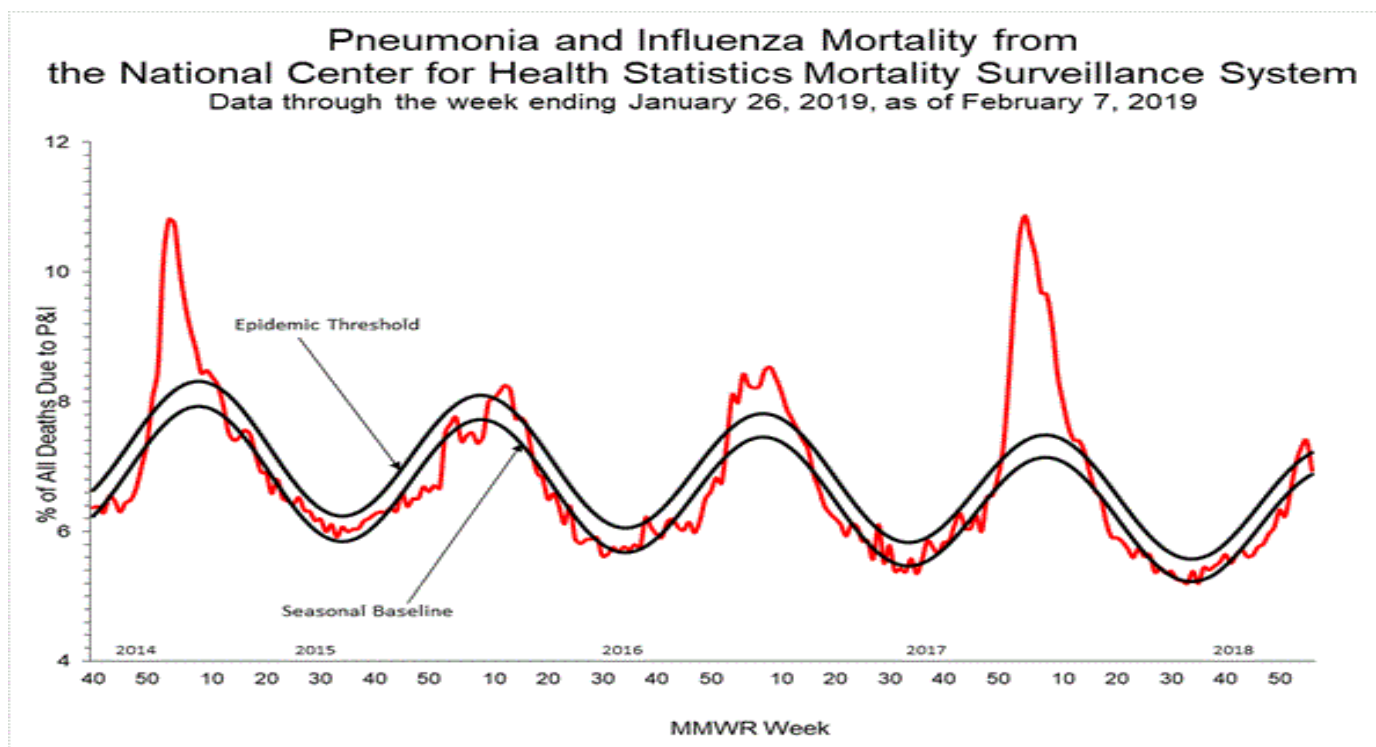
University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were two hundred forty-seven positive influenza A tests, and one positive influenza B test, during CDC week 5.



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 January 26, 2019 (week 4), 6.9% were due to pneumonia and influenza. This percentage is below the epidemic threshold of 7.2% for week 4.



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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