



Whatcom County 2020-21 Influenza Report

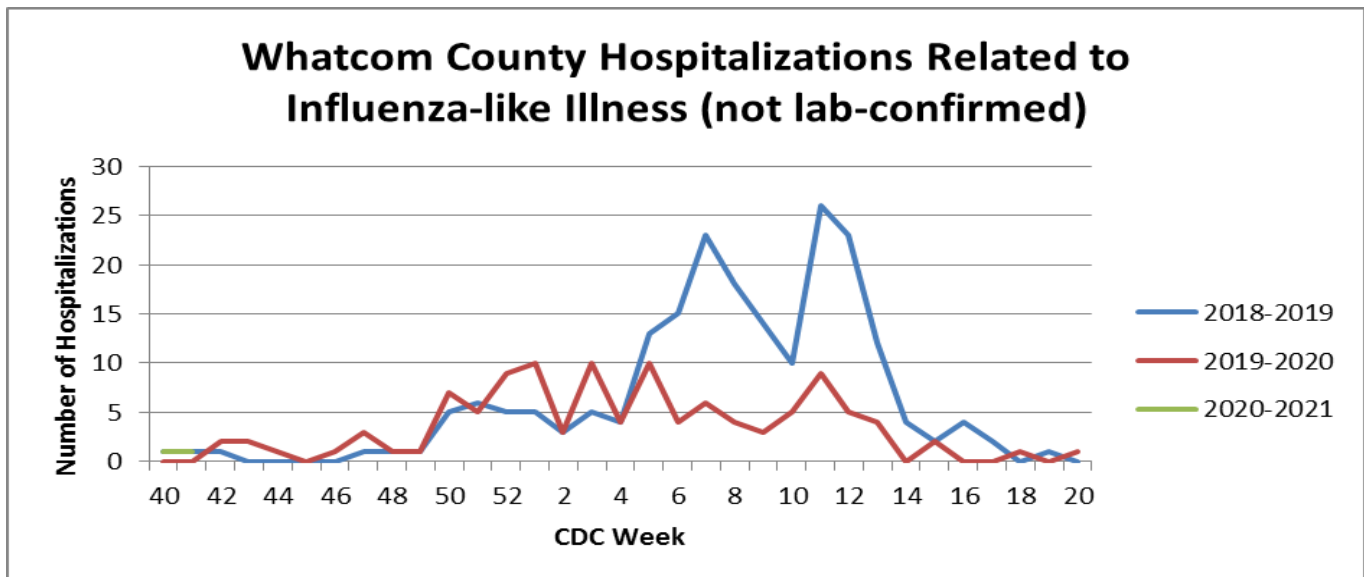
Weeks 40-41, September 27-October 10, 2020

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Summary

- The current COVID-19 pandemic has likely impacted data.
- During weeks 40-41 there were no positive influenza tests reported by Family Care Network, PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital, or PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic.
- There were two hospitalizations related to influenza-like illness during weeks 40-41.
- No lab-confirmed deaths related to influenza were reported during weeks 40-41.
- Of the number of people presenting at the emergency department during week 41, 0.54% had influenza-like illnesses.
- There were no new influenza outbreaks reported by long term care facilities in Whatcom County.

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



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 41, 0.54% had influenza-like illnesses. This is equal to 0.54% of people with influenza-like illnesses during week 40.

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. Influenza is not a routinely reportable condition, but some clinics have agreed to submit data to assist in looking at current influenza activity locally. The data in the table is from Family Care Network's Point of Care Testing, PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital (for emergency department and inpatient), PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic's Point of Care Testing, and Sea Mar's Point of Care Testing in Whatcom County combined. *Data for weeks 40-41 does not include Sea Mar, and data for week 40 does not include PeaceHealth Pediatrics.*

Family Care Network, PeaceHealth Lab at St Joseph Hospital, and PeaceHealth Medical Group Pediatric Clinic Data

CDC Week	40	41				
End date	10/3/2020	10/10/2020				
Influenza						
Total tests	11	9				
N(%) Positive A	0(0%)	0(0%)				
N(%) Positive B	0(0%)	0(0%)				

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 weeks 40-41. There have been no influenza outbreaks to date this season.

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].

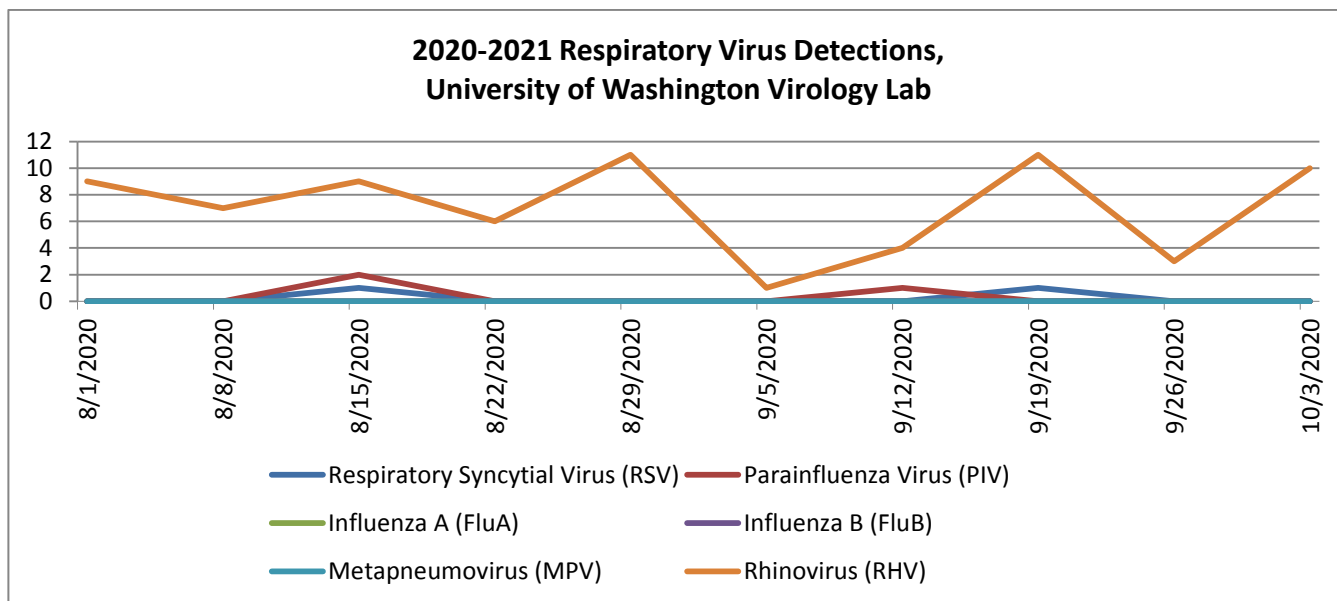
	CDC Week	40	41				
End date		10/3/2020	10/10/2020				
Clinic A							
	Total visits	No Data	No Data				
	ILI visits	No Data	No Data				
Clinic B							
	Total visits	No Data	No Data				
	ILI visits	No Data	No Data				

Washington State News

According to the Washington State Department of Health's most recent influenza update, flu activity was low during week 40 in Washington. Zero influenza-like illness outbreaks in long term care facilities have been reported for the 2020-2021 season to date. During week 40, 0.7 percent of visits among Influenza-like illness Network participants were for influenza-like illness, below the baseline of 1.6 percent. During week 40, 0 percent of specimens tested by WHO/NREVSS collaborating laboratories in Washington were positive for influenza. Zero lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2020-2021 season to date.

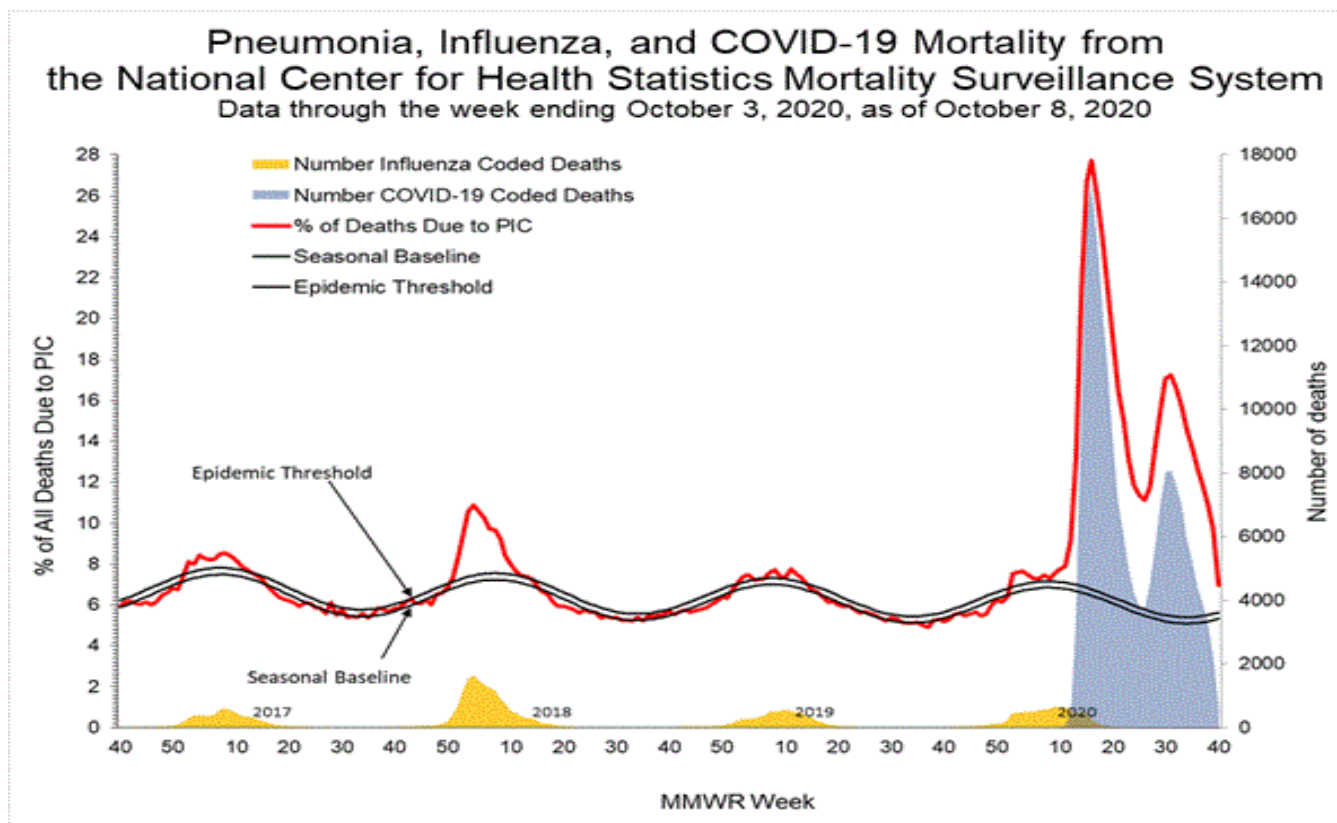
University of Washington

According to the University of Washington's most recent Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Detection report, there were no positive influenza tests during CDC week 40.



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 October 3, 2020 (week 40), 7.0% were due to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19. This percentage is above the epidemic threshold of 5.6% for week 40.



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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