



Clark County Influenza Surveillance

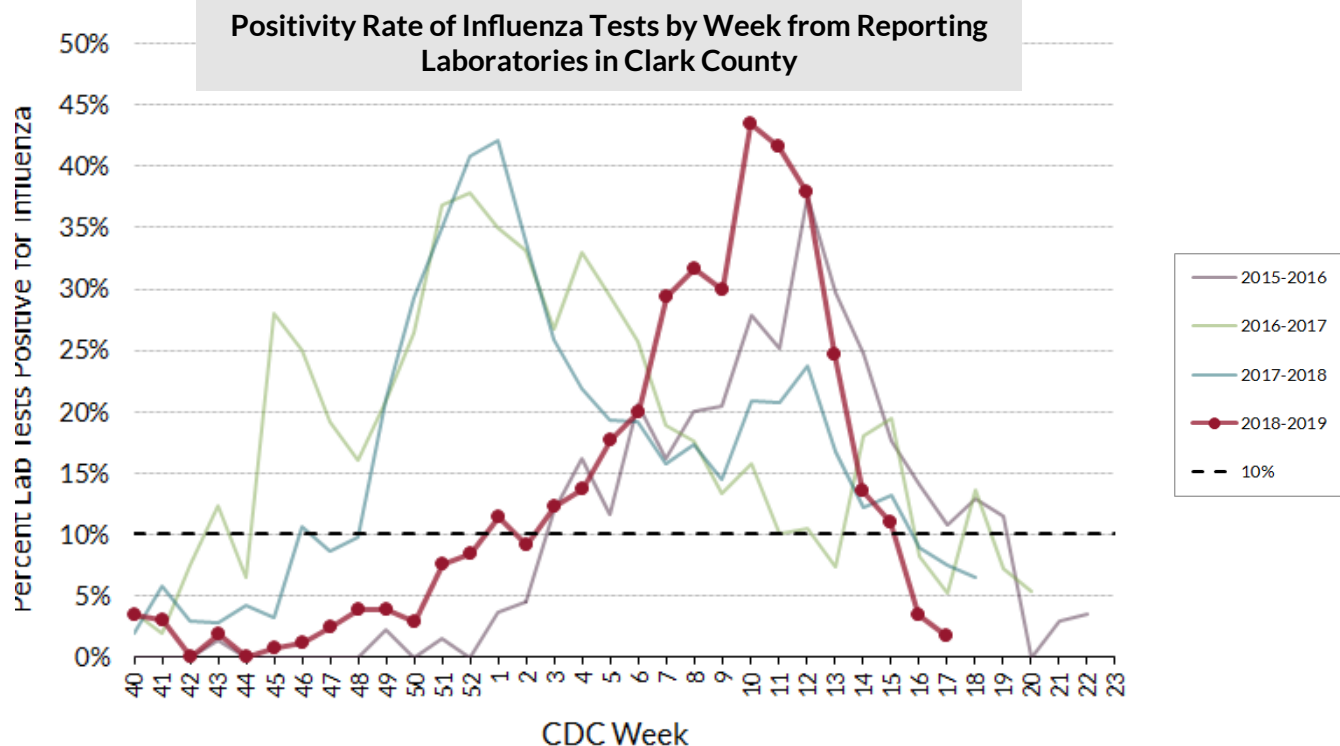
Season Summary 2018-2019

Summary

Influenza activity in Clark County was consistently elevated for 14 weeks during the 2018-2019 season, making this one of the county's shortest seasons in recent years. Positivity peaked at 43.5% during CDC week 10 (March 3-9). A total of 4 influenza-associated deaths were reported among residents, a decrease of 73% compared to last influenza season. Nationally, the 2018-2019 influenza season was categorized as a moderate severity season.



Data from Reporting Laboratories



Season Comparison

Season	Start Date	End Date	Length (weeks)	Peak Positivity	Flu Tests ¹	Flu Deaths ²	LTCF Outbreaks
2014-2015	Nov. 30	Feb. 14	11	41%	2789	5	7
2015-2016	Jan. 17	May 14	17	38%	3168	8	5
2016-2017	Nov. 6	Apr. 29	25	38%	6567	26	20
2017-2018	Dec. 3	Apr. 28	21	42%	7679	15	13
2018-2019	Jan. 20	Apr. 27	14	44%	7061	4	11

¹Total number of flu tests conducted by reporting facilities in Clark County

²Number of influenza associated deaths in Clark County, reported to WA DOH



Frequently Asked Questions

How effective was this year's influenza vaccine?

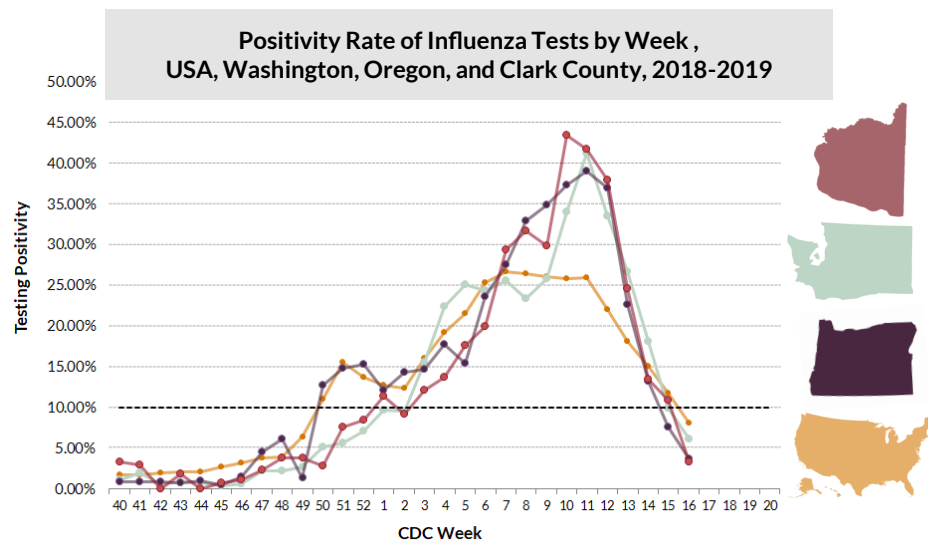
Interim results from the CDC's annual Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness study indicate that this season's vaccine was about 47% effective at preventing infection. These results will continue to develop in the coming weeks until the final data are published in summer 2019.

What was the predominant influenza strain this season?

Influenza A was the primary virus type identified this season. While subtyping beyond A/B is uncommon at the local level, state and national data indicate that H1N1 strains were predominant during the first half of the season, with H3 strains more prevalent during the latter half.

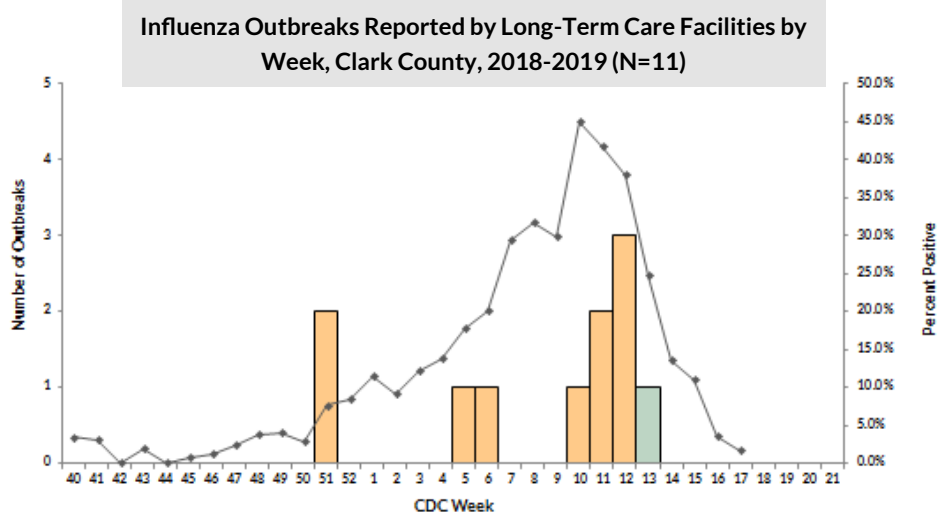
How do we know when influenza season is over?

Influenza positivity at or over 10% is generally used as the threshold for elevated influenza activity. When this rate drops below the 10% threshold again for two weeks in a row, the period of high activity is considered over. Facility-specific determinations may vary from this definition, and may be made with other data and factors in mind.



National flu activity was elevated for 21 weeks, the longest in the last decade. County positivity spiked to a higher level than other regional or national reporting entities. Following peak positivity, rates declined rapidly at both the local and regional level.

A total of 11 influenza outbreaks were recorded in Clark County long term care facilities throughout the 2018-2019 influenza season, 10 of which were caused by influenza A viruses. These were reported and responded to along with several other influenza outbreaks in schools and medical facilities around the county.



Contact Information

Alyssa Carlson, MPH
Epidemiologist
Clark County Public Health
Phone: 564-397-8020
alyssa.carlson@clark.wa.gov

Madison Riethman, MPH, CPH
Epidemiologist
Clark County Public Health
Phone: 564-397-8242
madison.riethman@clark.wa.gov

Monica Czaplá, MPH
Program Manager—Infectious Diseases
Clark County Public Health
Phone: 564-397-8002
monica.czaplá@clark.wa.gov