



# Influenza Season 2017 - 2018

Summary Report | April 2018

## Season Comparisons

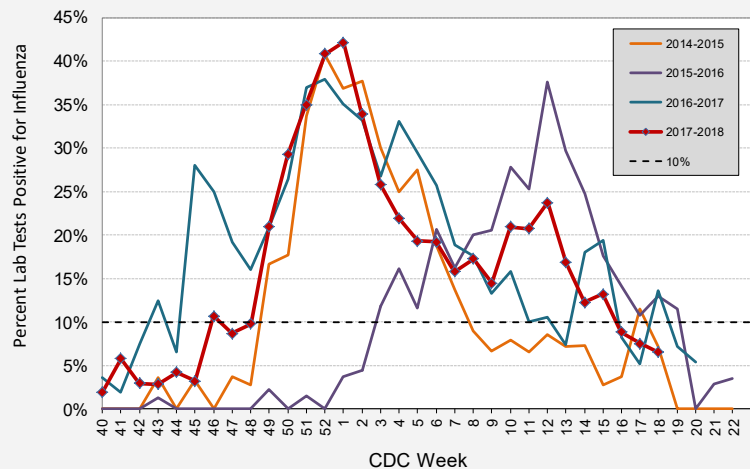
Season	Start Date	End Date	Length (weeks)	Peak Positivity	Flu Tests <sup>1</sup>	Flu Deaths <sup>2</sup>	LTCF Outbreaks
2014-2015	Nov. 30	Feb. 14	11	41%	2789	5	7
2015-2016	Jan. 17	May 14	17	38%	3168	8	5
2016-2017	Nov. 6	Apr. 29	25	38%	6567	26	20
2017-2018*	Dec. 3	Apr. 28	21	42%	7679	15	13

<sup>1</sup>Total number of flu tests conducted by reporting facilities in Clark County

<sup>2</sup>Number of influenza associated deaths in Clark County, reported to WA DOH

Clark County influenza activity for the 2017-2018 season remained elevated but on the decline through March, until the activity finally fell below 10% for good in April 2018. This season's start fell approximately one month earlier than in 2016-2017, but general trends and peak positivity were consistent in timing and duration with historical influenza seasons.

**Positivity Rate of Influenza Tests by Week from Reporting Laboratories in Clark County**



## Flu Season FAQs

### How effective was this year's influenza vaccine?

Preliminary results from the CDC's annual Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness study indicate that this year's vaccine was about 33% effective. These results will continue to develop in the coming weeks, until the final data are published in summer 2018.

### 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 H3 strains, particularly H3N2, were most common among positive tests.

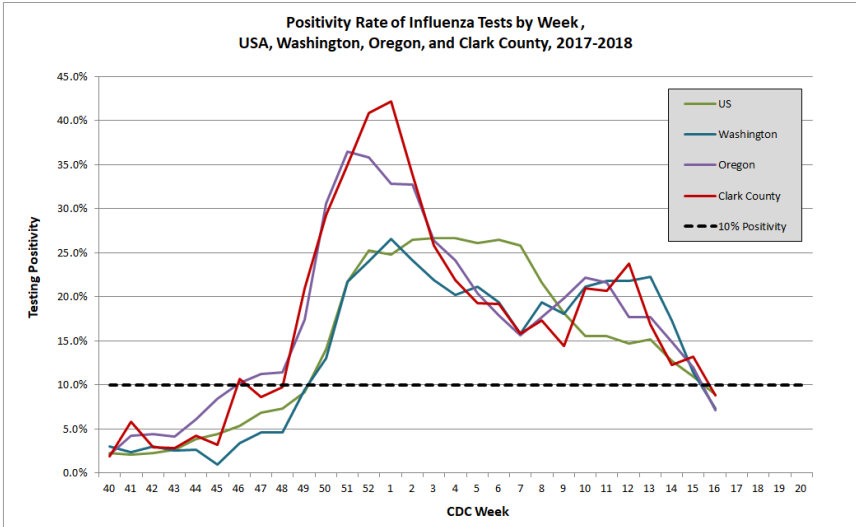
### How do we know when influenza season is over?

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.



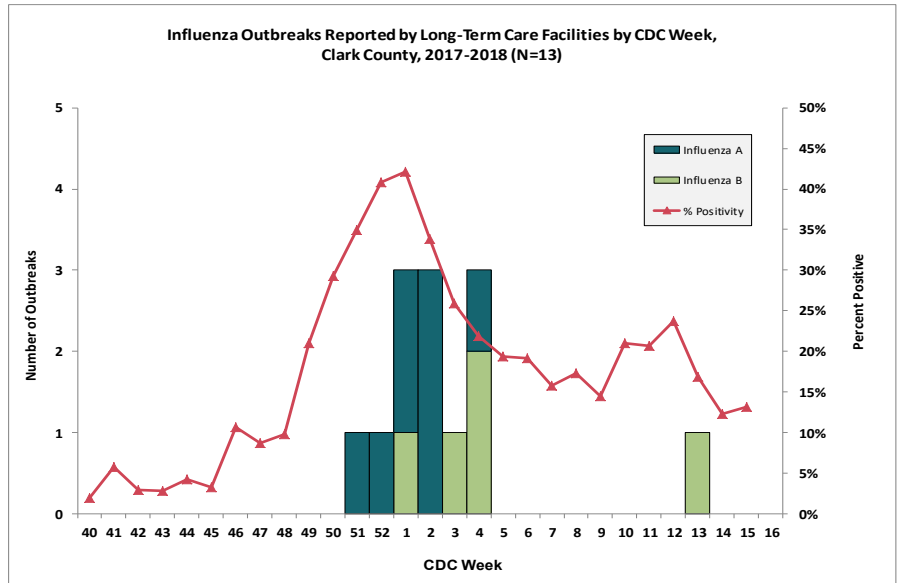
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Influenza activity in Clark County spiked to a higher positivity than other regional or national reporting entities; however, rise, peak, and decline patterns for the season as a were similar to Washington state, and even more closely followed those in Oregon. U.S. positivity, as reported by the CDC, was notably lower for most of the season, but a late season persistence brought national flu activity more closely aligned with Clark, Oregon, and Washington rates.

A total of 13 influenza outbreaks were recorded in Clark County long term care facilities throughout the 2017-2018 influenza season, 8 of which were caused by influenza A viruses. The highest volume of outbreaks was reported in January, during and just after peak influenza positivity in the region. These were recorded and responded to in addition to several other influenza outbreaks in schools and medical facilities around the county.



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