

# Influenza Surveillance Report

Division of Epidemiology - Disease Surveillance and Investigation  
District of Columbia Department of Health

## 2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 43 (October 21, 2018 – October 27, 2018)

(All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received)

### SUMMARY

- 1 new case of influenza was reported by hospitals
- 2 additional cases of influenza were reported for week 42
- Zero pediatric deaths were reported
- To date, 25 influenza cases have been reported for the 2018-2019 influenza season
- For the 2018-2019 influenza season, DC PHL has completed testing for 83 specimens
- Influenza activity continues to remain low in the District

### INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE FROM DC HOSPITALS & AMBULATORY CARE FACILITIES

District of Columbia (DC) hospitals report detailed information on cases of influenza on a regular basis. In accordance with CDC guidelines, influenza-associated deaths in cases <18 years of age and novel influenza A infections are notifiable diseases. In addition to this, the DC Department of Health (DC Health) requests that influenza hospitalizations be reported whenever possible.

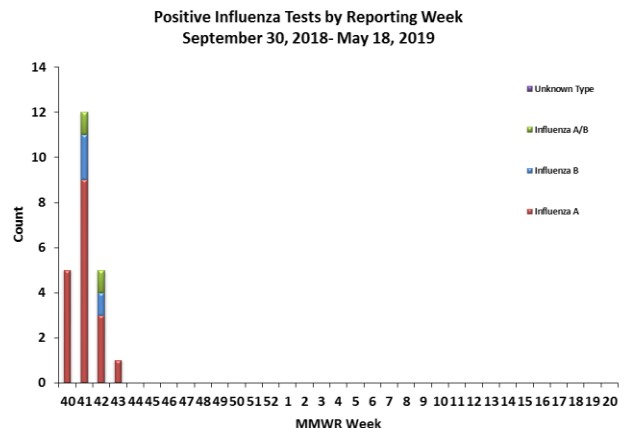
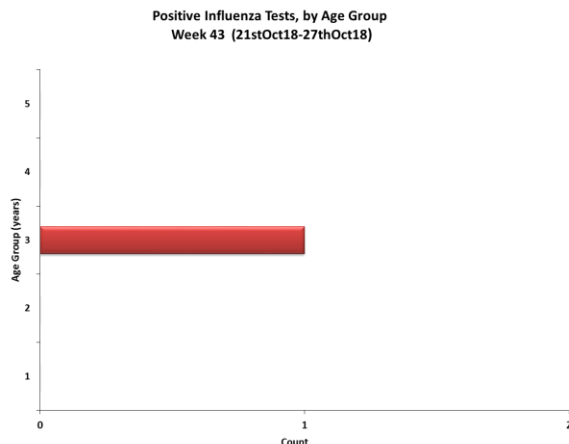
The table below summarizes weekly and cumulative cases of influenza for the 2018-2019 Season. Data are also presented by age group and by number of cases reported weekly. During week 43 (October 21st, 2018 – October 27th, 2018), there was 1 new case of influenza reported. A total of 405 tests were performed during week 43. To date, there are 25 positive influenza cases reported by all nine hospitals in DC.

### Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Type

	Week 43 (October 21, 2018- October 27, 2018)		Cumulative Positive Cases for Weeks 40–20 (September 30, 2018–May 18, 2019)	
<b>Influenza A</b>	1	(100.00 %)	20	(80.00%)
<b>Influenza B</b>	0	(0.00%)	3	(12.00%)
<b>Influenza A/B</b>	0	(0.00%)	2	(8.00%)
<b>Influenza (not typed)</b>	0	(0.00%)	0	(0.00%)
<b>Total</b>	1*	(100.00%)	25*	(100.00%)

\*Includes results from Rapid Diagnostic Testing, Viral Culture, RT-PCR, Serology, and Immunofluorescence.

\*\*Age groups are classified as 1(0-4 years), 2 (5-24 years), 3(25-64 years), 4 (>64 years) & 5 (age not specified)



## RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Rapid Diagnostic Tests are point-of-care screening tests used to detect influenza virus. While initially less accurate than PCR and viral culture, rapid diagnostics are more accurate as the influenza season progresses. During week 43, 163 out of a total of 405 tests were performed using rapid diagnostic testing in clinical laboratories. Of these, 1 (0.61%) was identified as positive using rapid diagnostics.

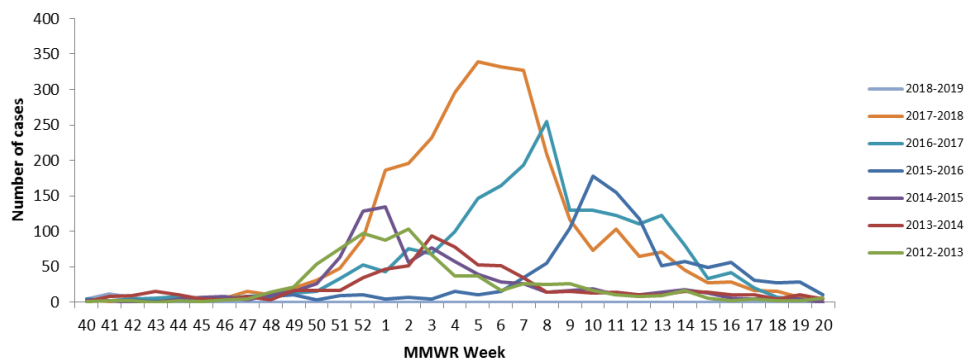
Week: 43 (October 21, 2018 – October 27, 2018)	
No. of specimens tested Rapid Diagnostics	163
No. of positive specimens (%)	1 (4.09%)
<b>Positive specimens by type/subtype</b>	
Influenza A	1 (100.00%)
Influenza B	0 (0.00%)
Influenza A/B	0 (0.00%)
Influenza – unknown type	0 (0.00%)

## WEEK 43 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SEASONS

For week 43, there was 1 new influenza case reported in the current season, 3 in the previous 2017-2018 season, 6 cases in the 2016-2017 season, 1 case in the 2015-2016 season, 0 in the 2014-2015 season, 15 in 2013-2014 and 0 in the 2012-2013 season.

Cumulatively, there are a total of 25 cases reported up to week 43 for the current season. For the previous seasons, 12 cases were reported during the 2017-2018 season, 18 during the 2016-2017 season, 10 in the 2015-2016 season, 4 in the 2014-2015 season, 33 in 2013-2014 season and 5 in the 2012-2013 season.

Number of Positive Cases as of Week 43 by year, 2012-2018



## INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE

Sentinel surveillance for ILI consists of five outpatient reporting sites for the District of Columbia. The sentinel surveillance sites report the total number of ILI cases encountered per week and the total number of patients seen at the clinic during that same week. For this system, ILI is defined as the existence of fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.

For week 43, sentinel providers reported 280 out of 15293 visits (1.83 %) that met the criteria for ILI.

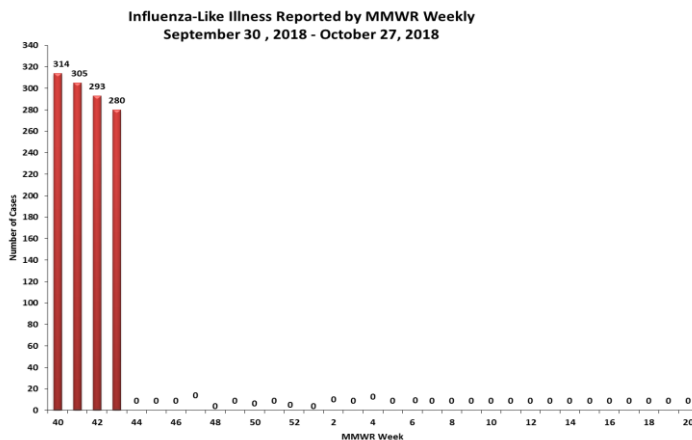
## Geographic Spread of Influenza for Washington, DC

Week of	Activity *
Oct 21- Oct 27	<i>Sporadic</i>

**\*No Activity** – overall clinical activity remains low and there are no lab confirmed Influenza cases;

**Sporadic** – isolated lab confirmed Influenza cases reported and ILI activity is not increased;

**Local** – increased ILI activity and recent lab confirmed Influenza cases. As the District of Columbia is not a state, this is the highest level of ILI activity it can report.



## INFLUENZA TESTING BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (DC PHL)

The DC PHL subtypes human isolates to monitor the circulating strains of Influenza. The isolates are submitted to the DC PHL by hospitals and commercial laboratories on a monthly basis. DC PHL has completed testing for 83 specimens submitted through October 30, 2018.

**DC PHL Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Subtype\***

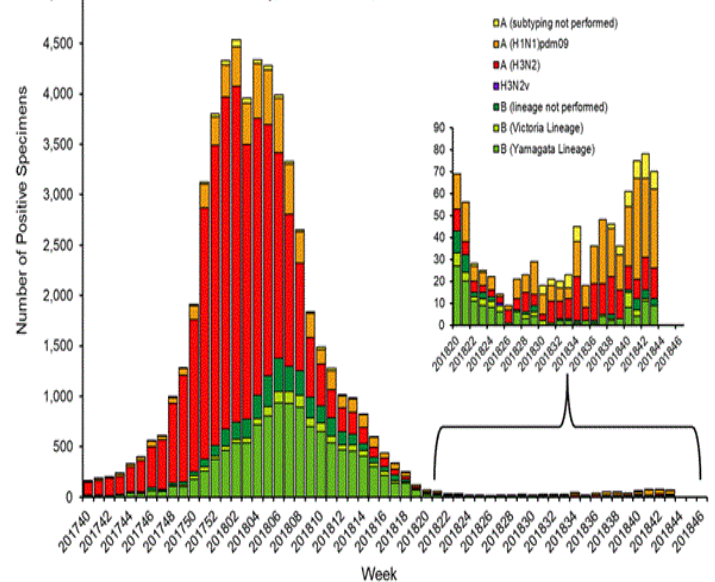
DC PHL Influenza Testing	Oct 23,2018 – Oct 30 ,2018	Sep 30, 2018 -May 18, 2019
<b>Number of specimens tested</b>	17	83
<b>Number of positive specimens</b>	1	1
<b>Influenza A</b>	1(100.00%)	1 (100.00%)
<b>A(H1N1)pdm09</b>	0	0
<b>H3N2</b>	1	1
<b>Influenza B</b>	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
<b>Yamagata lineage</b>	0	0
<b>Victoria lineage</b>	0	0

\*Includes specimens submitted through October 30, 2018

### NATIONAL INFLUENZA ASSESSMENT

Influenza activity continues to remain low in the United States, although small increases in activity were reported. Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09, Influenza A (H3N2), and influenza B viruses continue to co-circulate, with influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 viruses reported most commonly by public health laboratories during the most recent three weeks. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold. A total of three influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 43. One occurred during the 2018-2019 season and two occurred during the 2017-2018 season. During week 43, 587 specimens were tested by public health laboratories, of which 70 were positive. Of the 70 respiratory specimens that tested positive during week 43, 58 (82.9%) were Influenza A and 12 (17.1%) were Influenza B. Of the Influenza A samples, 36 (72.0%) were 2009 H1N1, 14 (28.0%) were H3N2, and 8 were un-typed.

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, October 1, 2017 – October 27, 2018



Get Vaccinated!

To find an Influenza vaccine provider, visit the District of Columbia Immunization Resource Center at <https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/immunization>