

Influenza Surveillance Report

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

2018-2019 Influenza Season Week 46 (November 11, 2018 – November 17, 2018)

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

SUMMARY

- 9 new cases of influenza were reported by hospitals
- Zero pediatric deaths were reported
- To date, 49 influenza cases have been reported for the 2018-2019 influenza season
- DC Public Health Laboratory did not report any specimens tested for week 46
- 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.

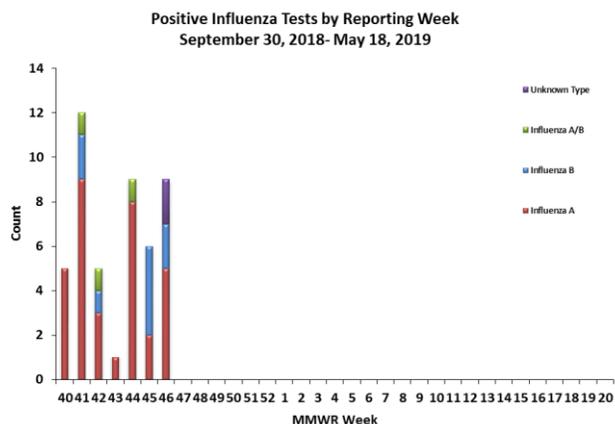
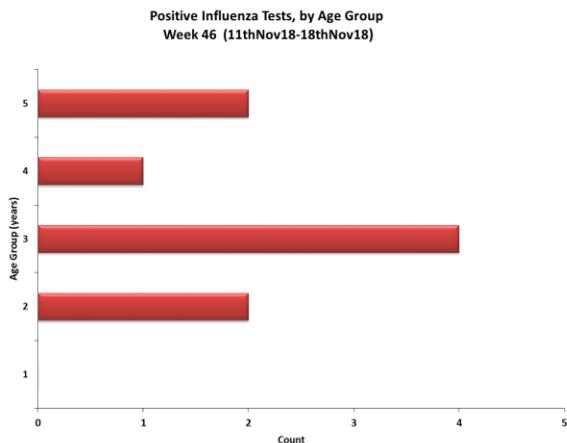
The table below summarizes weekly and cumulative cases of influenza for the 2018-2019 Season. Data are also presented by age group and by number of cases reported weekly. During week 46 (November 11th, 2018 –November 17th, 2018), there were 9 new cases of influenza reported. A total of 410 tests were performed during week 46. To date, there are 49 positive influenza cases reported by all nine hospitals in DC.

Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Type

	Week 46 (Nov 11, 2018- Nov 17,2018)		Cumulative Positive Cases for Weeks 40–20 (September 30, 2018–May 18, 2019)	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Influenza A	5	(55.56 %)	35	(71.42%)
Influenza B	2	(22.22%)	9	(18.37%)
Influenza A/B	0	(0.00%)	3	(6.12%)
Influenza (not typed)	2	(22.22%)	2	(4.09%)
Total	9*	(100.00%)	49*	(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

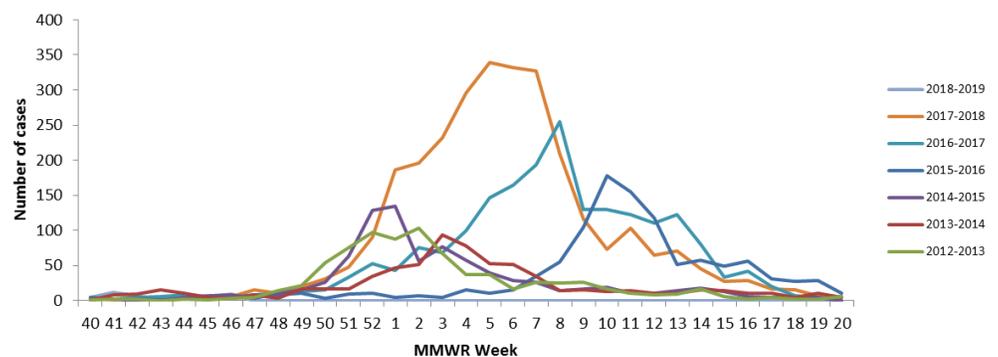
Rapid Diagnostic Tests are point-of-care screening tests used to detect influenza virus. While initially less accurate than PCR and viral culture, rapid diagnostics are more accurate as the influenza season progresses. During week 46, 148 out of a total of 410 tests were performed using rapid diagnostic testing in clinical laboratories. Of these, 8 (5.4%) were identified as positive using rapid diagnostics.

Week: 46 (November 11, 2018 – November 17, 2018)	
No. of specimens tested Rapid Diagnostics	148
No. of positive specimens (%)	8 (5.4%)
Positive specimens by type/subtype	
Influenza A	4 (50.00%)
Influenza B	2 (25.00%)
Influenza A/B	0 (0.00%)
Influenza – unknown type	2 (25.00%)

WEEK 46 COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS SEASONS

For week 46, there were 9 new influenza cases reported in the current season, 6 in the previous 2017-2018 season, 6 cases in the 2016-2017 season, 3 cases in the 2015-2016 season, 8 in the 2014-2015 season, 3 in 2013-2014 and 3 in the 2012-2013 season.

Number of Positive Cases as of Week 46 by year, 2012-2018



Cumulatively, there are a total of 49 cases reported up to week 46 for the current season. For the previous seasons, 27 cases were reported during the 2017-2018 season, 36 during the 2016-2017 season, 19 in the 2015-2016 season, 23 in the 2014-2015 season, 50 in 2013-2014 season and 11 in the 2012-2013 season.

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 46, sentinel providers reported 338 out of 13255 visits (2.55 %) that met the criteria for ILI.

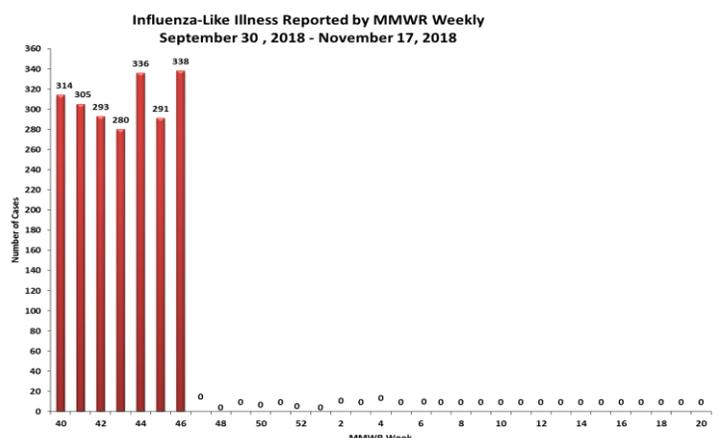
Geographic Spread of Influenza for Washington, DC

Week of	Activity *
Nov 11- Nov 17	<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 regular basis. DC PHL did not report any specimens tested for week 46.

DC PHL Surveillance of Influenza Cases Reported By Influenza Subtype*

DC PHL Influenza Testing	Nov 11, 2018 – Nov 17, 2018	Sep 30, 2018 -May 18, 2019
Number of specimens tested	0	149
Number of positive specimens	0	2
Influenza A	0(0.0%)	2 (100.0%)
A(H1N1)pdm09	0	1
H3N2	0	1
Influenza B	0 (0.00%)	0 (0.00%)
Yamagata lineage	0	0
Victoria lineage	0	0

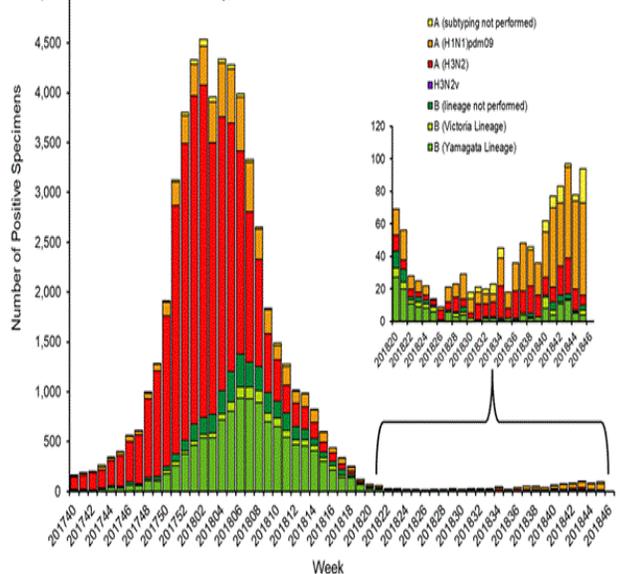
*Includes specimens submitted through November 6, 2018

**Due to Thanksgiving holiday, this section reflects last week's numbers and will be updated in the week 47 report

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 since September 30, 2018. The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 45. A total of two influenza-associated pediatric deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season. During week 45, 620 specimens were tested by public health laboratories, of which 94 were positive. Of the 94 respiratory specimens that tested positive during week 45, 84 (89.4%) were Influenza A and 10 (10.6%) were Influenza B. Of the Influenza A samples, 57 (90.5%) were 2009 H1N1, 6 (9.5%) were H3N2, and 21 were un-typed.

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by U.S. Public Health Laboratories, National Summary, October 1, 2017 – November 10, 2018



Get Vaccinated!

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



For additional information about Influenza and Influenza activity in the United States, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>. Questions about Influenza in the District of Columbia or this report should be directed to the Division of Epidemiology - Disease Surveillance and Investigation at (202) 442-8141 or email flu.epi@dc.gov