



# INFLUENZA WATCH

Week 43  
Ending 10/28/2017

The purpose of the weekly *Influenza Watch* is to summarize current influenza surveillance in San Diego County. **Please note that reported weekly data are preliminary and may change due to delayed submissions and additional laboratory results.**

**Report Contents**

Page 1: Overview & Indicators  
Page 2: Virus Characteristics  
Pages 3-7: Trend graphs  
Page 7: Reporting Information

Current  
Week**Current Week 43 (ending 10/28/2017)**

- 31 new influenza detections reported: *Expected level*
- 1% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: *Expected level*
- 1 new influenza-related death reported this week
- 6% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: *Expected level*

Current  
Season Summary**316**

Total Cases

**2**

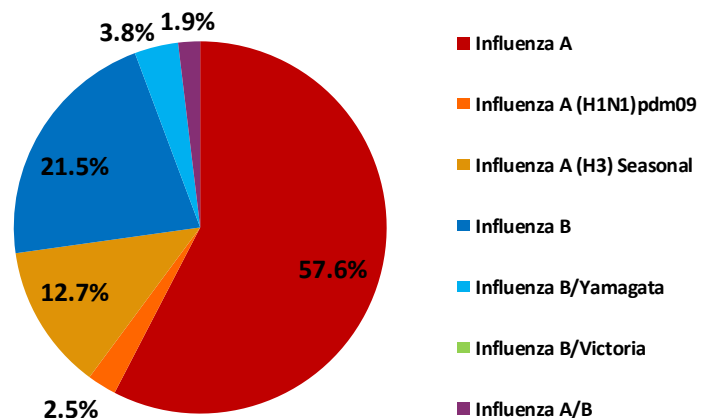
ICU Cases

**2**

Deaths

**2**

Outbreaks

**Virus Characteristics****Table 1. Influenza Surveillance Indicators**

Indicator	FY 2017-18*			FY 2016-17		Prior 3-Year Average**	
	Week 43	Week 42	FYTD#	Week 43	FYTD#	Week 43	FYTD#
All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)	31	27	316	14	103	9	84
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI	1%	1%		3%		2%	
Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza	6%	6%		6%		5%	
Number of influenza-related deaths reported^	1	0	2	0	1	0	<1

\* FYTD=Fiscal Year To Date (FY is July 1- June 30, Weeks 27-26). Total deaths reported in prior years: 87 in 2016-17, 68 in 2015-16, and 97 in 2014-15.

\* Previous weeks case counts or percentages may change due to delayed processing or reporting.

\*\* Includes FYs 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17.

^ Current FY deaths are shown by week of report; by week of death for prior FYs.

**Antivirals infrequently prescribed to high-risk flu patients**

A study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published on October 23, 2017 reveals that antiviral drugs are prescribed to only 15% of outpatients who have acute respiratory infections (ARIs) and a high risk for influenza.

The investigators looked at antiviral prescription and clinical data for high-risk outpatients, aged 6 months and older, who had an ARI and were enrolled in the US Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Network, during the 2011-12 to 2015-16 flu seasons. They found that only 718 of 4,861 high-risk patients (15%) who presented within 2 days of symptom onset—when antivirals are shown to be most effective—were prescribed the drugs. In addition, only 40% of high-risk outpatients who had influenza sought medical care within 2 days of first symptoms.

The study showed that earlier presentation to a clinic was associated with fourfold-higher odds of receiving antiviral medication. It also found that a fourth of high-risk outpatients with influenza diagnosis had no fever.

The researchers concluded, "Influenza antiviral medications were infrequently prescribed for high-risk outpatients with ARI who would benefit most from treatment. Efforts to increase appropriate antiviral prescribing are needed to reduce influenza-associated complications."

The article from Clinical Infectious Diseases may be found here: [Influenza Antiviral Prescribing for Outpatients with an Acute Respiratory Illness and at High Risk for Influenza-Associated Complications during Five Influenza Seasons—United States, 2011–2016.](#)

Current CDC recommendations for the use of antivirals in the treatment of influenza may be found here: [Influenza Antiviral Medications: Summary for Clinicians.](#)

**Table 2. Influenza Detections Reported, FY 2017-18\***

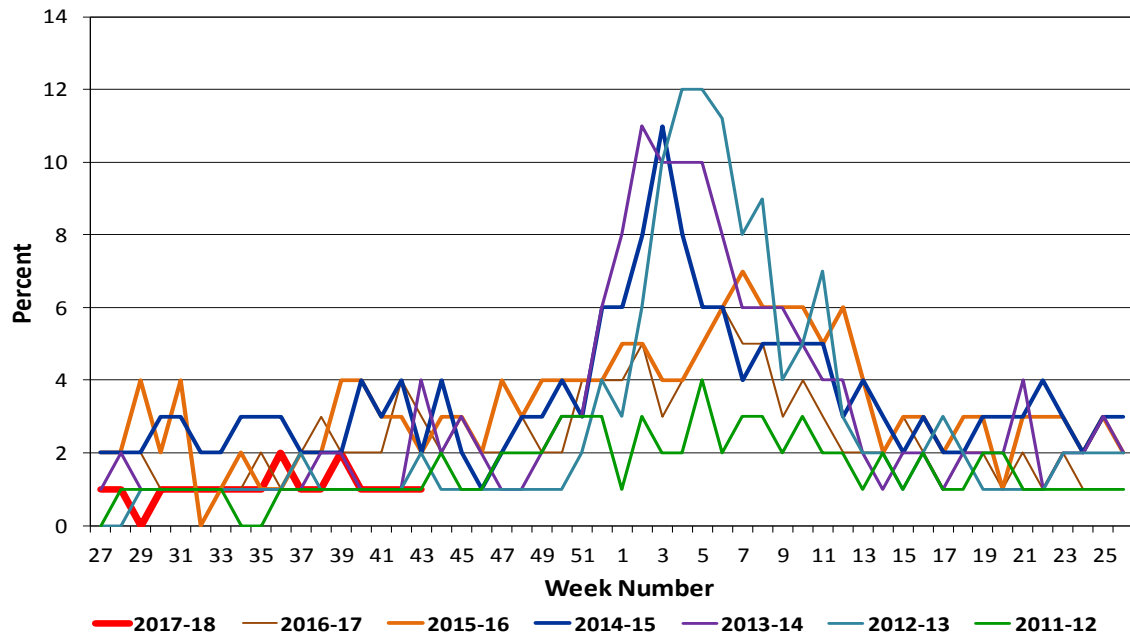
Positive Test Type/Subtype	Week 43	Total FY-To-Date
Influenza A†	16	182
Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic 2009	0	8
Influenza A (H3) Seasonal	5	40
Influenza B†	6	68
Influenza B/Victoria	0	0
Influenza B/Yamagata	0	12
Influenza A/B†	4	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>316</b>

\* FY is July 1- June 30.

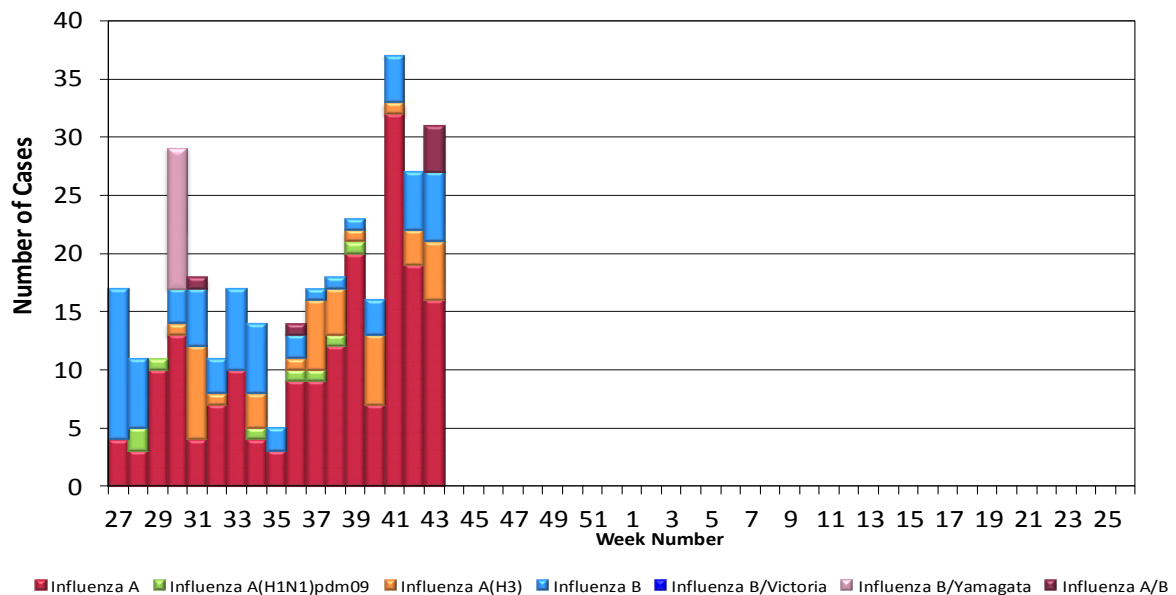
† No further characterization performed, or results were not yet available at time of publication.

Note: Totals may change due to further laboratory findings.

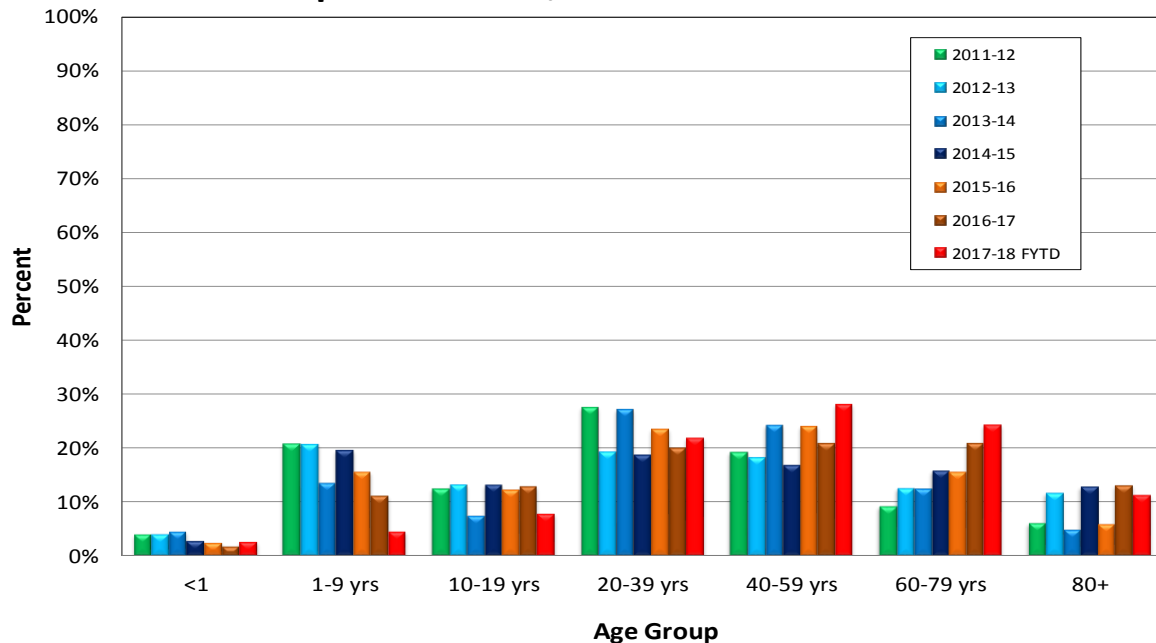
**Figure 1. Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY**



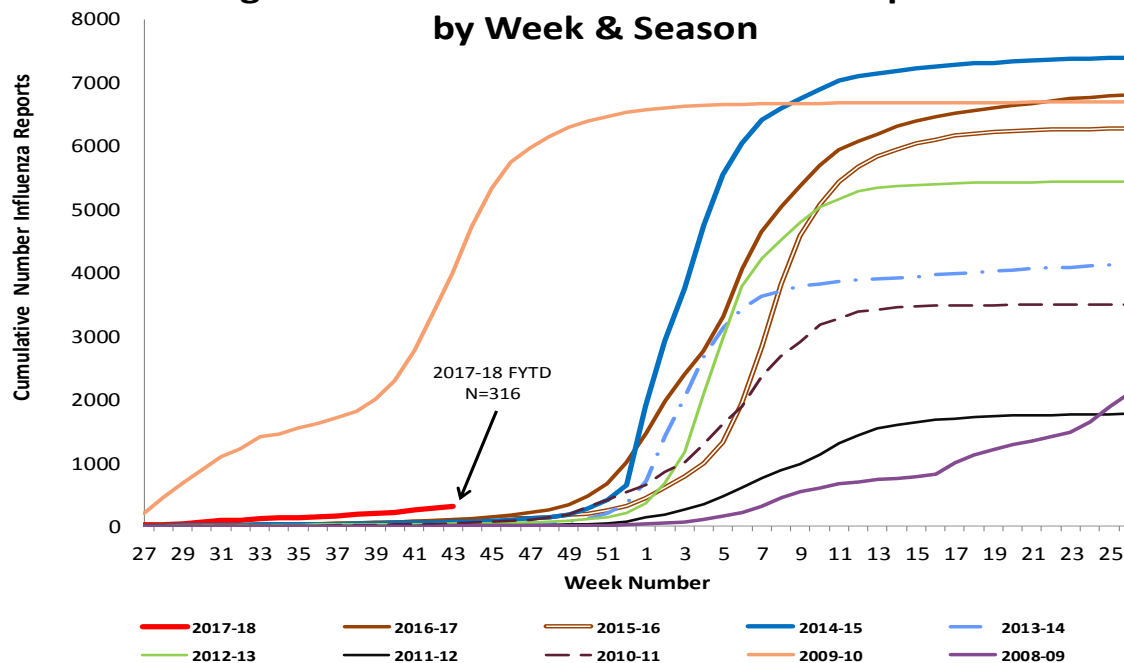
**Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2017-18 FYTD (N=316)**



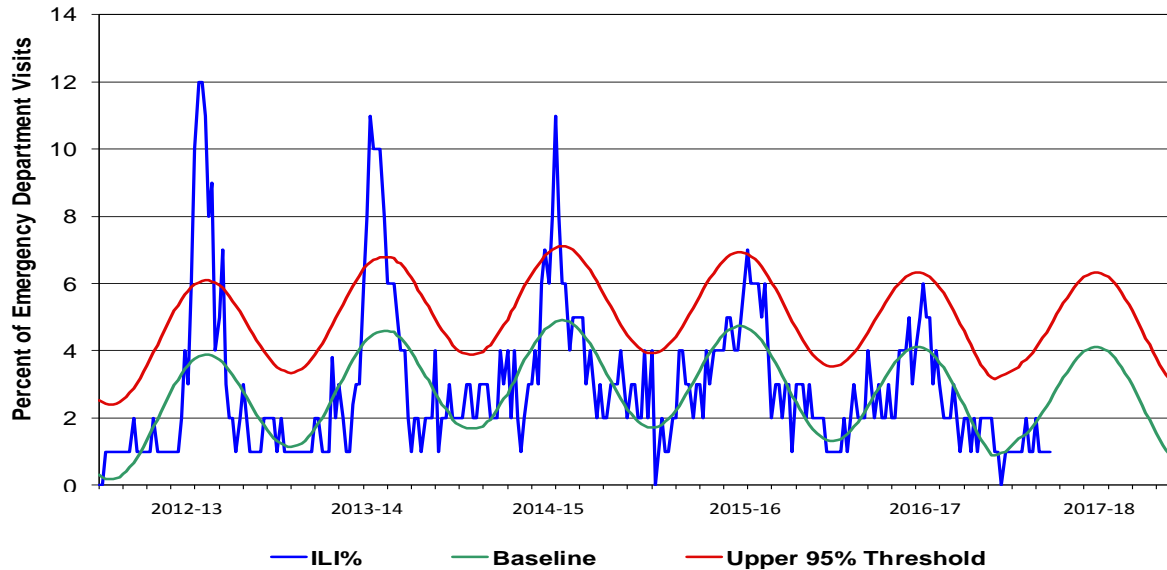
**Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2011-12 to 2017-18 FYTD**



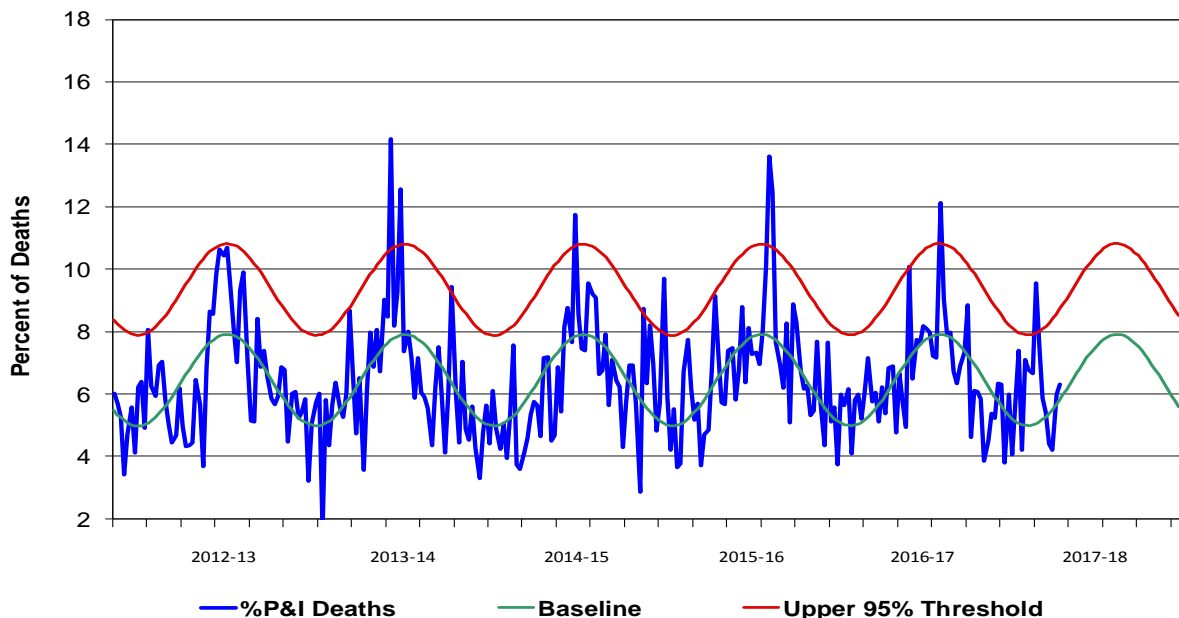
**Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Week & Season**



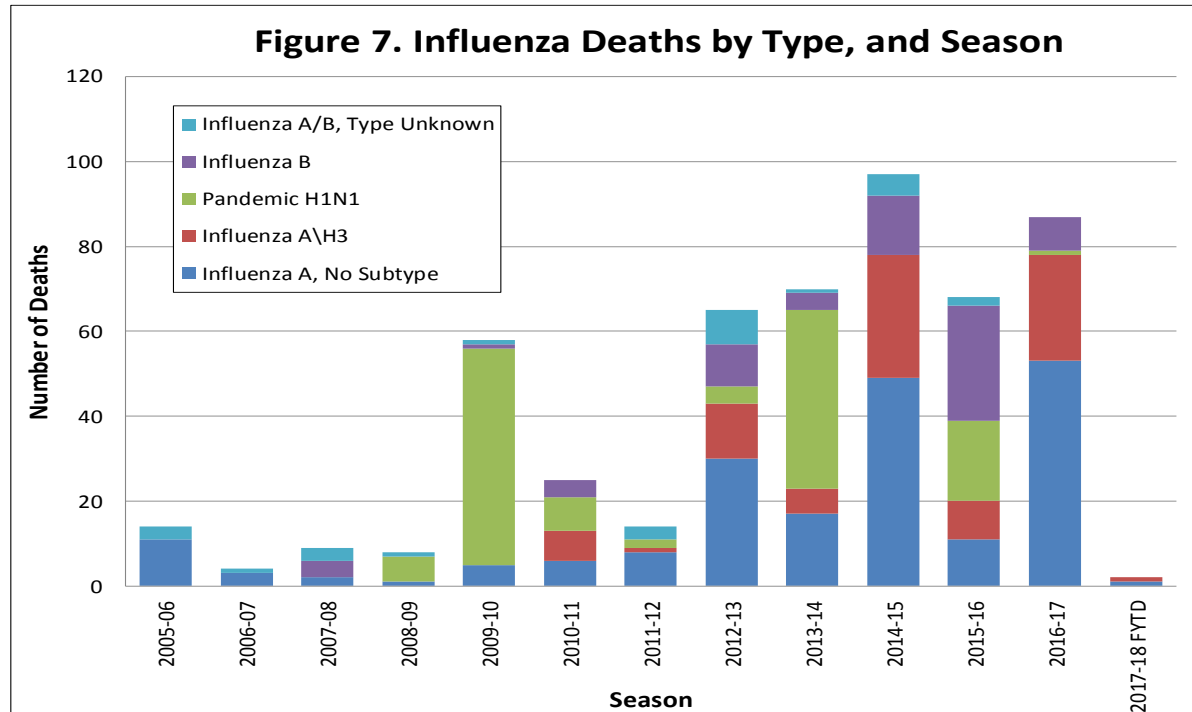
**Figure 5. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY Compared to 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)**



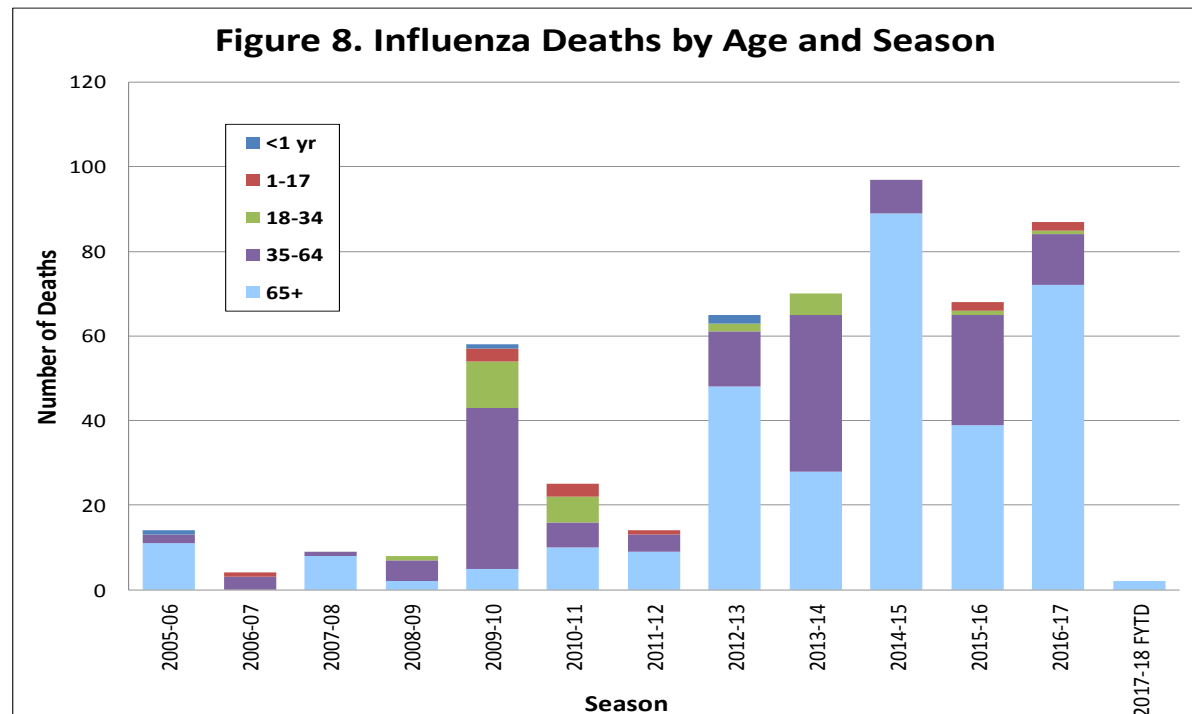
**Figure 6. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)**



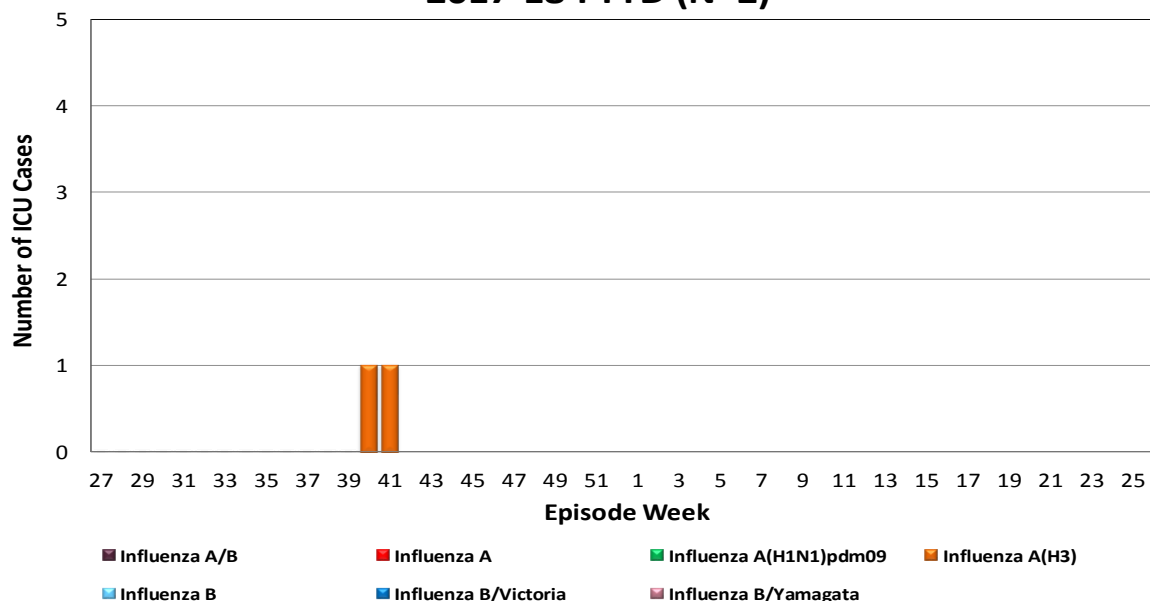
**Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type, and Season**



**Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season**



**Figure 9. Number of Influenza Cases Requiring ICU Care by Episode Week and Type of Influenza, 2017-18 FYTD (N=2)**



Episode week is the week of symptom onset, or earliest available date in which the case is identified.

## Influenza Reporting in San Diego County

Local providers are encouraged to report laboratory positive influenza detections to the County Epidemiology Program by **FAX (858) 715-6458**. Please fax a [Case Report](#) Form and/or a printed laboratory result, and indicate if the patient was admitted to ICU or died, and/or is a resident of a congregate living facility.

For questions regarding sending specimens to Public Health Laboratory (PHL), call (619) 692-8500. Click here for the updated PHL [PCR Test Request Form](#). Contact the Epidemiology Program with any questions at **(619) 692-8499** or by email to: [EpiDiv.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:EpiDiv.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov).

### Resources

San Diego County Influenza Surveillance Weekly [Slide Deck](#) - presentation version of this report

County of San Diego Immunization Program [www.sdiz.org](http://www.sdiz.org)

California Department of Public Health [Influenza](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Influenza Surveillance [Weekly Report](#)