



# INFLUENZA WATCH

Week 8  
Ending 2/24/2018

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.**

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Current  
Week**Current Week 8 (ending 2/24/2018)**

- 501 new influenza detections reported: *Elevated level*
- 3% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: *Expected level*
- 14 new influenza-related deaths reported this week
- 10 new ICU cases reported this week
- 8% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: *Expected level*

Current  
Season Summary**17,375**

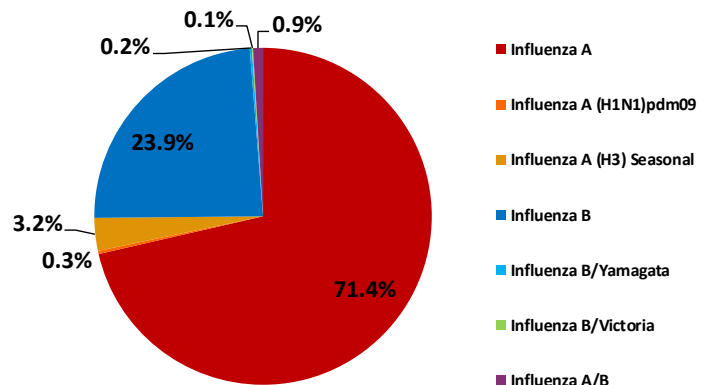
Total Cases

**267**

ICU Cases

**283**Deaths<sup>†</sup>**112**

Outbreaks\*

**Virus Characteristics**

<sup>†</sup> Including 36 deaths less than 65 years of age, reportable to CDPH.

\* At least one case of laboratory-confirmed influenza in a setting experiencing ≥2 cases of influenza like illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period.

**Table 1. Influenza Surveillance Indicators**

Indicator	FY 2017-18*			FY 2016-17		Prior 3-Year Average**	
	Week 8	Week 7	FYTD <sup>#</sup>	Week 8	FYTD <sup>#</sup>	Week 8	FYTD <sup>#</sup>
All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)	501	767	17,375	338	4,124	522	4,609
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI	3%	5%		5%		5%	
Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza	8%	10%		12%		9%	
Number of influenza-related deaths reported <sup>^</sup>	14	18	283	8	57	6	46

<sup>#</sup> 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.

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

# Influenza Watch

## Influenza Deaths in Children

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [study](#) published this month shows just how vulnerable U.S. children are to influenza (flu) each year. The study analyzed 675 reported flu-related deaths in children younger than 18 over the course of six flu seasons from October 2010 through September 2016. Results showed that half of flu-related deaths occurred in otherwise healthy children, 27% of whom had not received a seasonal flu vaccination.

The new report is an update to a [2013 CDC study](#) that showed similar findings regarding overall flu risk in children. One notable difference, however, was the increase in flu-related deaths among healthy children. In the prior study, fewer than 40% of children who died had no underlying high-risk medical conditions. The updated study also showed antiviral treatment was only given in about half of all pediatric flu deaths. CDC [recommends](#) that flu antiviral drugs be started as soon as possible when young children and children with high-risk conditions are suspected of having the flu.

During 2010-2016, young children continued to be at the greatest risk for flu-associated pediatric deaths. Vaccination coverage was low (31%) among the children who died. This supports the CDC [recommendation](#) that all children 6 months of age and older should receive an annual flu vaccination. Pregnant women and caregivers of infants should also get vaccinated to help protect them.

The CDC study stressed how quickly the flu can become life-threatening for children. Nearly two-thirds of children died within seven days of developing symptoms. Over one-third died at home or in the emergency department prior to hospital admission. Children without other medical conditions that would predispose them to serious flu complications were more likely to die before hospital admission. This is a reminder that parents should seek prompt medical care for young children and children at high risk for flu complications with flu symptoms.

The study can be found in *Pediatrics* here: [Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths in the United States, 2010–2016](#). An accompanying commentary in the journal can be found here: [What Have We Learned About Influenza Deaths in Children and How Can We Do Better?](#)

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

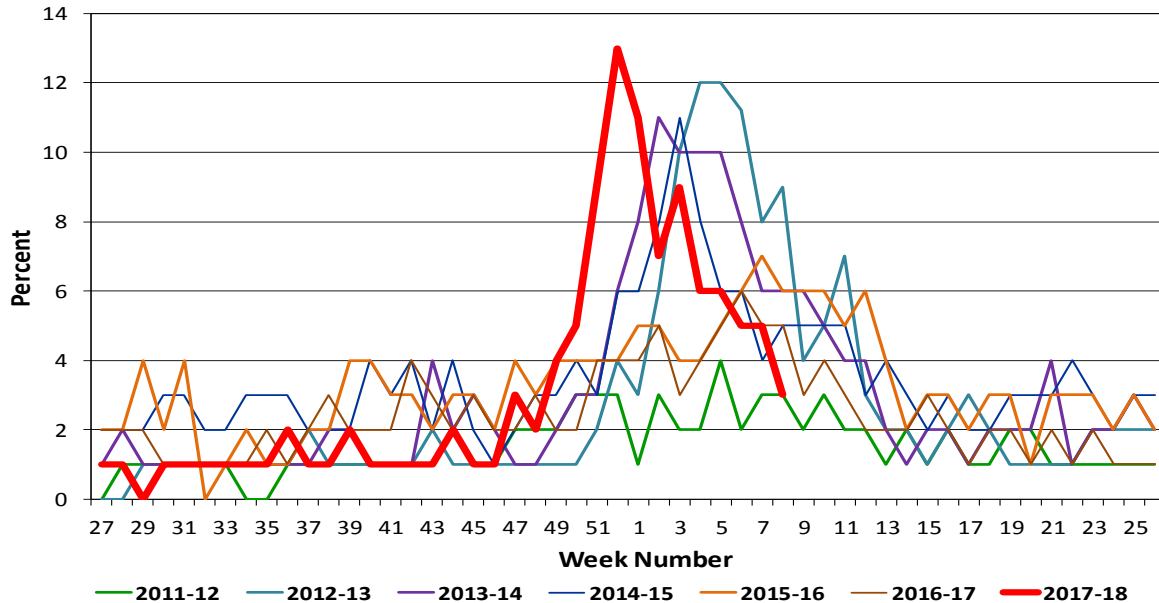
Positive Test Type/Subtype	Week 8	Total FY-To-Date
Influenza A†	156	12,406
Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic 2009	0	52
Influenza A (H3) Seasonal	15	548
Influenza B†	326	4,150
Influenza B/Victoria	0	18
Influenza B/Yamagata	2	36
Influenza A/B†	2	165
<b>Total</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>17,375</b>

\* FY is July 1- June 30.

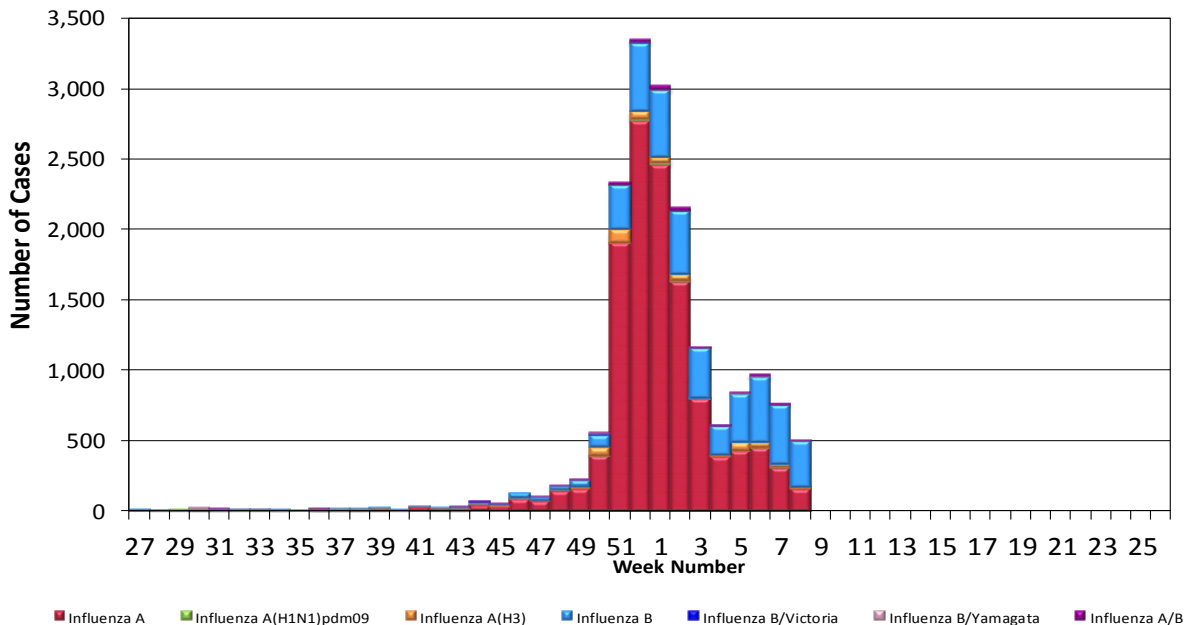
† No further characterization performed, or results were not yet available at time of publication.

Note: Totals may change due to further laboratory findings.

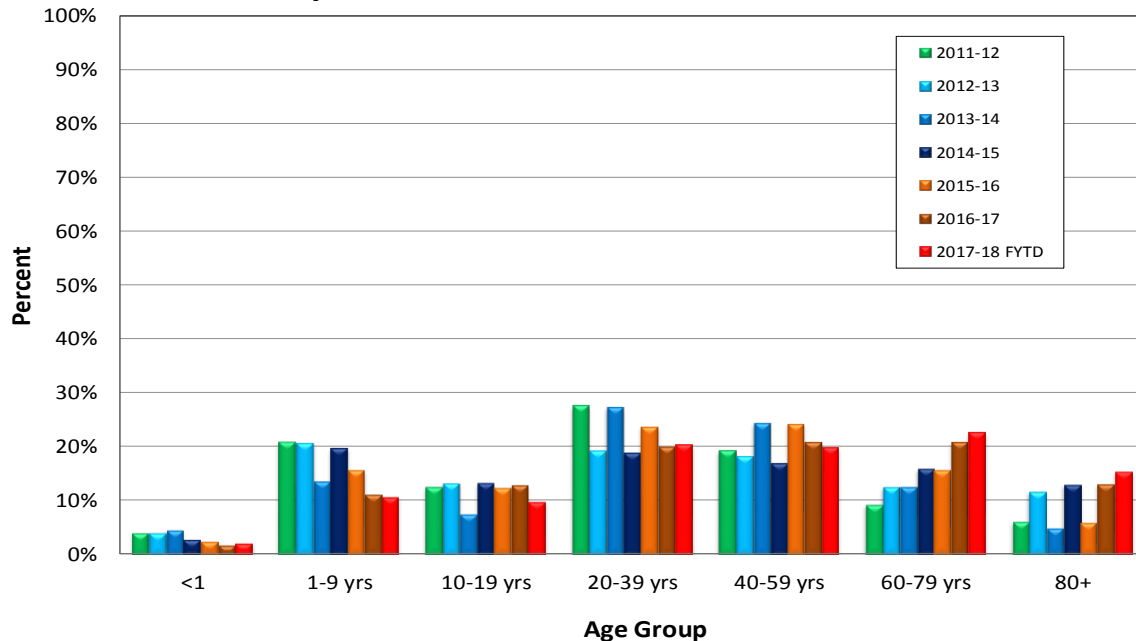
**Figure 1. Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY**



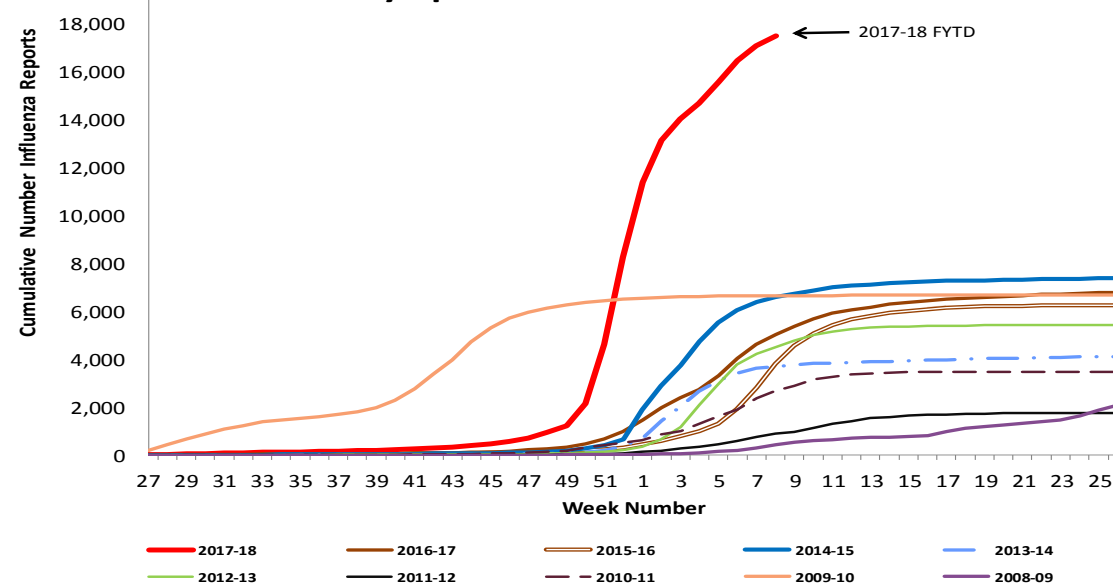
**Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2017-18 FYTD (N=17,375)**



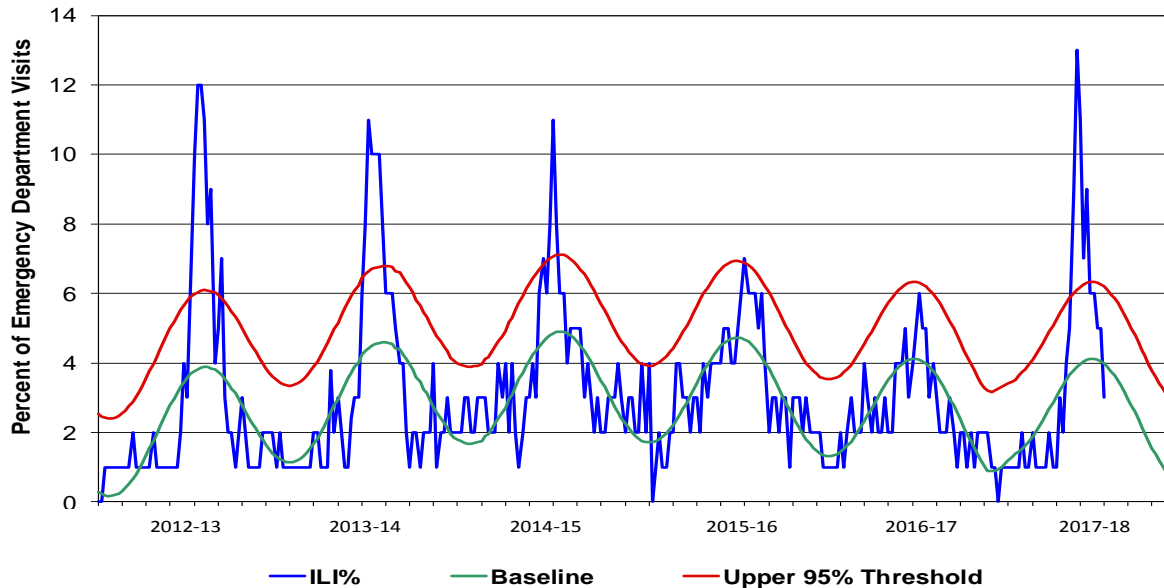
**Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2011-12 to 2017-18 FYTD**



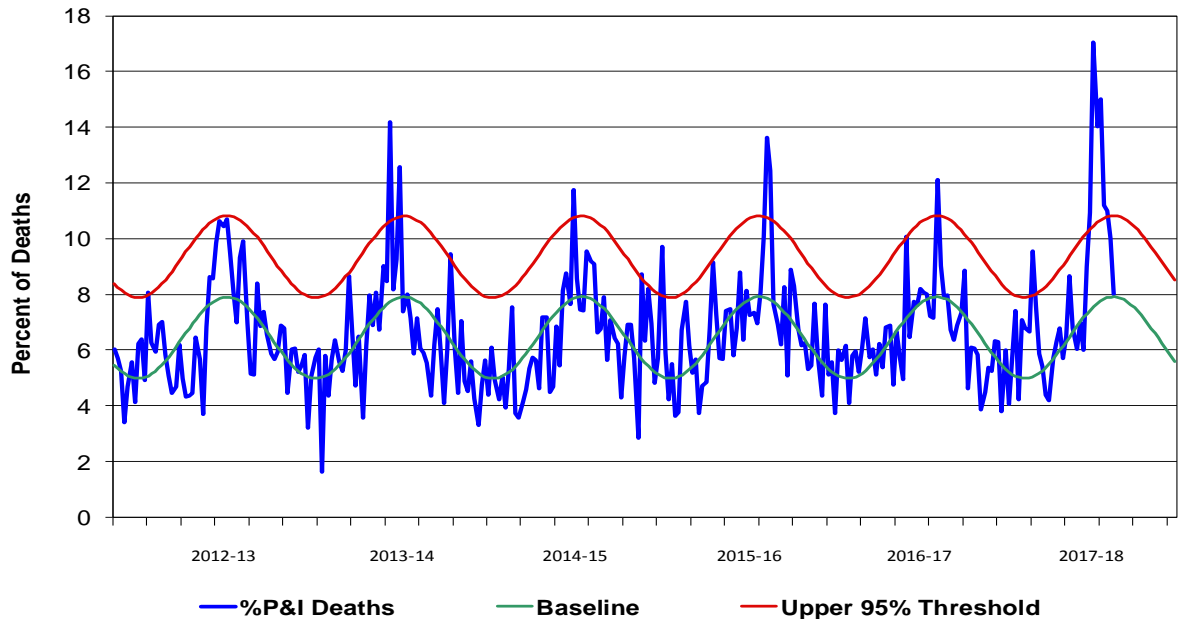
**Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Episode Week & Season**



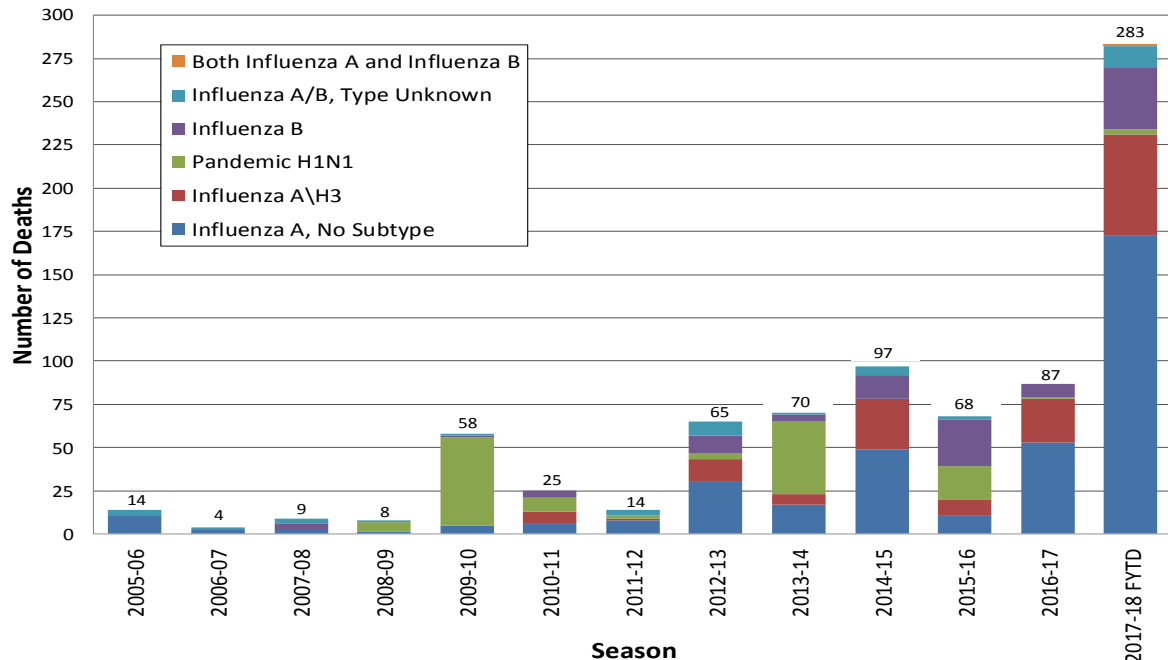
**Figure 5. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY Compared to 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)**



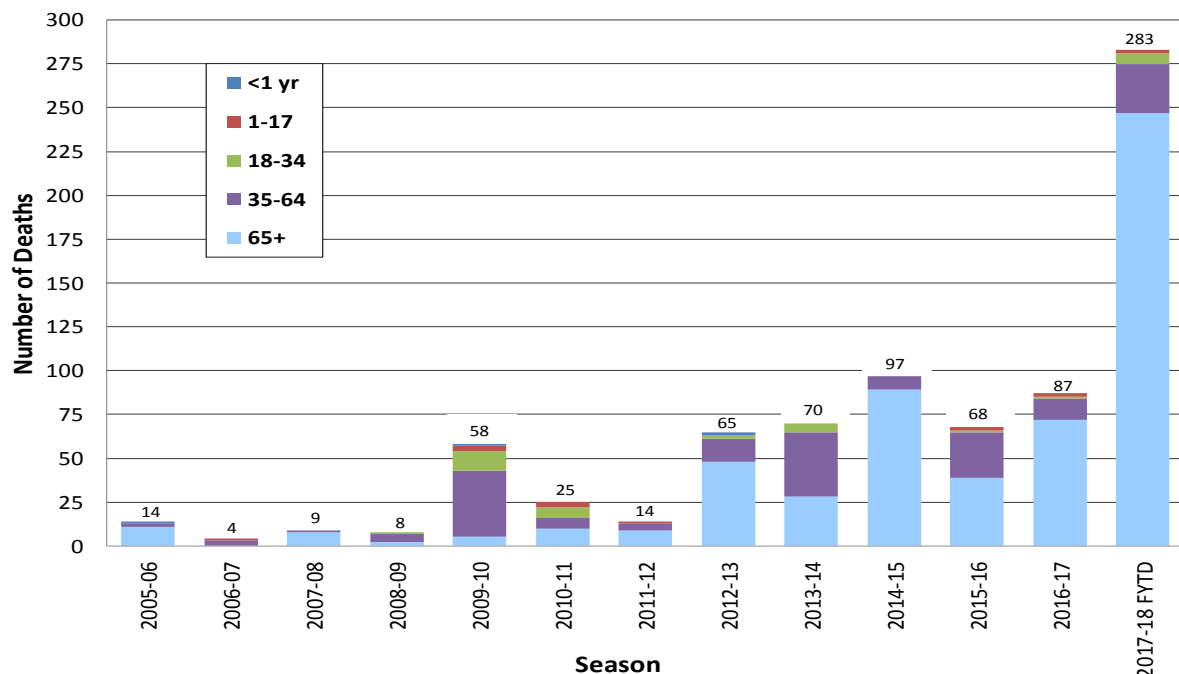
**Figure 6. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)**



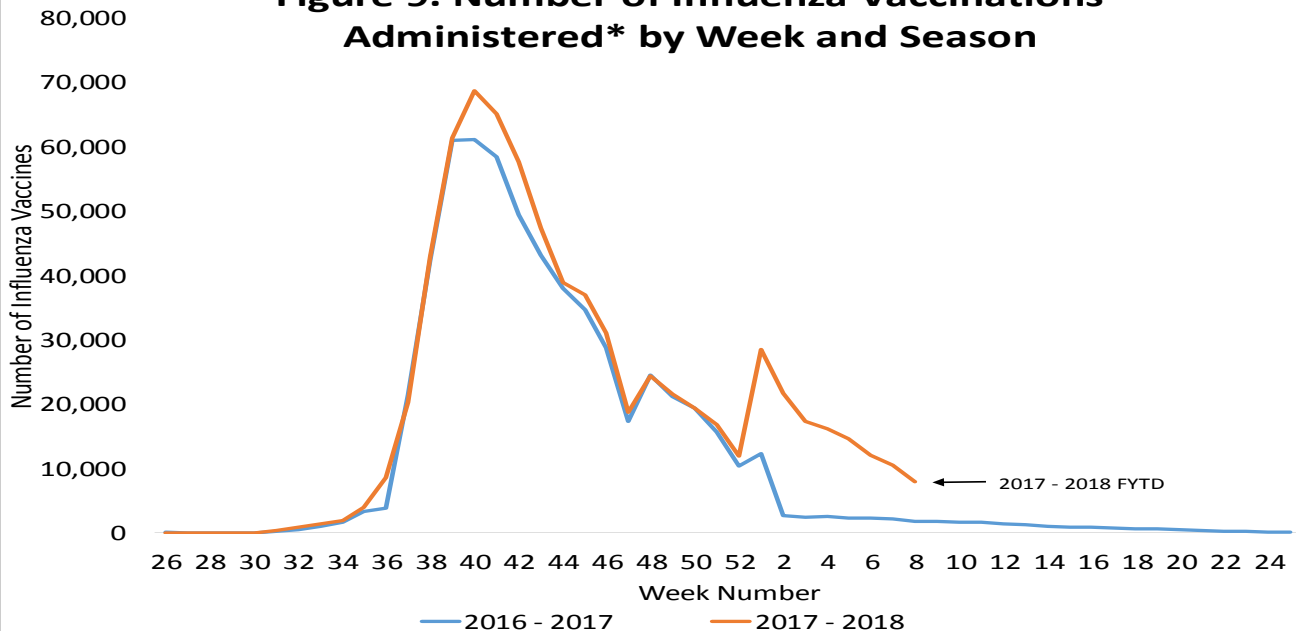
**Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type and Season**



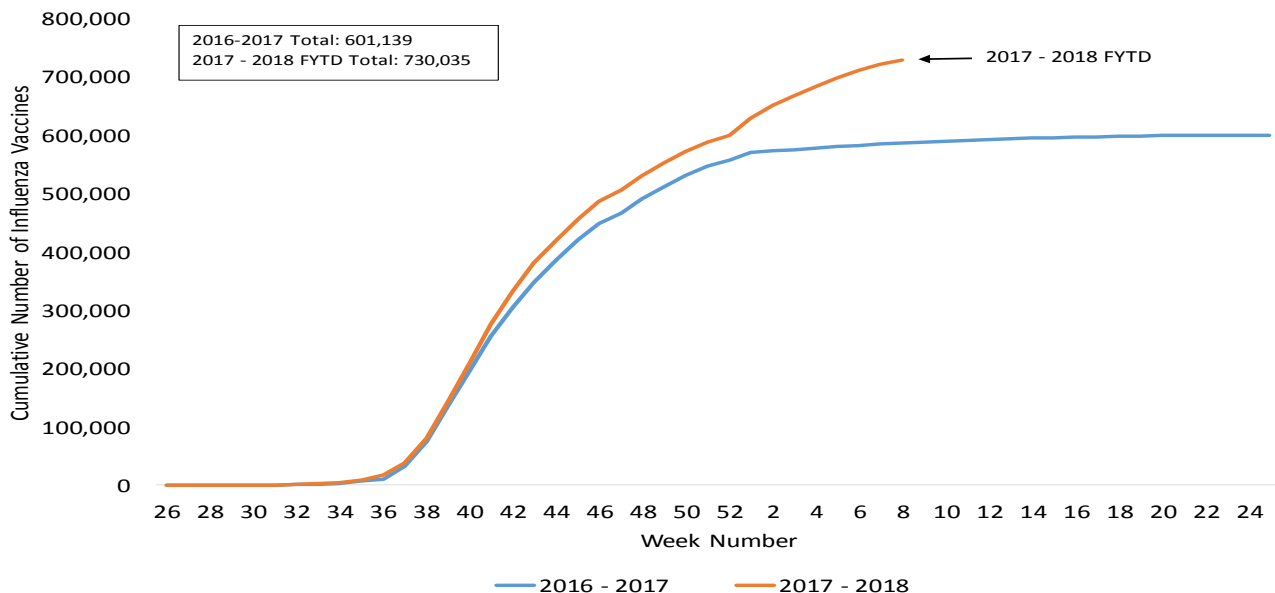
**Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season**



**Figure 9. Number of Influenza Vaccinations Administered\* by Week and Season**



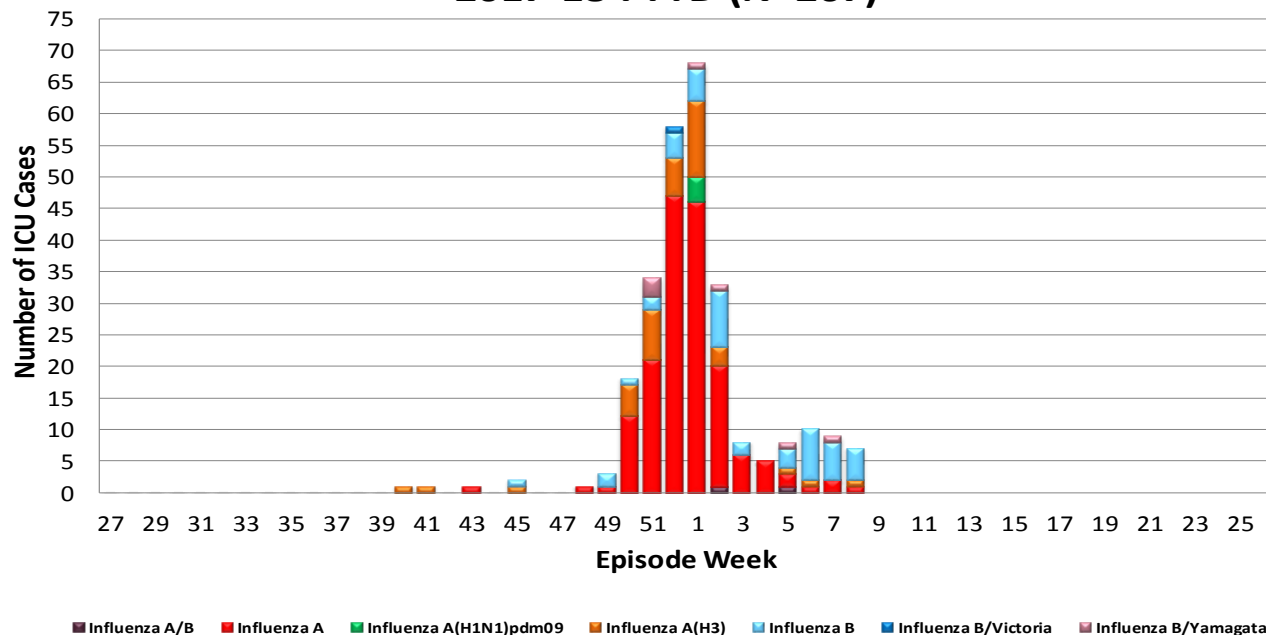
**Figure 10. Cumulative Number of Influenza Vaccinations Administered\* by Week and Season**



\* Influenza vaccinations administered and entered into the San Diego Immunization Registry ([SDIR](#))

# Influenza Watch

**Figure 11. Number of Influenza Cases Requiring ICU Care by Episode Week and Type of Influenza, 2017-18 FYTD (N=267)**



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](#)