



INFLUENZA WATCH

Week 50
Ending 12/16/2017

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.**

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Current
Week

Current Week 50 (ending 12/16/2017)

- 563 new influenza detections reported: *Elevated level*
- 5% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: *Expected level*
- 1 new influenza-related death reported this week
- 10 new ICU cases reported this week
- 7% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: *Expected level*

Current
Season Summary

1,646

Total Cases

17

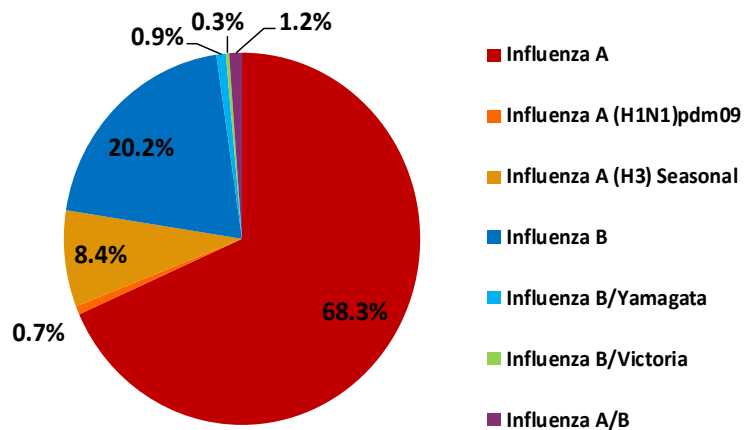
ICU Cases

5

Deaths

13

Outbreaks*

Virus Characteristics

* 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 50	Week 49	FYTD [#]	Week 50	FYTD [#]	Week 50	FYTD [#]
All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)	563	227	1,646	147	451	83	302
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI	5%	4%		2%		3%	
Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza	7%	6%		5%		7%	
Number of influenza-related deaths reported [^]	1	0	5	1	4	1	2

[#] 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.

National Early-Season Flu Vaccination Coverage

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [recently released](#) preliminary information about influenza (flu) vaccination in the United States. As of early November 2017, CDC indicates that coverage is below the recommended level, but similar overall to the same time last flu season. Key findings include:

- Only approximately two of every five children and adults had received a flu vaccination:
 - 38.6% of all persons 6 months and older
 - 38.8% of children 6 months through 17 years
 - 38.5% of adults 18 years and older
- Early 2017–18 flu season vaccination coverage was similar to coverage at the same time last flu season for children, adults, and all persons 6 months and older.
- Among children, flu vaccination coverage was similar across all racial/ethnic groups with one exception—non-Hispanic children of other or multiple races had higher flu vaccination coverage than non-Hispanic black children.
- Among adults, flu vaccination coverage among adults 18-49 years decreased by 3.7 percentage points compared with the same time last season.
- Flu vaccination coverage among Hispanic adults decreased by 7.7 percentage points compared with the same time last season.
- Among adults, non-Hispanic persons of other or multiple races had higher flu vaccination coverage this early season than non-Hispanic whites, non-Hispanic blacks, and Hispanics.
- Among both adults and children, the most common places reported for receiving flu vaccination were medical locations (children: 86.5%, adults: 49.2%). Retail settings (28.2%) and workplaces (17.0%) were other important venues for adults.

Annual seasonal flu vaccination is recommended for all persons 6 months and older who do not have contraindications. Many people do not receive an annual flu vaccination, even though annual flu vaccination has a long safety record and has been shown to offer significant public health benefit in terms of preventing illnesses, hospitalizations and even death in children.

It's not too late to get vaccinated!

The full CDC report may be found here: [National Early-Season Flu Vaccination Coverage, United States, November 2017](#).

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

Positive Test Type/Subtype	Week 50	Total FY-To-Date
Influenza A†	404	1,125
Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic 2009	2	12
Influenza A (H3) Seasonal	53	138
Influenza B†	96	333
Influenza B/Victoria	4	5
Influenza B/Yamagata	1	14
Influenza A/B†	3	19
Total	563	1,646

* 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.

Influenza Watch

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

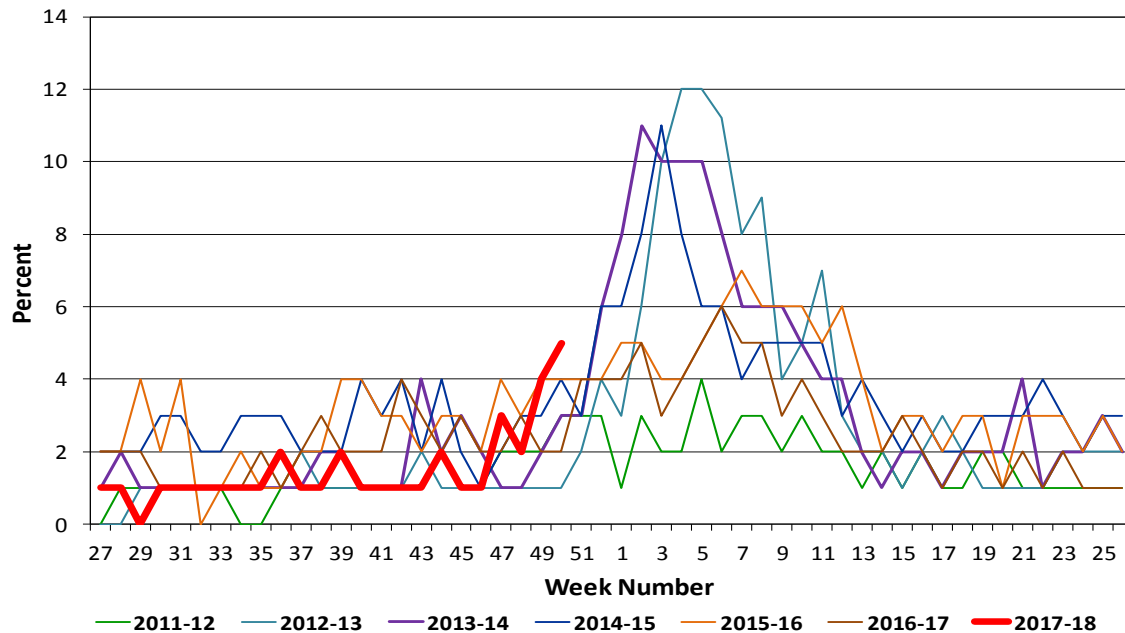


Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2017-18 FYTD (N=1,646)

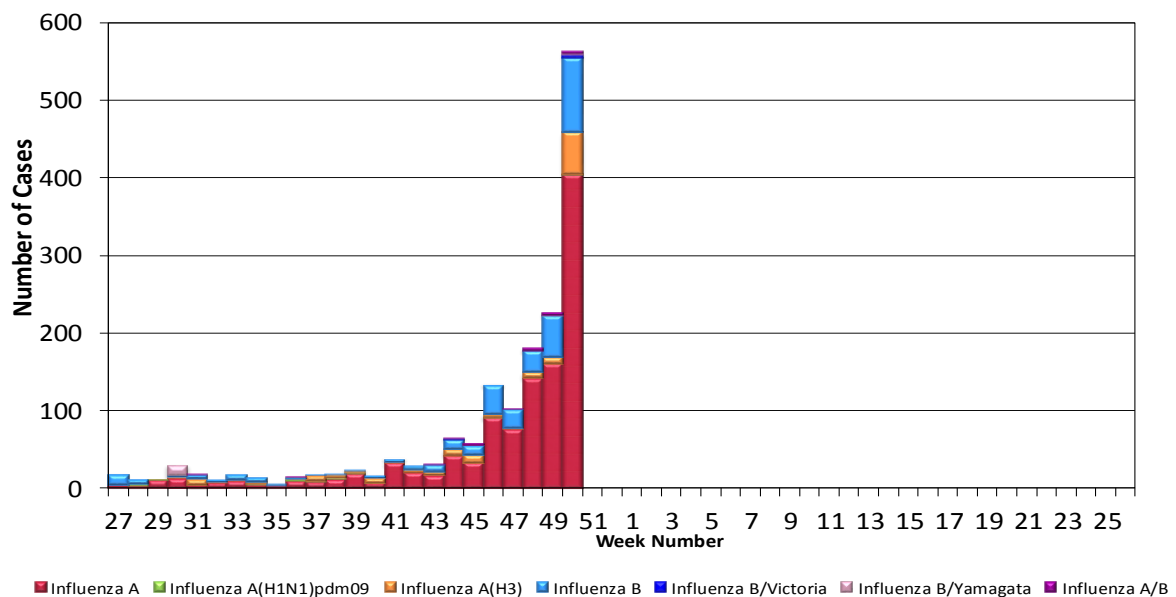


Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2011-12 to 2017-18 FYTD

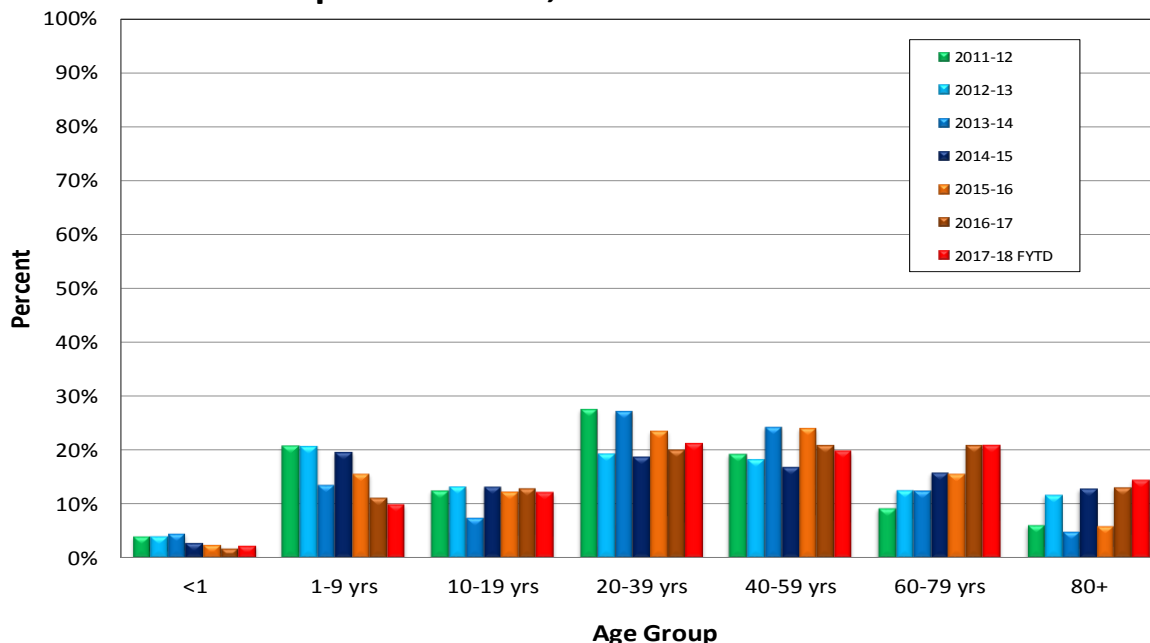


Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Episode Week & Season

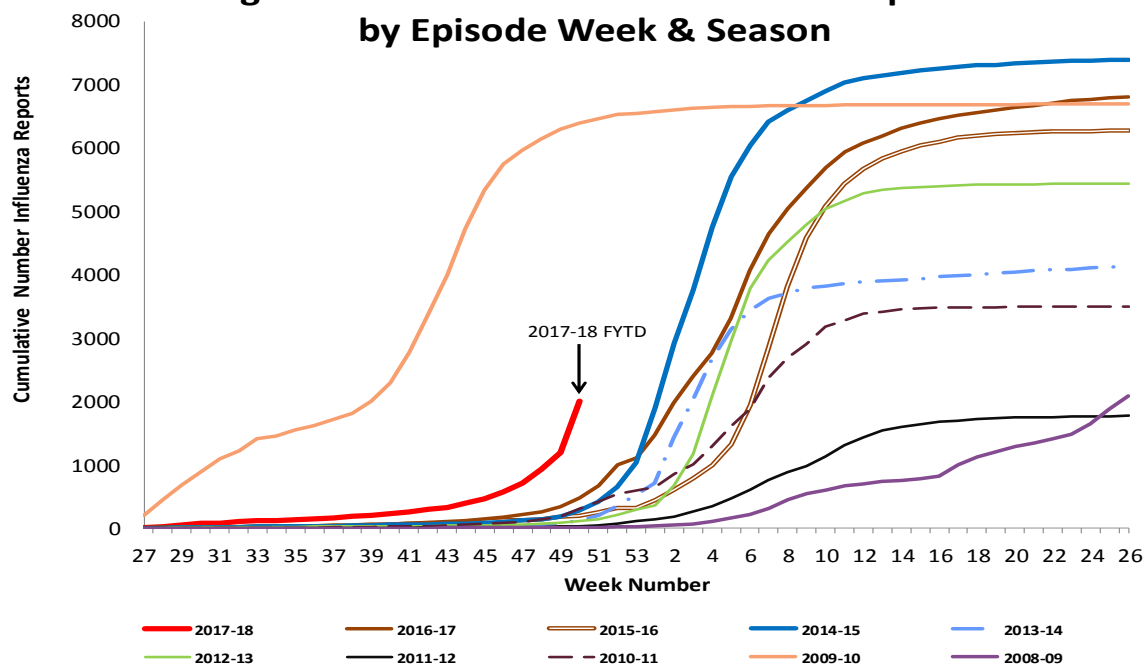


Figure 5. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY Compared to 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)

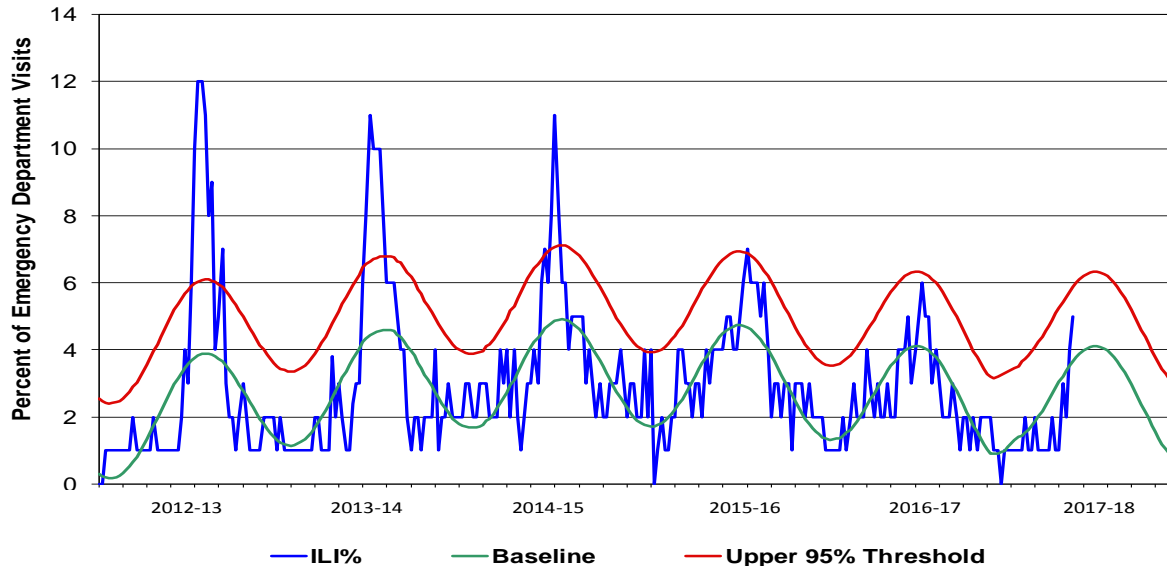


Figure 6. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)

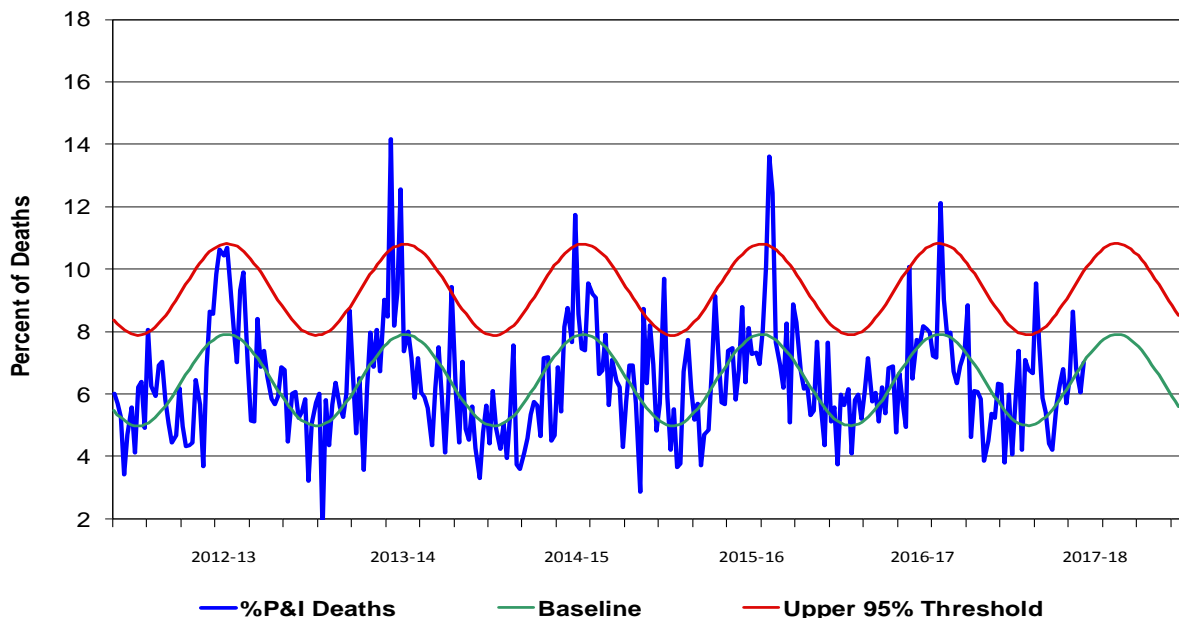


Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type and Season

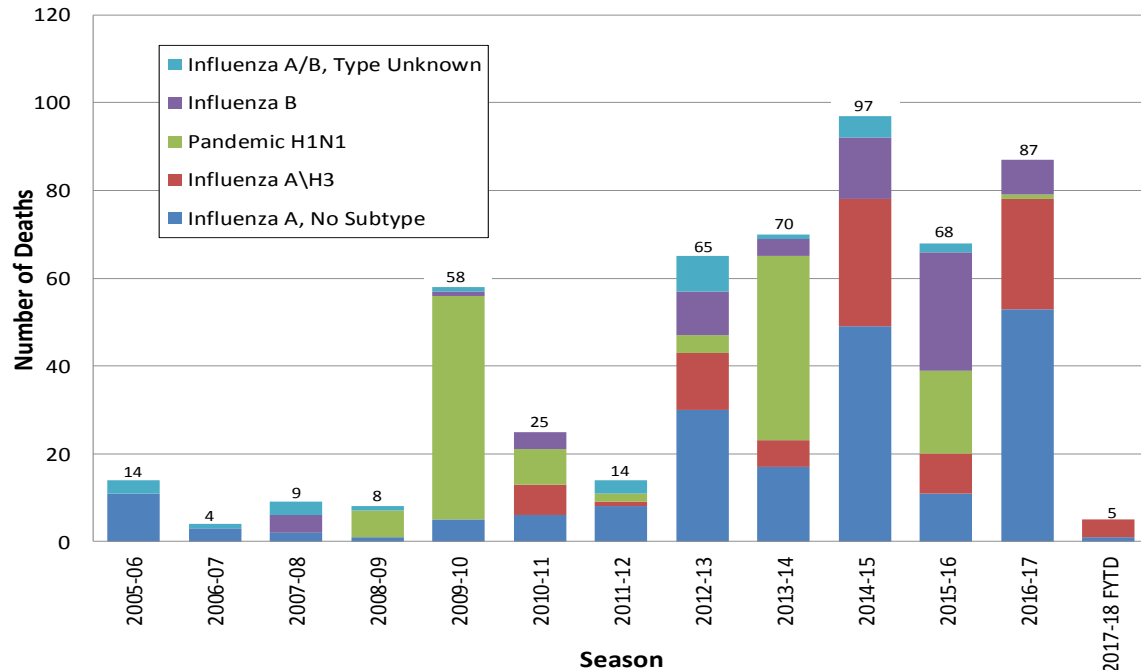


Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season

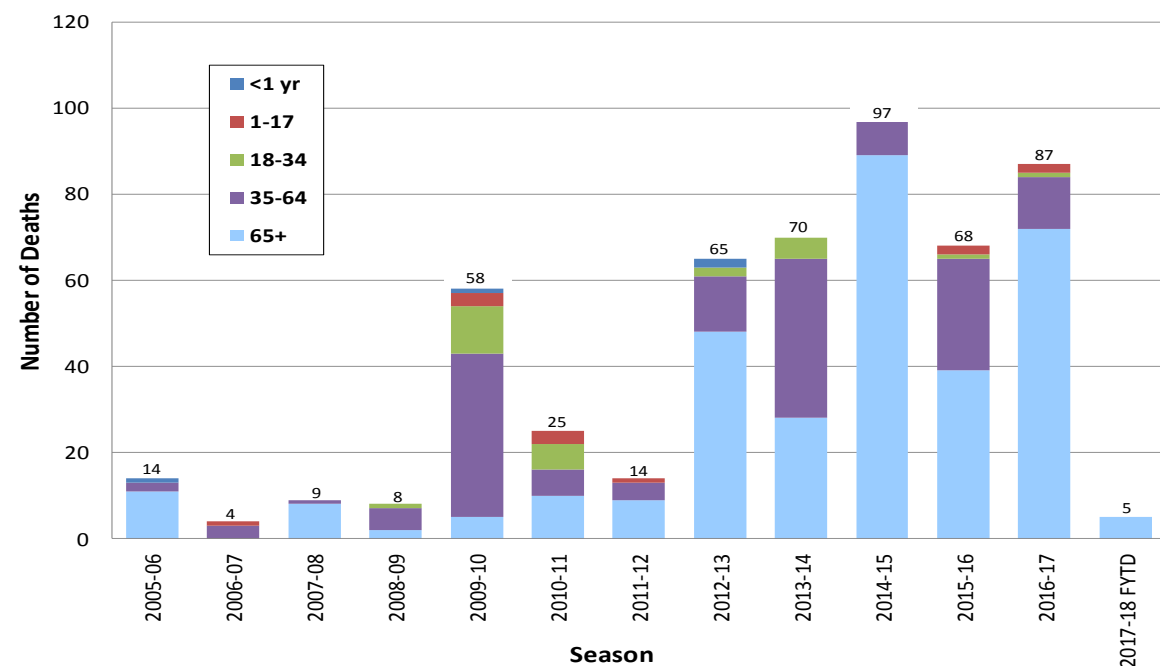
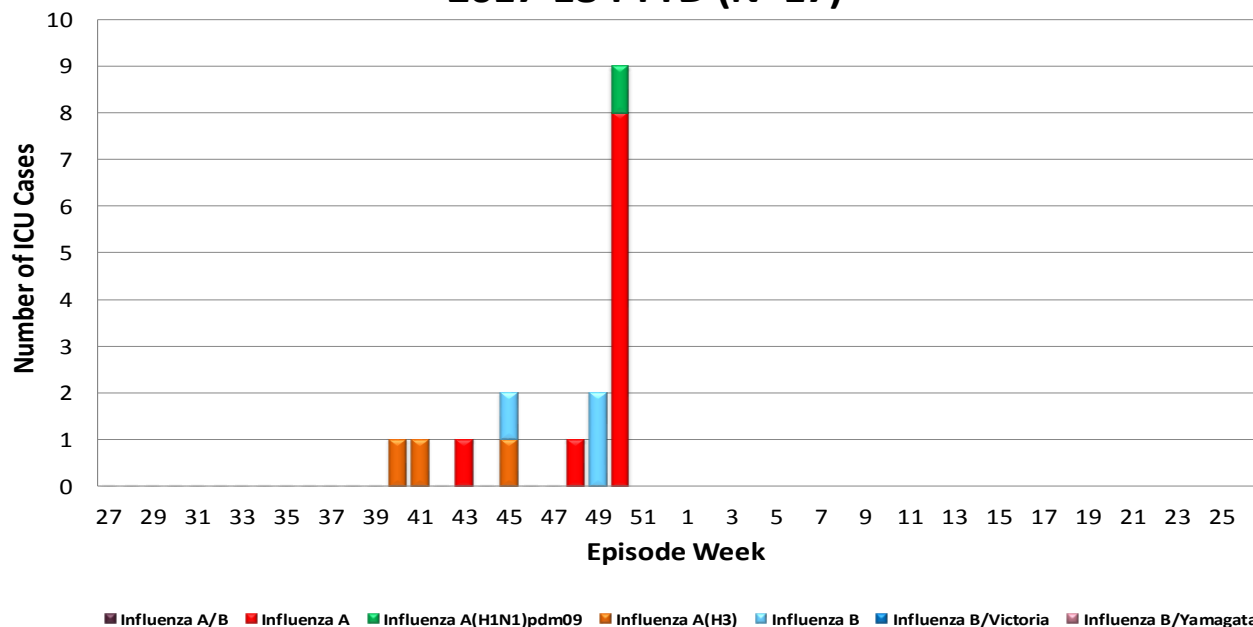


Figure 9. Number of Influenza Cases Requiring ICU Care by Episode Week and Type of Influenza, 2017-18 FYTD (N=17)



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.

Resources

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

County of San Diego Immunization Program www.sdiz.org

California Department of Public Health [Influenza](#)

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