



# INFLUENZA WATCH

Week 2  
Ending 1/13/2018

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 2 (ending 1/13/2018)**

- 2,070 new influenza detections reported: *Elevated level*
- 7% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: *Elevated level*
- 51 new influenza-related deaths reported this week
- 52 new ICU cases reported this week
- 14% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: *Elevated level*

Current  
Season Summary**12,446**

Total Cases

**200**

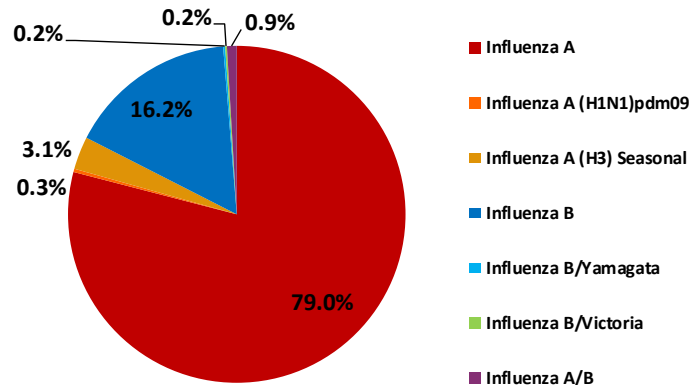
ICU Cases

**142**

Deaths

**101**

Outbreaks\*

**Virus Characteristics**

\* At least one case of laboratory-confirmed influenza in a setting experiencing  $\geq 2$  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 2	Week 1	FYTD#	Week 2	FYTD#	Week 2	FYTD#
All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)	2,070	3,046	12,446	436	1,788	515	1,604
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI	7%	11%		5%		6%	
Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza	14%	11%		8%		8%	
Number of influenza-related deaths reported^	51	47	142	6	14	3	8

# 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.

## Elevated Influenza Activity in San Diego County

Although reported influenza cases in San Diego County decreased last week, activity remains high and a record number of flu-related deaths were recorded. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency closely monitors the impact of influenza on local healthcare capacity and utilization. Prehospital and emergency department workloads for influenza-like illness declined last week, but remained elevated. Presumptive diagnosis and treatment without testing for influenza may be contributing to the decreased reports of lab-confirmed influenza.

Three ongoing and critical actions to reduce the local impact of influenza are:

1. [Vaccinate](#) everyone over six months of age who has not yet received the annual influenza shot.  
**It's not too late to be vaccinated!**
2. **Practice everyday preventive steps** to stop the spread of influenza. Avoid close contact with anyone who is ill and remain at home when sick for at least 24 hours after fever is gone. See [everyday preventive actions](#) and [non-pharmaceutical interventions](#) for more information about actions individuals and communities can take to stop the spread of influenza.
3. **Use antiviral medications** to treat influenza based on [CDC guidelines](#). Individual pharmacies may not have specific influenza antiviral medications due to increased demand, so patients may need to check with several pharmacies to fill prescriptions to treat influenza. Patients are encouraged to call pharmacies ahead of time and to have a family member or friend pick up prescriptions to minimize exposure to others.



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

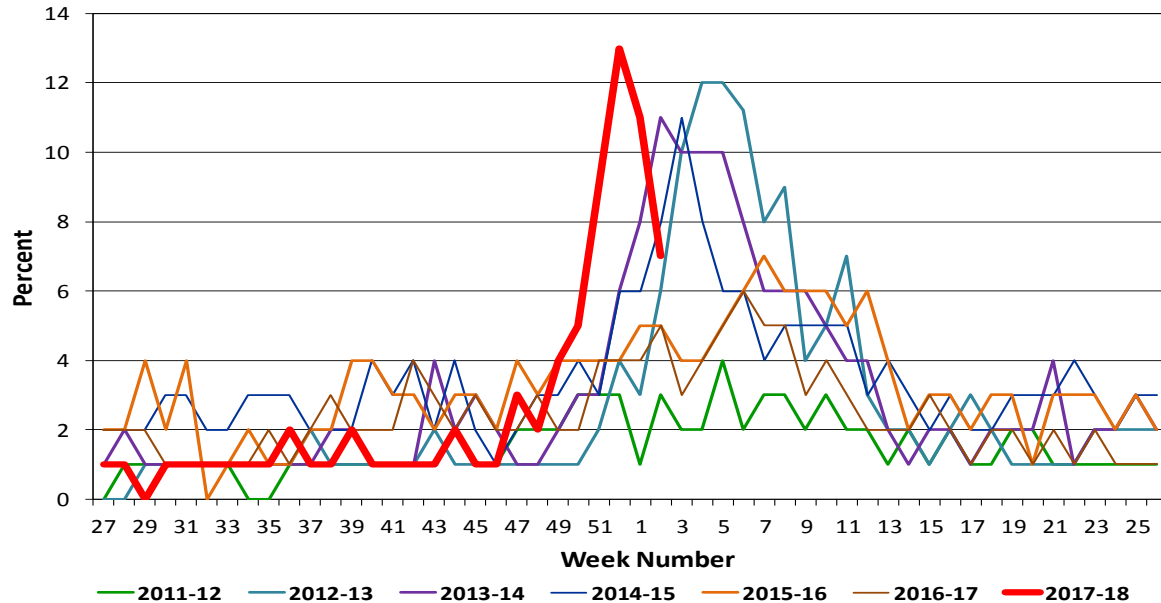
Positive Test Type/Subtype	Week 2	Total FY-To-Date
Influenza A†	1,578	9,838
Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic 2009	4	39
Influenza A (H3) Seasonal	39	392
Influenza B†	421	2,016
Influenza B/Victoria	4	21
Influenza B/Yamagata	0	24
Influenza A/B†	24	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>12,446</b>

\* FY is July 1- June 30.

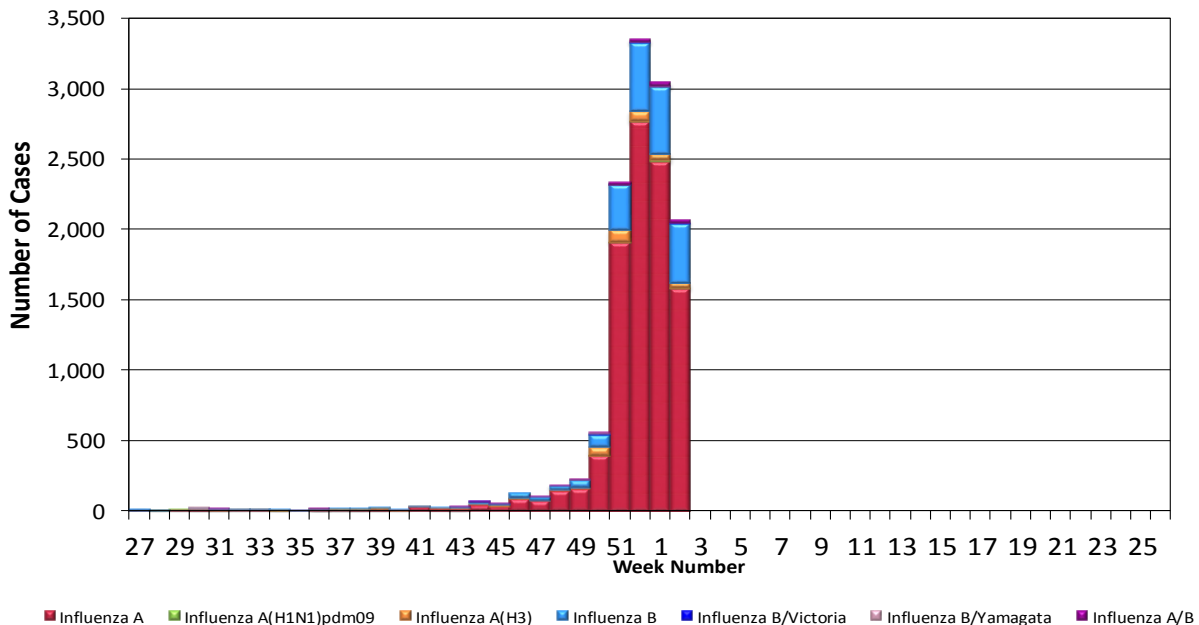
† No further characterization performed, or results were not yet available at time of publication.

Note: Totals may change due to further laboratory findings.

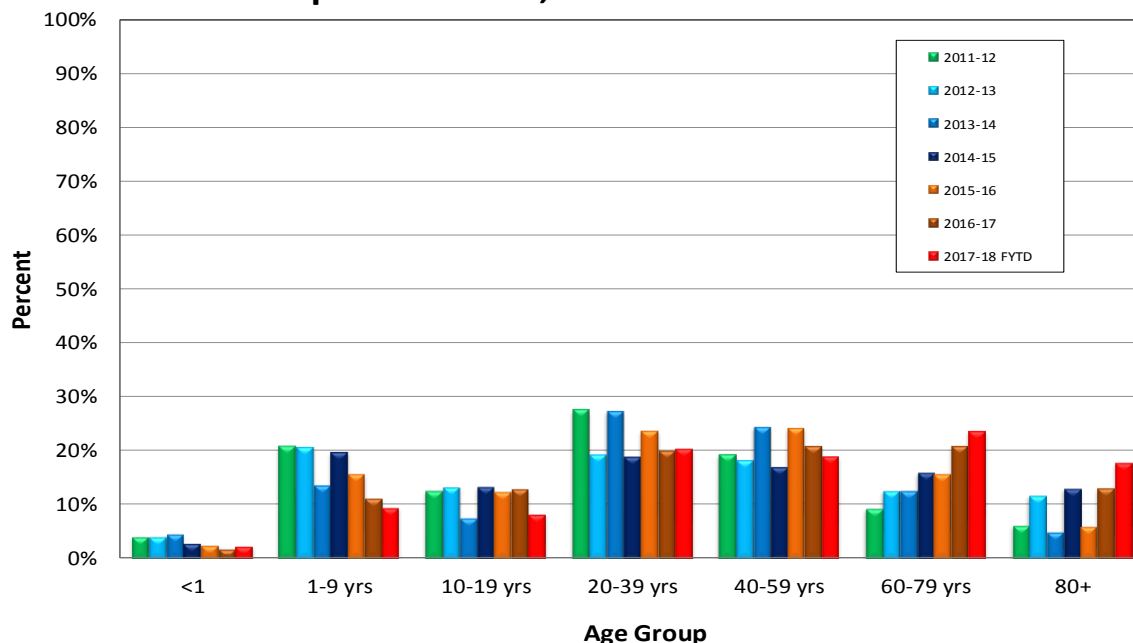
**Figure 1. Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY**



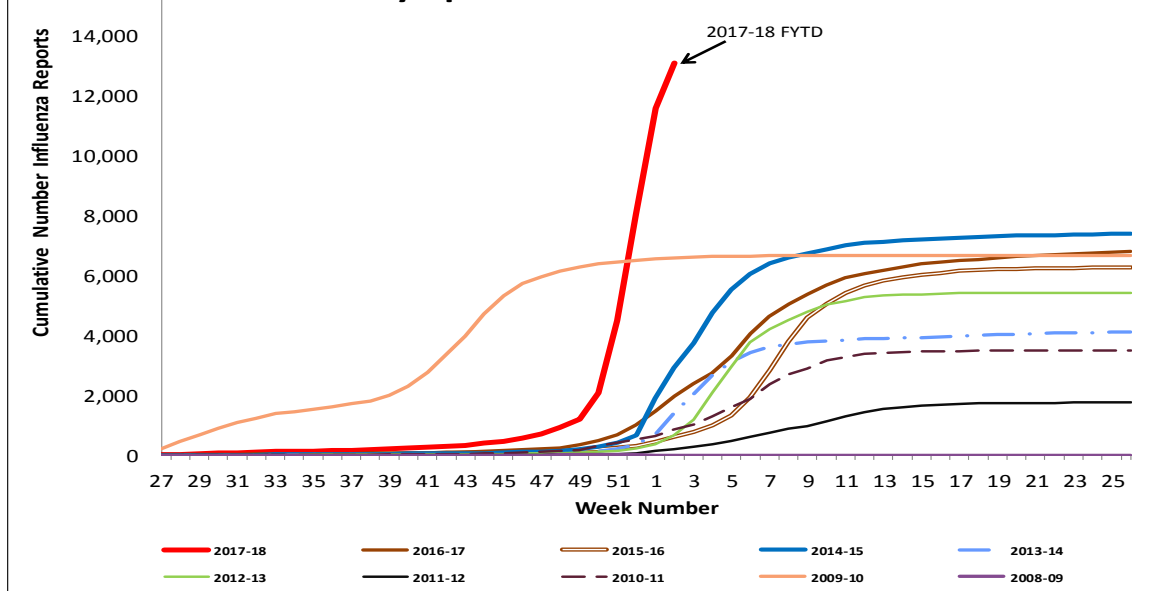
**Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2017-18 FYTD (N=12,446)**



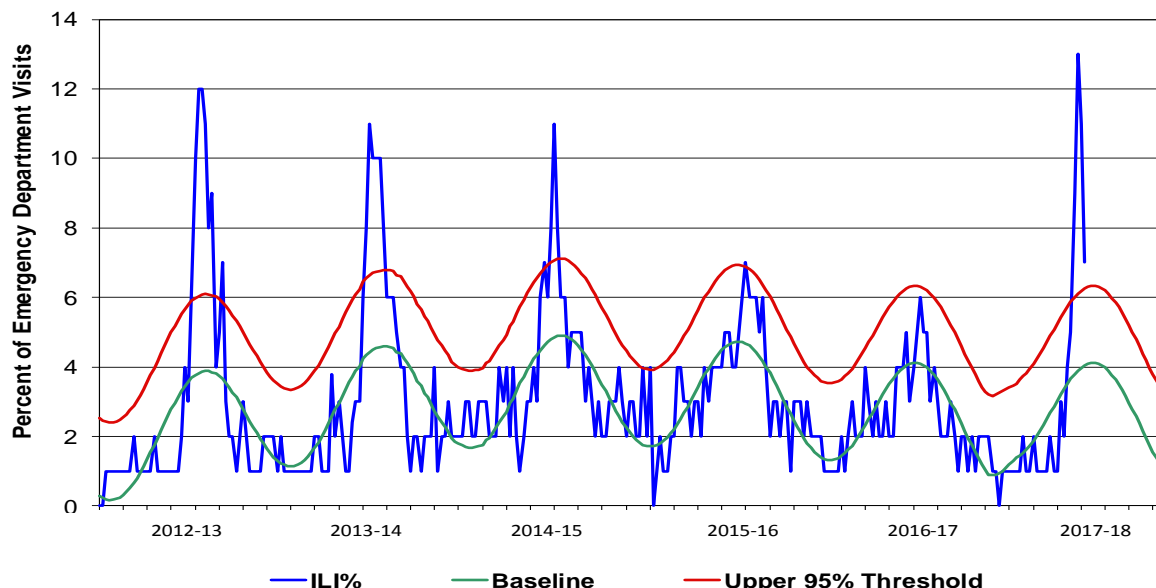
**Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2011-12 to 2017-18 FYTD**



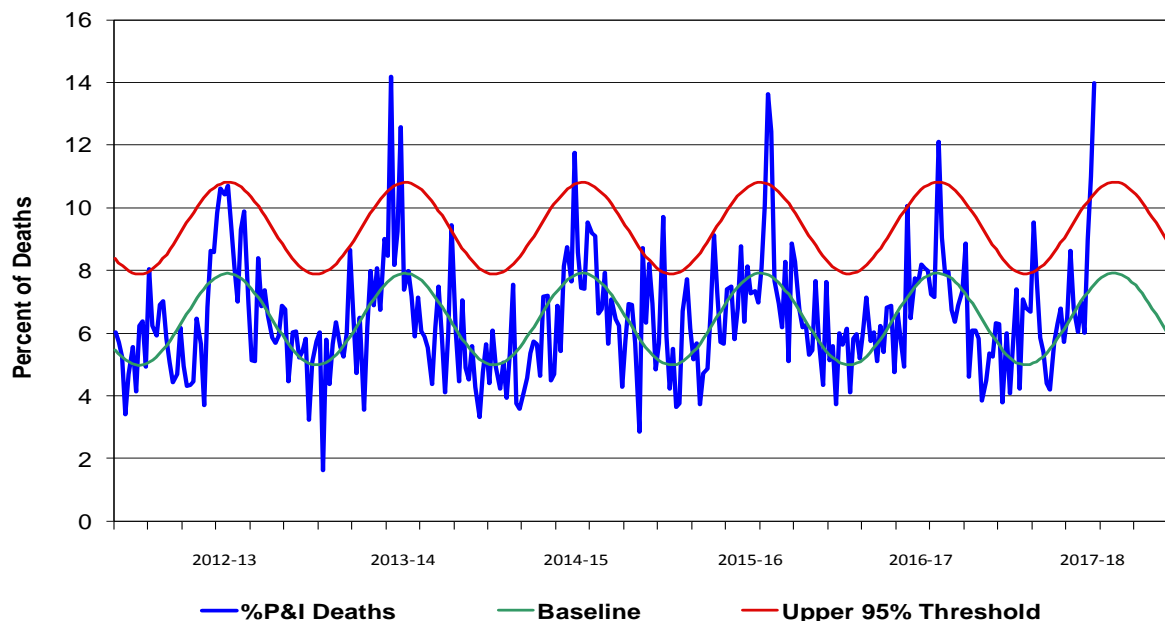
**Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Episode Week & Season**



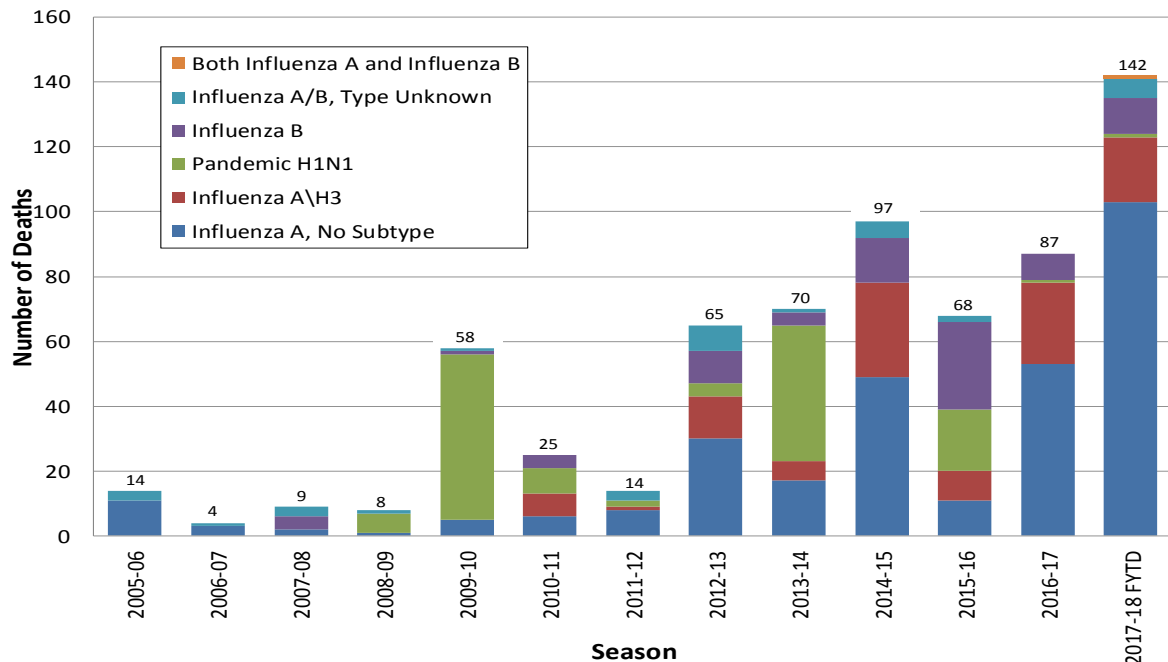
**Figure 5. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY Compared to 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)**



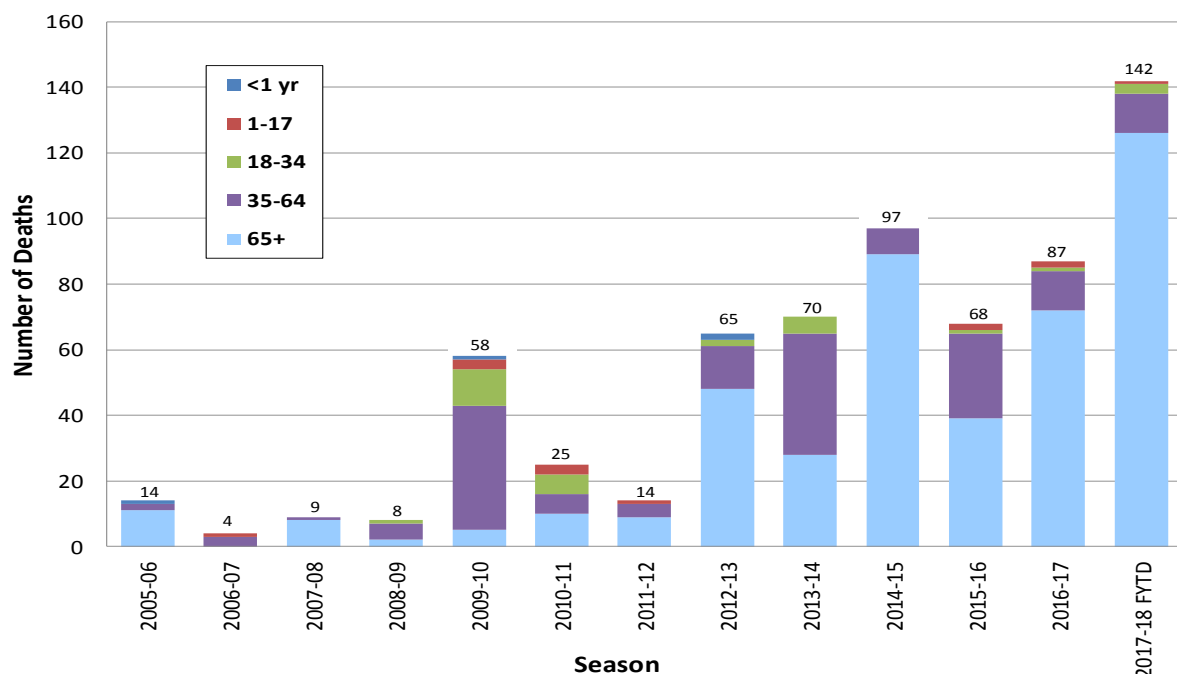
**Figure 6. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)**



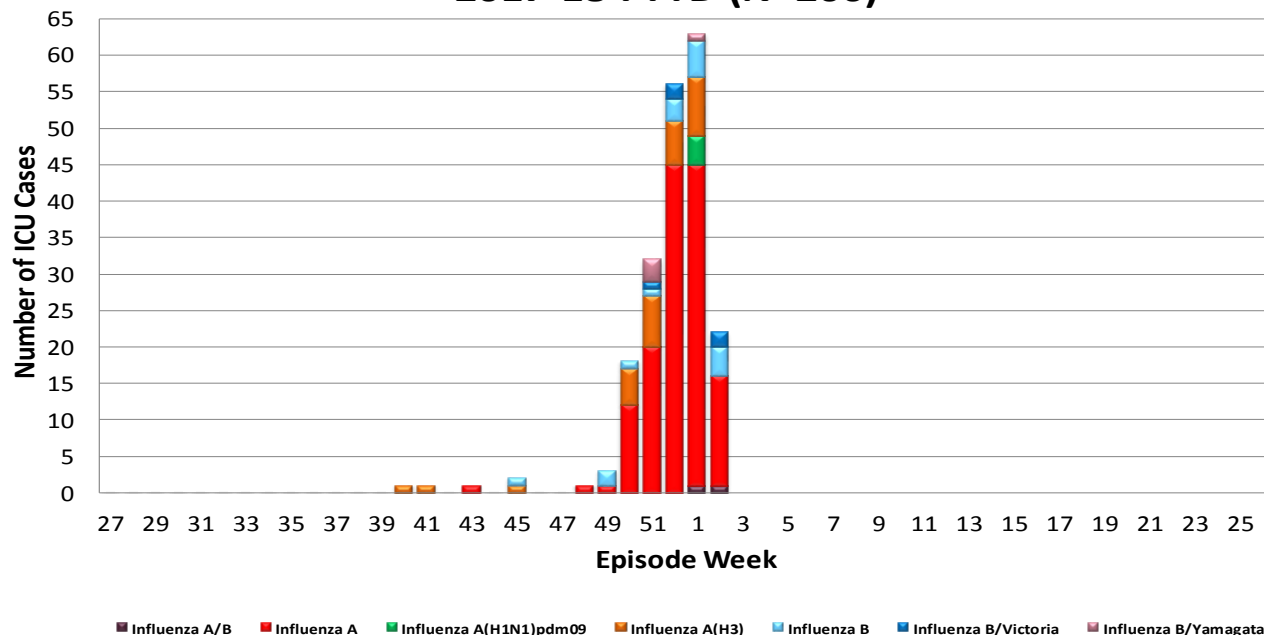
**Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type and Season**



**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=200)**



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](#)