



INFLUENZA WATCH

Week 5
Ending 2/3/2018

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 5 (ending 2/3/2018)**

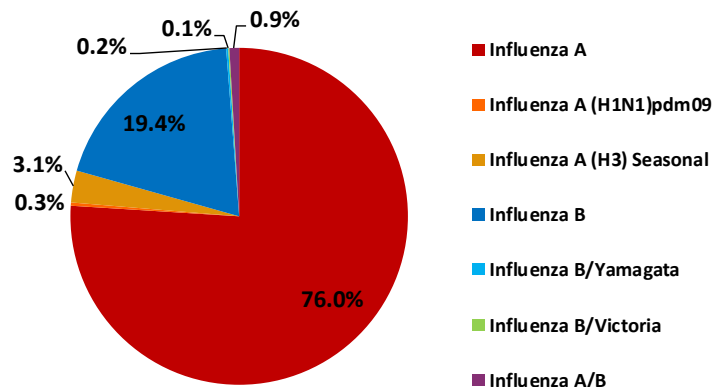
- 835 new influenza detections reported: *Elevated level*
- 5% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: *Expected level*
- 25 new influenza-related deaths reported this week
- 5 new ICU cases reported this week
- 11% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: *Elevated level*

Current
Season Summary**15,135**

Total Cases

236

ICU Cases

231Deaths[†]**108**Outbreaks^{*}**Virus Characteristics**

[†] Including 31 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 5	Week 4	FYTD [#]	Week 5	FYTD [#]	Week 5	FYTD [#]
All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)	835	615	15,135	379	2,777	486	2,936
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI	5%	6%		5%		5%	
Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza	11%	15%		8%		9%	
Number of influenza-related deaths reported [^]	25	32	231	6	39	7	29

[#] 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.

Influenza Watch

Influenza Deaths in San Diego

Since the beginning of the 2017-18 influenza season, 231 influenza-related deaths among San Diego County residents have been reported to or detected by the County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa). Two hundred (87%) of these deaths occurred in people 65 years of age or older. The higher percentage of deaths seen in this age group is typical during a season where A/H3N2 is the dominant influenza strain. Only one in three San Diego residents who have died with influenza this season had received the annual influenza vaccine, and 95% had [underlying medical conditions](#). As the influenza season progresses, it is anticipated that influenza deaths will continue to be reported for many weeks following the peak of the season.

Many [deaths from influenza](#) go unrecognized or unreported. Although the [entire nation](#) is experiencing a severe influenza season, influenza reporting of cases and deaths varies across jurisdictions. This is primarily due to reporting and surveillance differences between health departments. HHSa reports *all* influenza-associated deaths, though only deaths of people under age 65 are required to be reported in California. Some states only require reports on deaths of those under 18.

Many providers and labs in San Diego have been voluntarily reporting all positive influenza tests to HHSa. In recent years, local labs have been relying on the [San Diego Health Connect](#) health information exchange for the automated reporting of influenza lab results. Collectively, all reported cases received by the County are compared to local [Electronic Death Registry System](#) files to determine if any deceased residents had evidence of recent influenza infection. Medical records are reviewed for deceased cases where the physician has not already listed influenza as contributing cause of death. As a result, more influenza-associated fatalities may be identified in San Diego County compared to other locations. Many jurisdictions do not have electronic laboratory reporting to public health and they cannot compare these results to the deaths registered to vital records.

Routine administration of the [influenza vaccine](#) to everyone six months of age or older and the use of [antiviral medication](#) in people at risk for severe complications can reduce the incidence of influenza morbidity and mortality.

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

Positive Test Type/Subtype	Week 5	Total FY-To-Date
Influenza A†	426	11,503
Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic 2009	2	47
Influenza A (H3) Seasonal	62	463
Influenza B†	335	2,935
Influenza B/Victoria	0	17
Influenza B/Yamagata	0	30
Influenza A/B†	10	140
Total	835	15,135

* 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

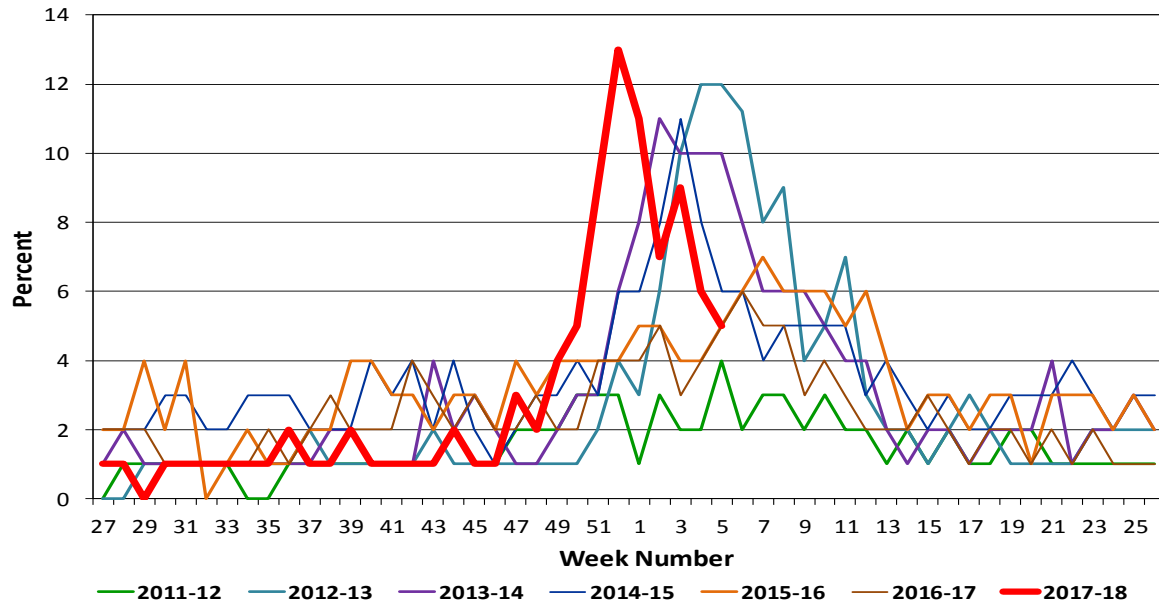


Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2017-18 FYTD (N=15,135)

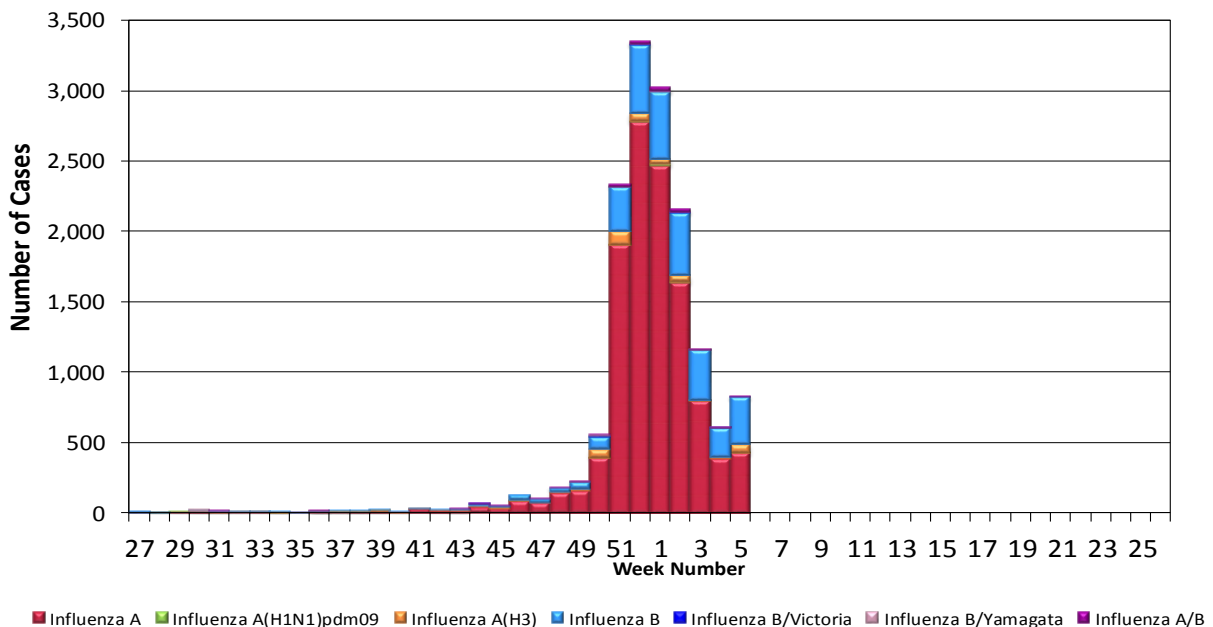


Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2011-12 to 2017-18 FYTD

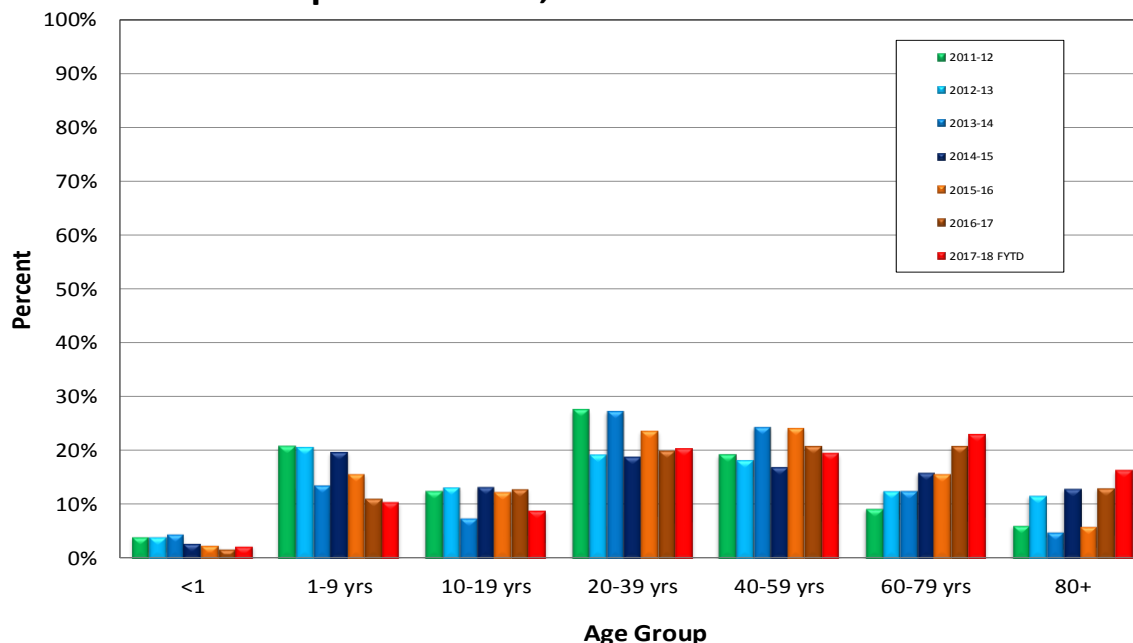


Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Episode Week & Season

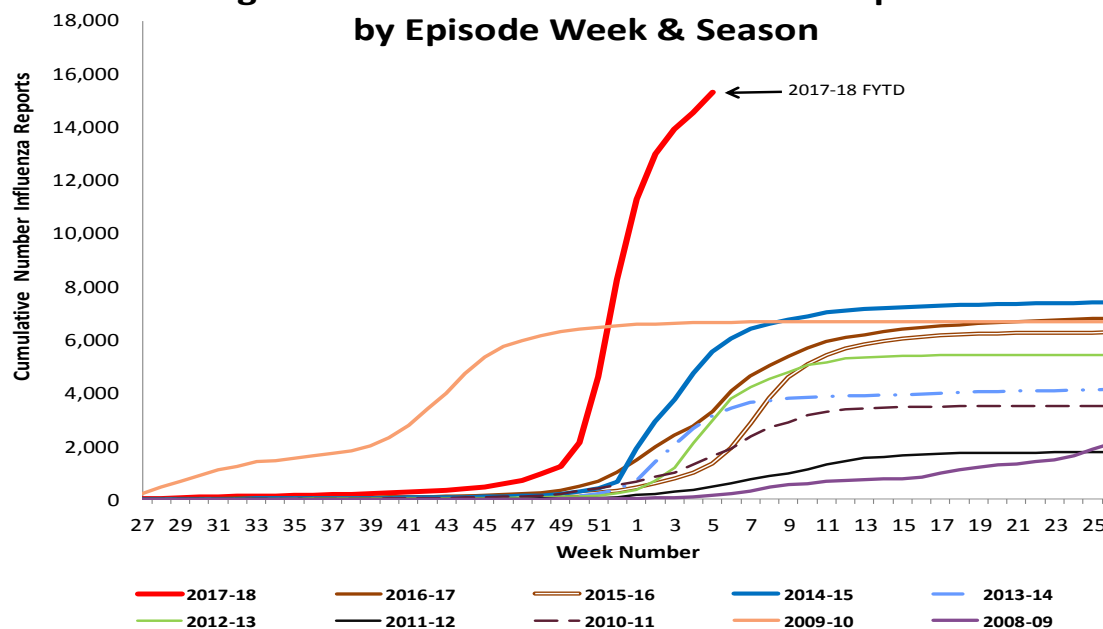


Figure 5. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY Compared to 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)

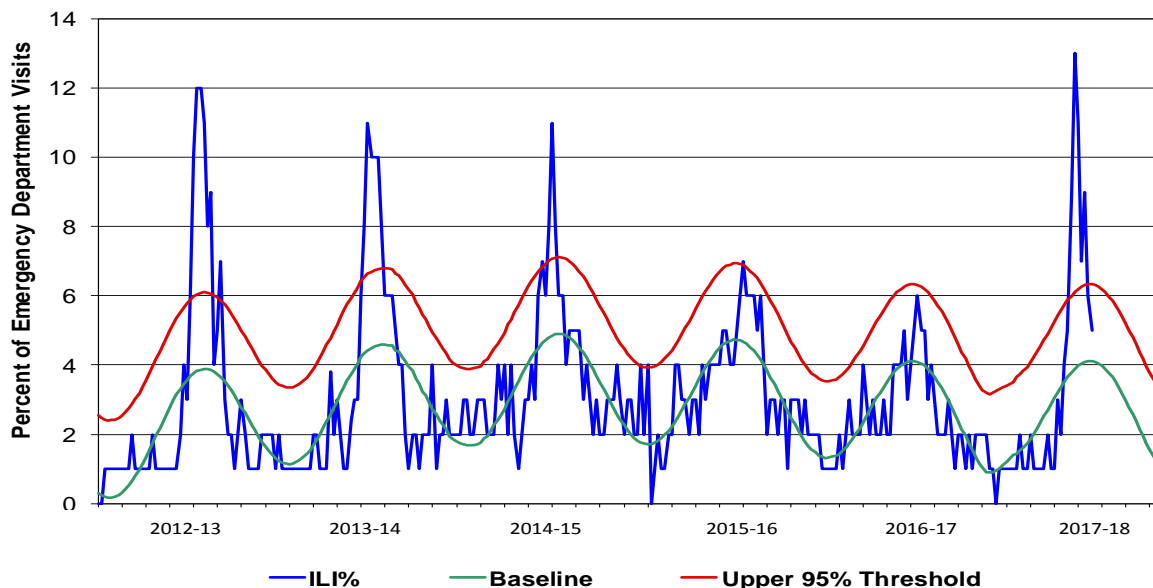


Figure 6. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)

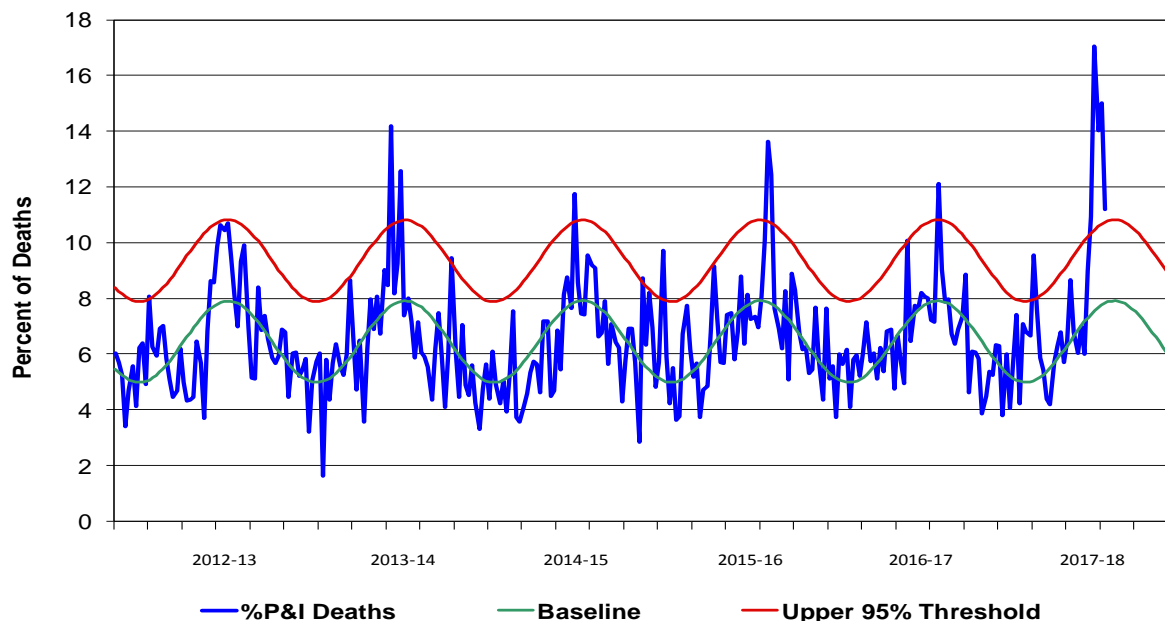


Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type and Season

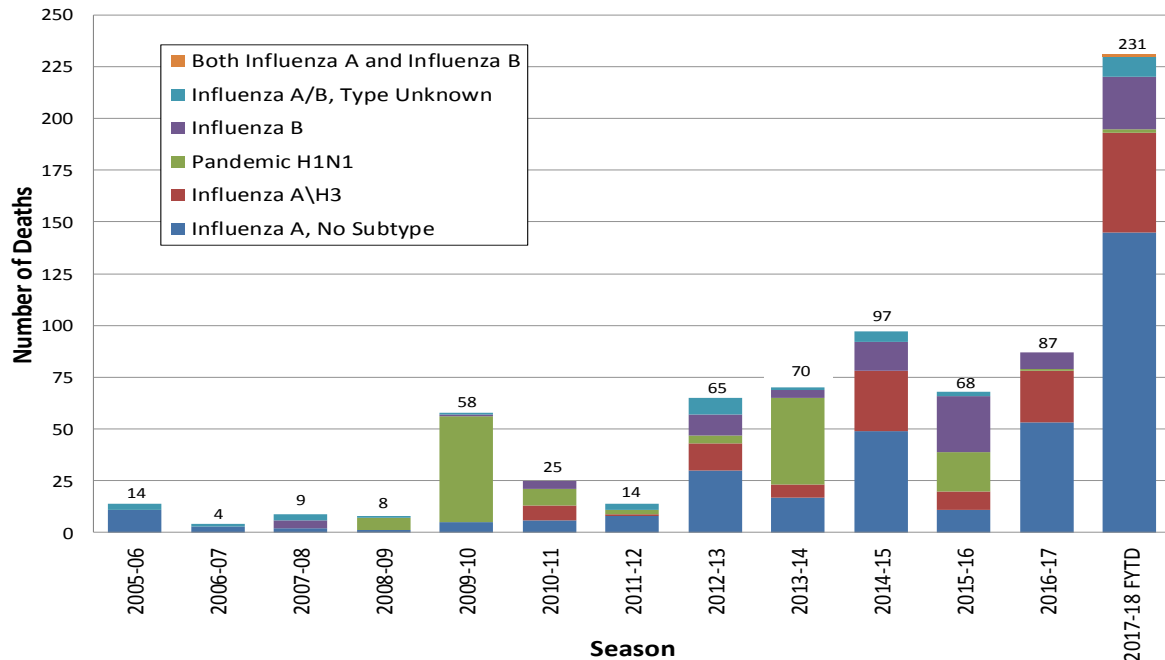


Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season

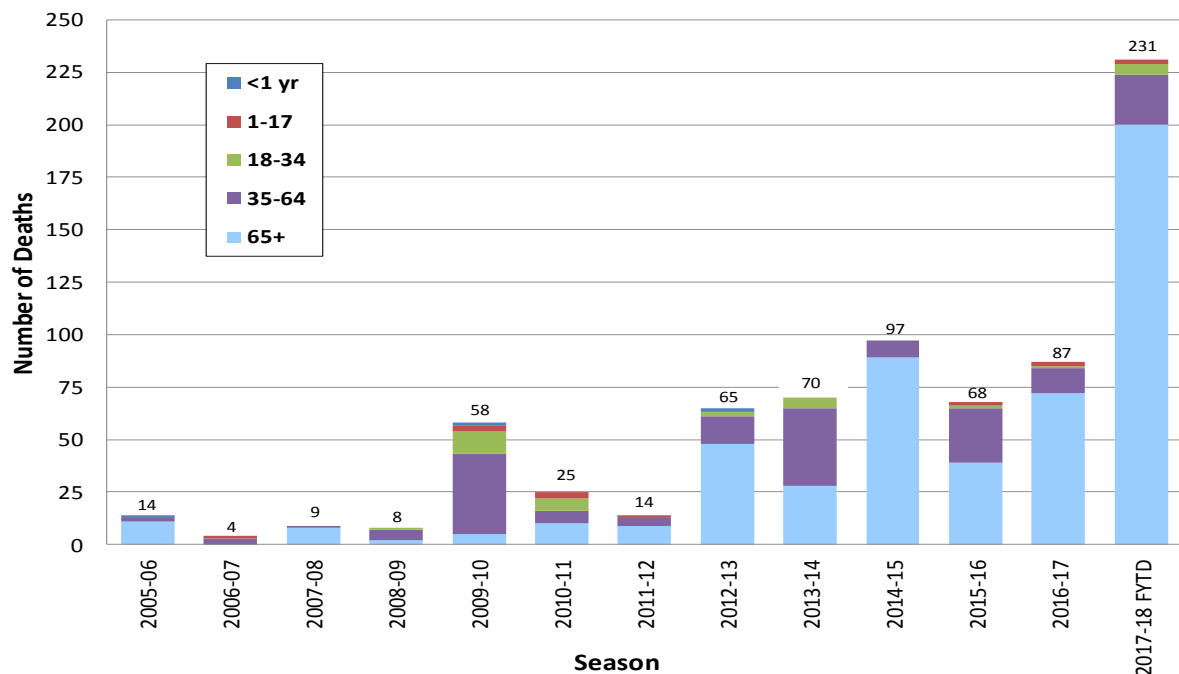
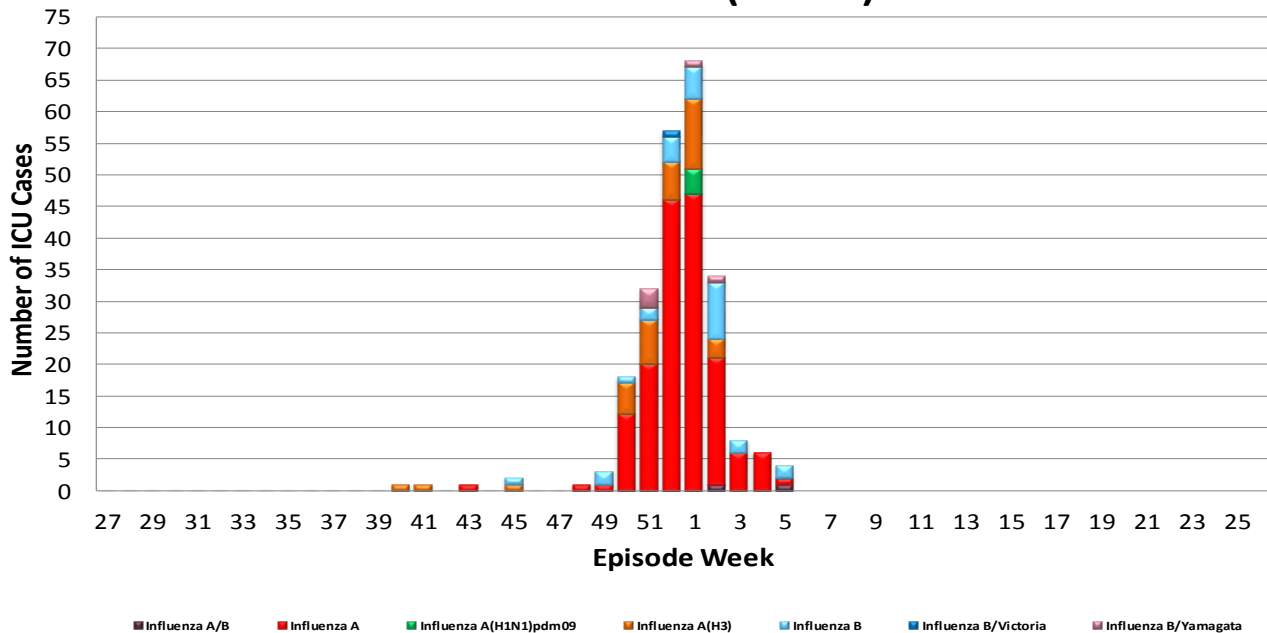


Figure 9. Number of Influenza Cases Requiring ICU Care by Episode Week and Type of Influenza, 2017-18 FYTD (N=236)



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](#)