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.

**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*

### Virus Characteristics

![Pie chart showing virus distribution]

- 68.3% Influenza A
- 20.2% Influenza B
- 8.4% Influenza B/Yamagata
- 0.9% Influenza B/Victoria
- 0.7% Influenza A/2009
- 0.3% Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09
- 1.2% Influenza A (H3) Seasonal

### Table 1. Influenza Surveillance Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>FY 2017-18*</th>
<th>FY 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)</td>
<td>Week 50</td>
<td>Week 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>563</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of emergency department visits for ILI</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of influenza-related deaths reported*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

* 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=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

- Influenza A/B, Type Unknown
- Influenza B
- Pandemic H1N1
- Influenza A\H3
- Influenza A, No Subtype

Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season

- <1 yr
- 1-17
- 18-34
- 35-64
- 65+

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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