Influenza activity in Clark County was consistently elevated for 14 weeks during the 2018-2019 season, making this one of the county’s shortest seasons in recent years. Positivity peaked at 43.5% during CDC week 10 (March 3-9). A total of 4 influenza-associated deaths were reported among residents, a decrease of 73% compared to last influenza season. Nationally, the 2018-2019 influenza season was categorized as a moderate severity season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Length (weeks)</th>
<th>Peak Positivity</th>
<th>Flu Tests¹</th>
<th>Flu Deaths²</th>
<th>LTCF Outbreaks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>2789</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>May 14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>3168</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>Nov. 6</td>
<td>Apr. 29</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6567</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Apr. 28</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>7679</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Apr. 27</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>7061</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Total number of flu tests conducted by reporting facilities in Clark County
²Number of influenza associated deaths in Clark County, reported to WA DOH
Frequently Asked Questions

How effective was this year’s influenza vaccine?
Interim results from the CDC’s annual Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness study indicate that this season’s vaccine was about 47% effective at preventing infection. These results will continue to develop in the coming weeks until the final data are published in summer 2019.

What was the predominant influenza strain this season?
Influenza A was the primary virus type identified this season. While subtyping beyond A/B is uncommon at the local level, state and national data indicate that H1N1 strains were predominant during the first half of the season, with H3 strains more prevalent during the latter half.

How do we know when influenza season is over?
Influenza positivity at or over 10% is generally used as the threshold for elevated influenza activity. When this rate drops below the 10% threshold again for two weeks in a row, the period of high activity is considered over. Facility-specific determinations may vary from this definition, and may be made with other data and factors in mind.

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