



Influenza Season 2017 - 2018

Summary Report | April 2018

Season Comparisons

Season	Start Date	End Date	Length (weeks)	Peak Positivity	Flu Tests ¹	Flu Deaths ²	LTCF Outbreaks
2014-2015	Nov. 30	Feb. 14	11	41%	2789	5	7
2015-2016	Jan. 17	May 14	17	38%	3168	8	5
2016-2017	Nov. 6	Apr. 29	25	38%	6567	26	20
2017-2018*	Dec. 3	TBD	20	42%	7369	15	13

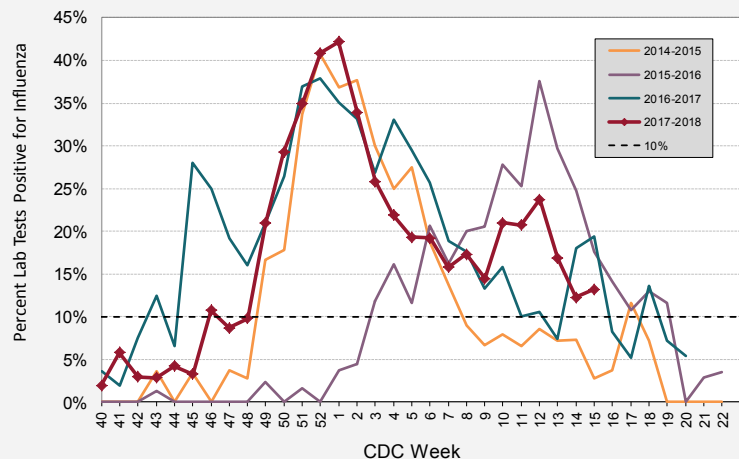
*Values for the 2017-2018 season are preliminary and subject to change as the season progresses

¹Total number of flu tests conducted by reporting facilities in Clark County

²Number of influenza associated deaths in Clark County, reported to WA DOH

Clark County influenza activity for the 2017-2018 season remains elevated but on the decline, with the most recent two weeks' positivity rate falling slightly above 10%. This reflects the lowest influenza positivity rate since late December 2017. This season's start fell approximately one month earlier than in 2016-2017, but general trends and peak positivity were consistent in timing and duration with historical influenza seasons.

Positivity Rate of Influenza Tests by Week from Reporting Laboratories in Clark County



Flu Season FAQs

How effective was this year's influenza vaccine?

Preliminary results from the CDC's annual Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness study indicate that this year's vaccine was about 33% effective. These results will continue to develop in the coming weeks, until the final data are published in summer 2018.

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 H3 strains, particularly H3N2, were most common among positive tests.

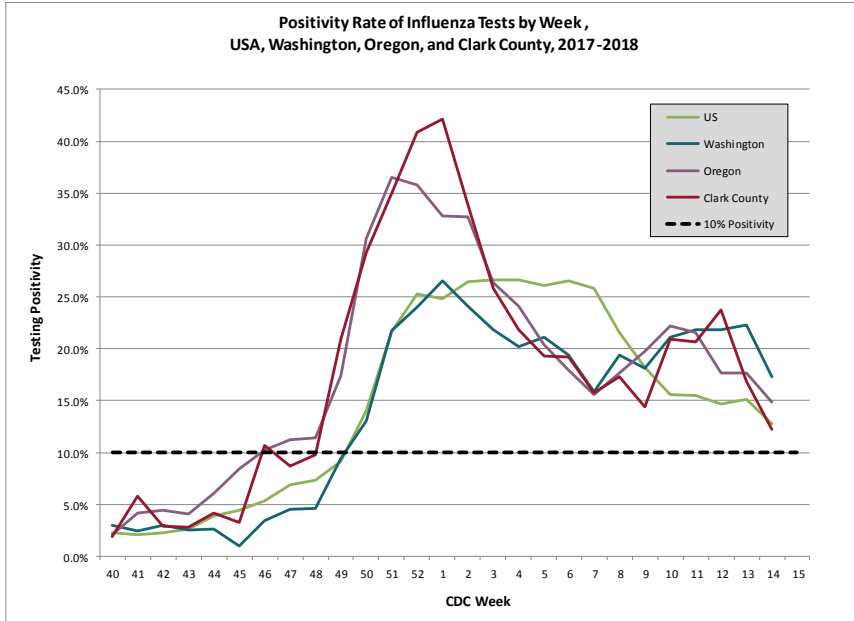
How do we know when influenza season is over?

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.



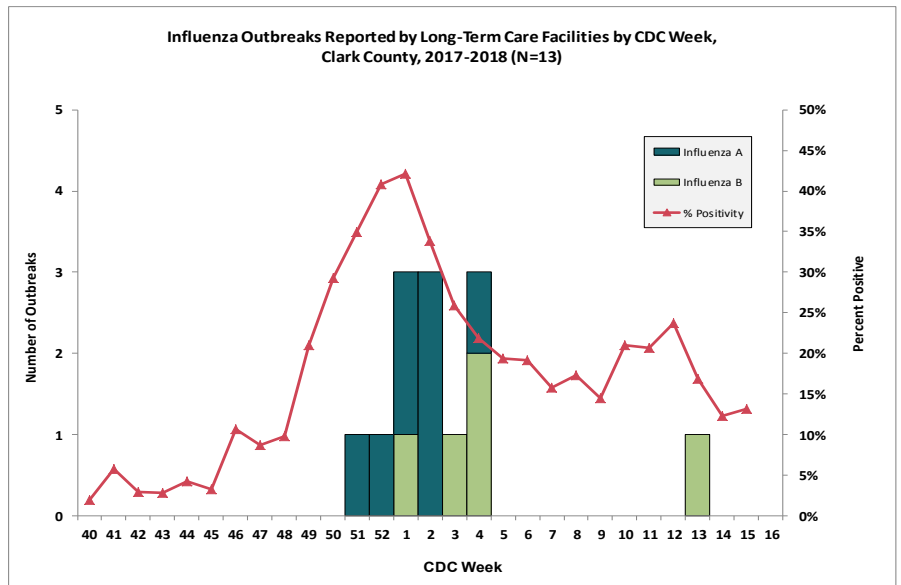
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Influenza activity in Clark County spiked to a higher positivity than other regional or national reporting entities; however, rise, peak, and decline patterns for the season as a were similar to Washington state, and even more closely followed those in Oregon. U.S. positivity, as reported by the CDC, has been notably lower for most of the season, but a recent increase now puts national flu activity higher than that seen in Clark, Washington, and Oregon.

A total of 13 influenza outbreaks have been recorded in Clark County long term care facilities so far throughout the 2017-2018 influenza season, 8 of which were caused by influenza A viruses. The highest volume of outbreaks was reported in January, during and just after peak influenza positivity in the region. These were recorded and responded to in addition to several other influenza outbreaks in schools and medical facilities around the county.



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