Overview

As of this week:  This season (2018-19) Last season (2017-18)
Cases reported for the week  29  8
Cumulative cases for season  61  27
Activity level  Local  Sporadic

The influenza case count increased again this week, as we saw some locally high activity in the northeastern portion of the state. Cases are otherwise sporadic in other parts of North Dakota. The Influenza A 2009 H1N1 strain has been identified in areas with localized flu activity. October activity is not unusual in North Dakota, although the amount of flu we are seeing is slightly unexpected. It is too early to tell if activity will drop off in November, as it often does, or if it will continue to increase into the flu season. Now is a great time to get vaccinated for flu if you have not already done so!

Number of Reported Laboratory-Identified Influenza Cases by Week Number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of cases:</th>
<th>A H3N2</th>
<th>2009 A H1N1</th>
<th>Influenza A</th>
<th>Influenza B</th>
<th>B Yamagata</th>
<th>B Victoria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This week</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This season</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Laboratory-confirmed influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota. Influenza “cases” include people that have tested positive for influenza in a healthcare setting. It does not include people with influenza who did not seek healthcare, or who were diagnosed without a lab test, which is common. The true number of people with influenza in North Dakota is underrepresented, but case data allows us to see where and in what populations influenza is circulating. It also provides context regarding how the current season compares with previous seasons. Find more information about cases on [www.ndflu.com](http://www.ndflu.com).

### Case Demographics

**Case Count** for Lab-Confirmed Cases by Gender

- **MALE**
  - 20
- **FEMALE**
  - 18
- **TOTAL**
  - 43

**Case Count** for Lab-Confirmed Cases by Age Group

- **<10**
  - 20
- **10-19**
  - 8
- **20-29**
  - 8
- **30-39**
  - 10
- **40-49**
  - 5
- **50-59**
  - 6
- **60+**
  - 4

**Cases by County**

Map showing the distribution of cases by county in North Dakota. The map highlights counties with higher case counts in darker shades of green. The count ranges from 0 to 19 cases. Counties like Benson and Cass are shown with higher case counts compared to others.

Powered by Bing GeoNames, Navteq
Outbreaks

During the influenza season, influenza outbreaks are common anywhere people gather, including schools, child care centers, and health care facilities. Outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness may be reported to the NDDoH. The following outbreaks have been reported this season:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>Number of outbreaks</th>
<th>Identified pathogens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Care, Basic Care, Assisted Living</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 flu A/flu B; 1 unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Care Centers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surveillance Programs

In addition to case reporting, the NDDoH uses a variety information sources to fully describe of what is happening during the influenza season.

Hospitalizations

This season, the NDDoH has introduced a new influenza hospitalization surveillance program. Select North Dakota hospitals report the number influenza-related hospitalizations weekly to the NDDoH. Because this surveillance methodology is new, hospitalization numbers this year may not be comparable to previous years.

Deaths

Data on pneumonia and influenza deaths is obtained from Vital Records and based on the cause of death listed on the death certificate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number</th>
<th>Total number of Hospitalizations:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201831</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number</th>
<th>Total number of deaths for the season:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201831</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Influenza Hospitalizations by Week Number

Number of Pneumonia and Influenza Deaths by Week Number
Outpatient Influenza-like Illness

The NDDoH participates in the national U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). Data from participating outpatient providers in North Dakota are pooled to create a state-wide estimate for the weekly percent of healthcare visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI). Patients presenting with a fever of 100°F or greater and a cough and/or sore throat are considered to have ILI. Percent ILI that exceeds the regional seasonal baseline of 1.3% is considered “seasonal level” ILI. For more information on state and national ILINet data, see FluView Interactive.

Sentinel Laboratory Data

The NDDoH receives influenza and RSV testing data from participating sentinel laboratories across the state. The total number of positive tests and the total number of tests conducted are reported and used to create a state-wide percent positivity statistic. For influenza, percent positivity of 10% or greater indicates “season level” influenza activity.

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**Percent of Outpatient Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness by Week, Current and Previous Season by Week Number**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Number</th>
<th>Percent ILI</th>
<th># ILI 0-4 age group</th>
<th># ILI 5-24 age group</th>
<th># ILI 25-49 age group</th>
<th># ILI 50-64 age group</th>
<th># ILI 65+ age group</th>
<th>Total # visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>201838</td>
<td>0.31%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201839</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201840</td>
<td>0.84%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201841</td>
<td>1.29%</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3501</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Percent Positivity of Influenza Testing and the Total Number of Tests Conducted by Week Number**

- Number of Influenza Tests Conducted
- Percent Positivity for Influenza Tests
- Seasonal Baseline for Percent Positivity

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Percent Positivity for Influenza: 5.30%
School Absenteeism
During the influenza season, increases in school absenteeism data can be used as an early indicator for influenza circulation. The NDDoH received absenteeism data from a majority of schools in the state. Data here include absences for all reasons.

Multi-season Comparison
2018-19 Vaccination Stats

Vaccine Doses Administered
The North Dakota Immunization Information System (NDIIS) provides information on vaccines given in North Dakota. Vaccines given to children are required to be entered into the NDIIS, while vaccines given to adults are often entered into the NDIIS but are not required to be entered. Many providers in North Dakota have established an electronic connection with the NDIIS, allowing all vaccinations for that provider to be sent to the NDIIS automatically. A total of 94,924 doses of 2017-18 influenza vaccine have been entered into the NDIIS so far this season.

Vaccination Rates by Age
NDIIS data can also be used to estimate the percent of North Dakotans in each age group that have received an influenza vaccination so far this season. This week, the age group with the highest rates is 65+ with 25.6%, and the age group with the lowest vaccination rate is 19-49 year-olds, with 6.2%.