2018-19 Weekly Influenza Update

NORTH Dakota | Health
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Preliminary data through week 201903, the week ending 1/19/2019
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Overview

As of this week:	This season (2018-19)	Last season (2017-18)
Cases reported for the week	304	798
Cumulative cases for season	1338	3339
Activity level	Regional	Widespread

Influenza activity continues to increase. As of January 11, 2019, CDC estimated between 6.2 million and 7.3 million people have been sick with influenza in the United States. Influenza A viruses have predominated in the nation since October 2018. Influenza A(H1N1) viruses are predominant in most areas of the country, but influenza A(H3) viruses appear to be predominant in the southeastern states. The NDDoH continues to recommend flu vaccination and appropriate use of antiviral medications for high-risk persons and those who are severely ill.

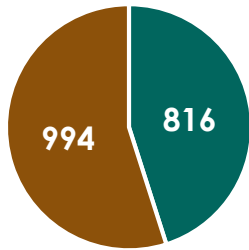### Number of Reported Laboratory-Identified Influenza Cases by Week Number

Legend: A H3N2 | 2009 A H1N1 | Influenza A | Influenza B | B Yamagata | B Victoria
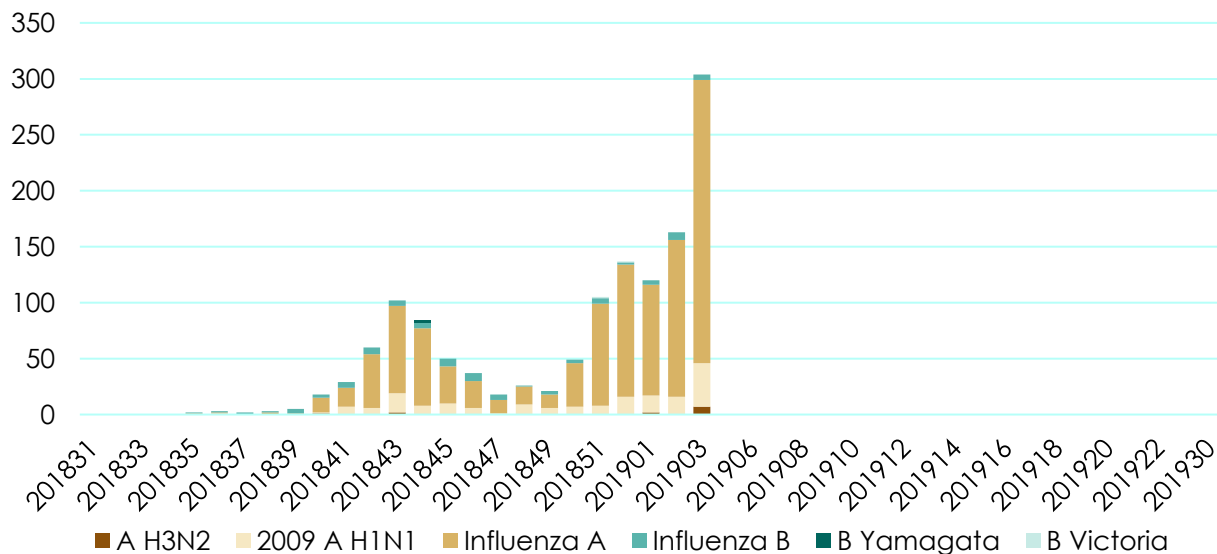
Number of cases:	A H3N2	2009 A H1N1	Influenza A	Influenza B	B Yamagata	B Victoria
This week	7	39	253	5	0	0
This season	12	173	1067	82	2	2

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.
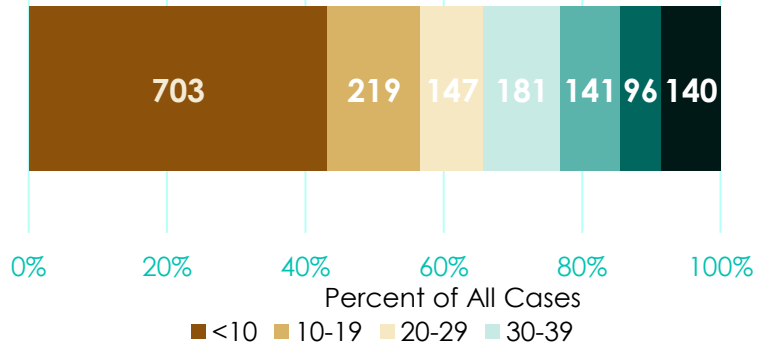
Case Demographics
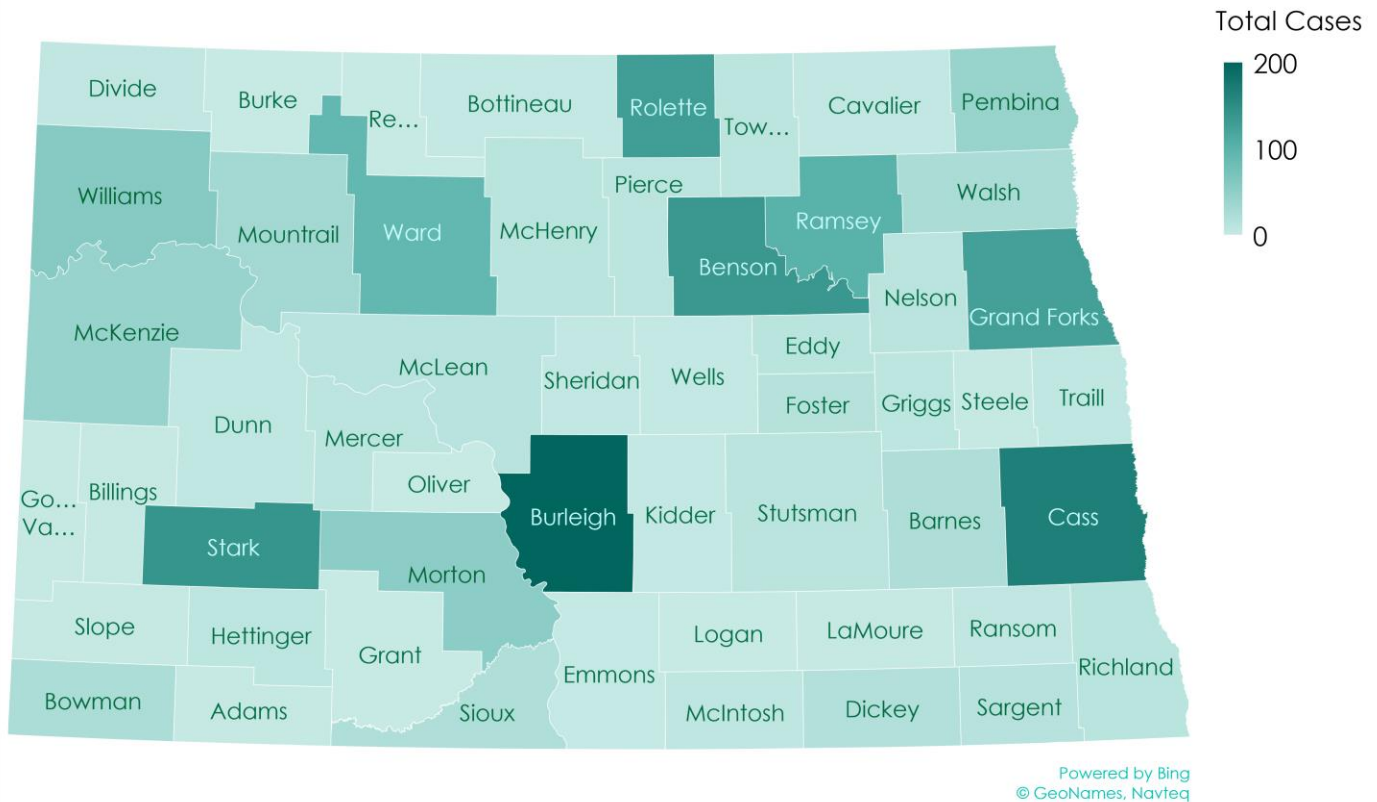
Case Count for Lab-Confirmed Cases by Gender

994   816

■ MALE ■ FEMALE

Case Count for Lab-Confirmed Cases by Age Group

| 703 | 219 | 147 | 181 | 141 | 96 | 140 |

0%   20%   40%   60%   80%   100%

Percent of All Cases

■ <10 ■ 10-19 ■ 20-29 ■ 30-39

Cases by County

Total Cases
200
100
0

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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:

Setting	Number of outbreaks	Identified pathogens
Long Term Care, Basic Care, Assisted Living	4	1 Influenza A; 1 flu A/flu B; 1 rhinovirus/*Haemophilus influenzae*; 1 unknown
Schools	0	
Child Care Centers	1	1 influenza A

Surveillance Programs

In addition to case reporting, the NDDoH uses a variety of information sources to fully describe 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 of influenza-related hospitalizations weekly to the NDDoH. Because this surveillance methodology is new, hospitalization numbers this year may not be comparable to those seen in previous years.

Number of Influenza Hospitalizations by Week Number
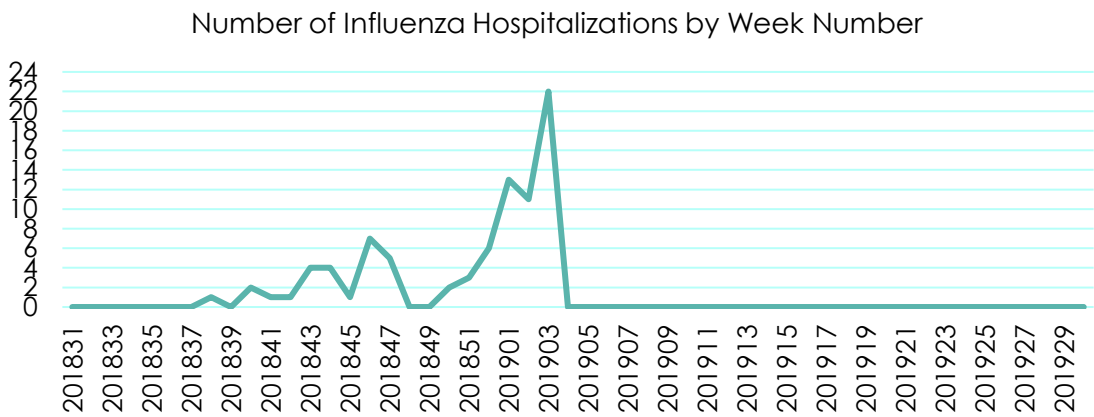
Total number of hospitalizations:

|	
This week	22
This season	83

Deaths

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

Number of **Pneumonia** and **Influenza** Deaths by Week Number
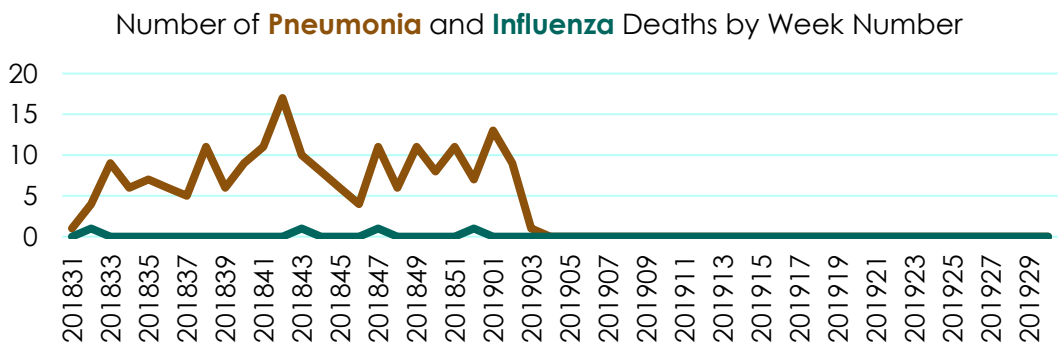
Total number of deaths for the season:

|	
Pneumonia	197
Influenza	4

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. For more information on state and national ILINet data, see FluView Interactive.

Percent of Outpatient Visits Due to Influenza-like Illness by Week, Current and Previous Season
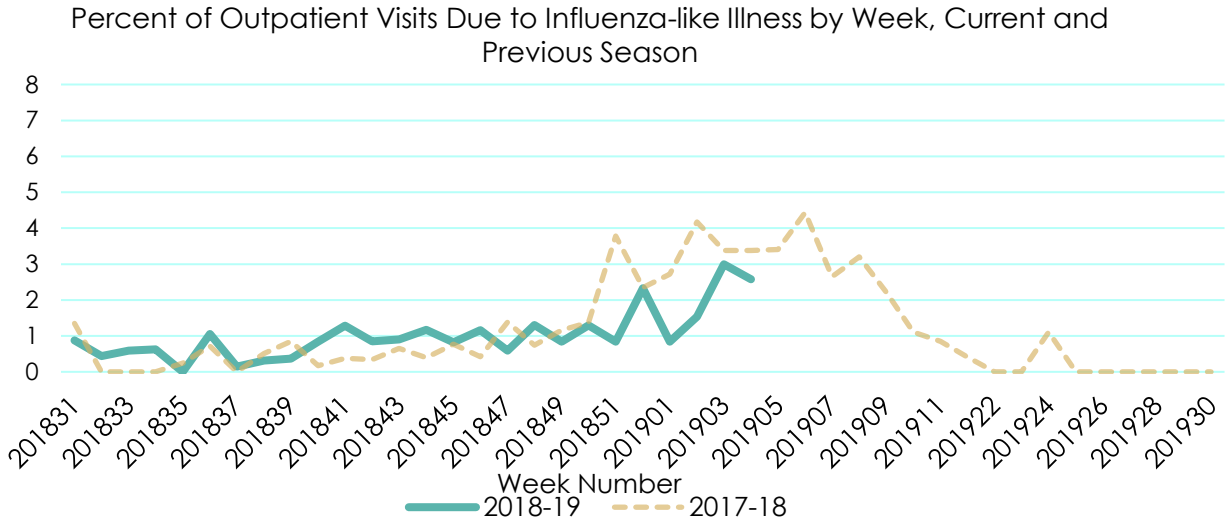
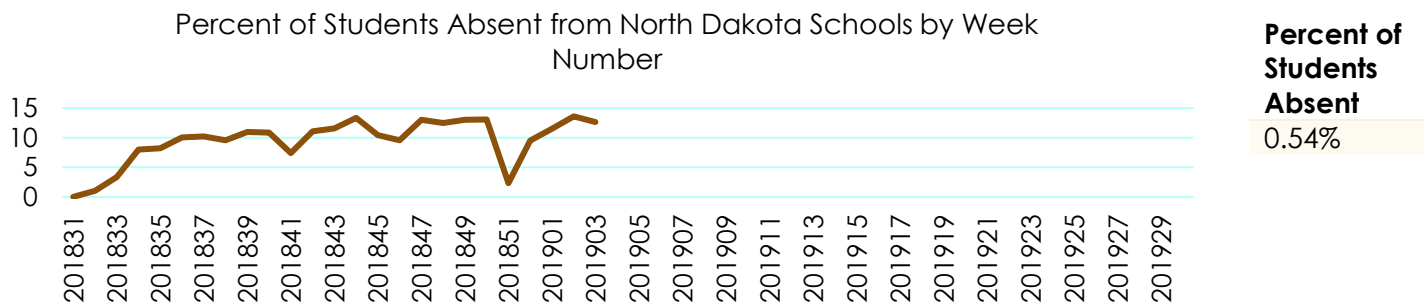| Week Number	Percent ILI	# ILI 0-4 age group	# ILI 5-24 age group	# ILI 25-49 age group	# ILI 50-64 age group	# ILI 65+ age group	Total # visits
201852	2.33%	19	10	11	3	4	2017
201901	0.84%	5	15	4	3	4	3681
201902	1.53%	14	23	9	4	7	3724
201903	2.84%	24	34	20	11	3	3241

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.

Percent Positivity of Influenza Testing and the Total Number of Tests Conducted

Percent Positivity for Influenza:
22.17%

Percent Positivity of RSV Testing and the Total Number of Tests Conducted

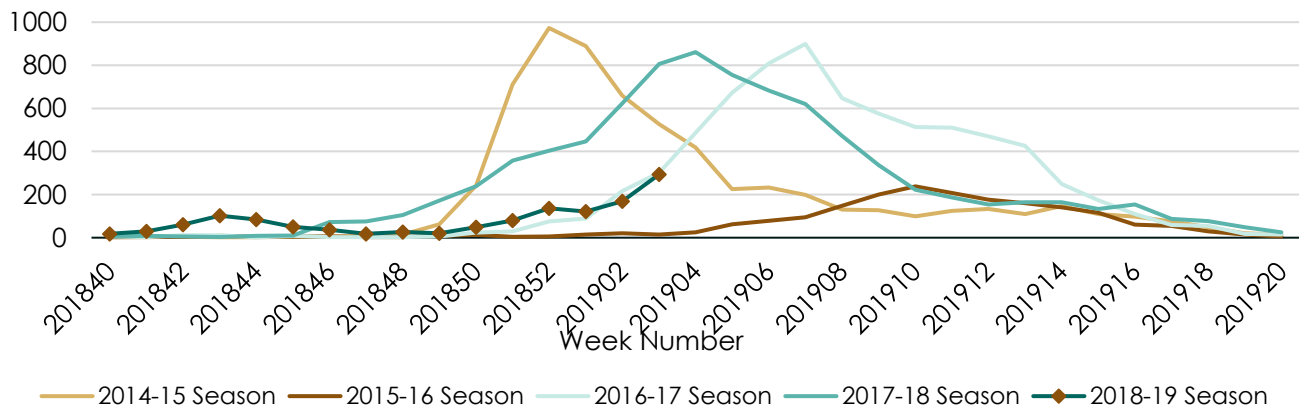**Percent Positivity for RSV:**

30.00%
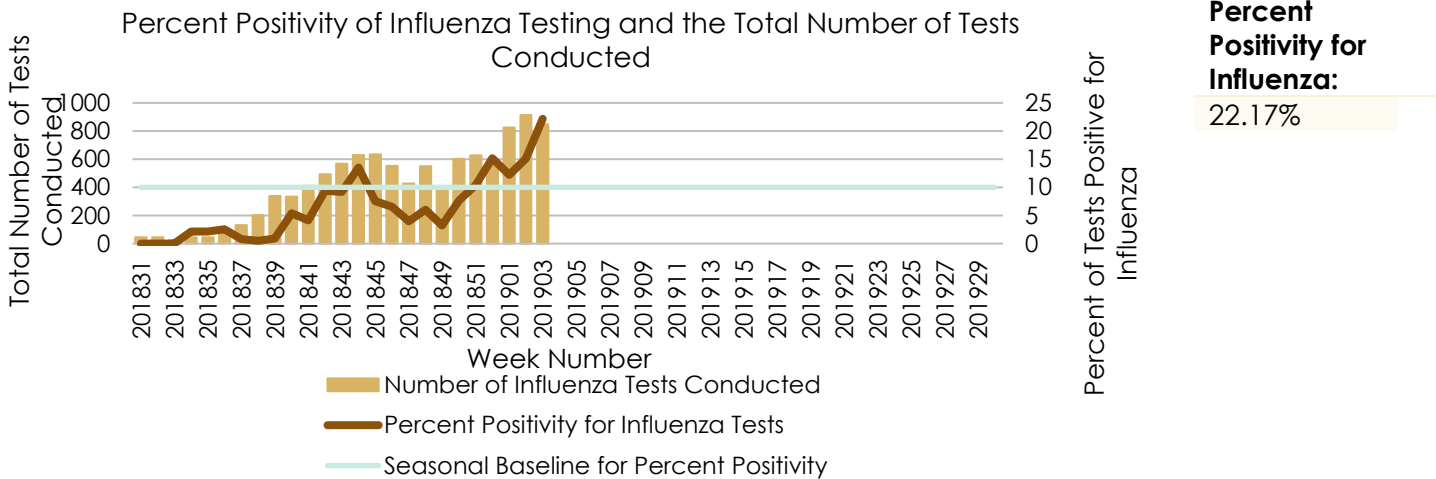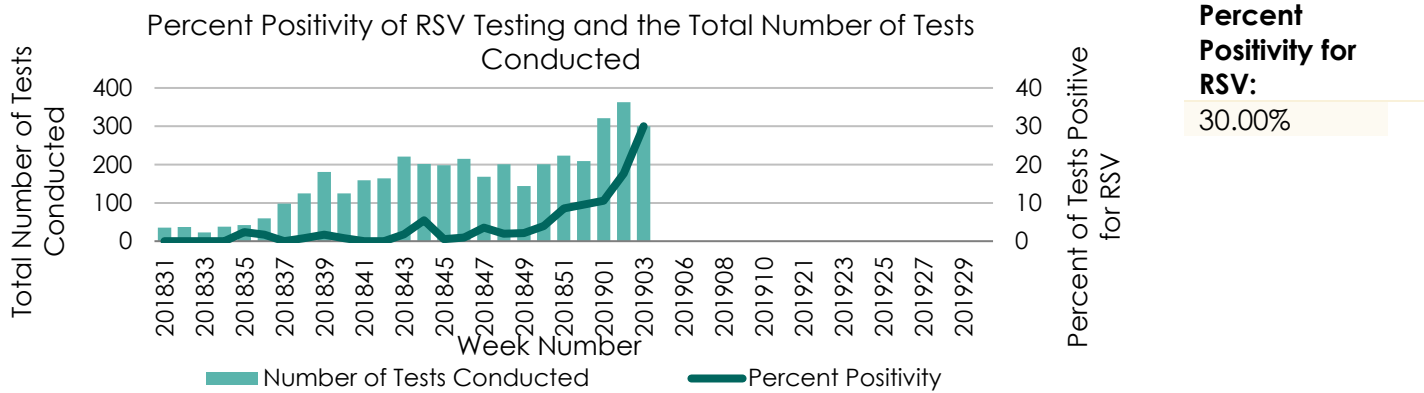
School Absenteeism

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.

Percent of Students Absent from North Dakota Schools by Week Number

Percent of Students Absent

0.54%

Multi-season Comparison

North Dakota Influenza Cases by Week, 2012-Current Season

Season	Total Cases	Peak Week (week ending)	Predominant Strain
2014-15	6,443	12/27/2014	A H3N2 (vaccine mismatch)
2015-16	1,942	3/12/2016	2009 A H1N1
2016-17	7,507	2/18/2017	A H3N2
2017-18	8,498	1/27/2018	A H3N3
2018-19	1,338 (current)	TBD	TBD

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 **253,013** doses of 2018-19 influenza vaccine have been entered into the NDIIS so far this season.

Influenza Doses Administered by Week Number
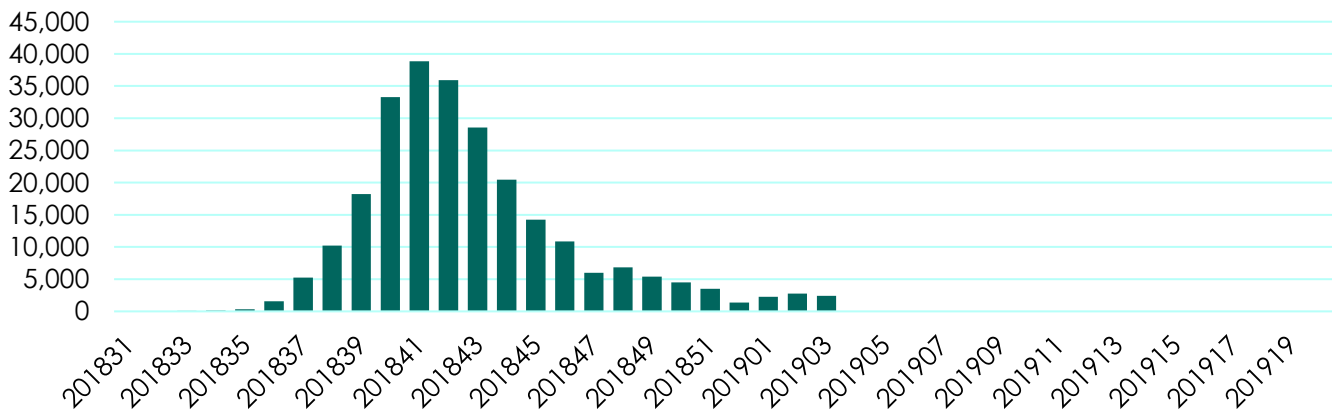
Vaccination Rates by Age

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 **51.7%**, and the age group with the lowest vaccination rate is **19-49 year-olds**, with **19.4%**.

Influenza Vaccination Rates by Age Group, by Week Number, Estimated by the NDIIS

Legend:
- 6 months - 4 years
- 5 - 12 years
- 13 - 18 years
- 19 - 49 years
- 50 - 64 years
- 65 years and older