2018-19 WEEKLY INFLUENZA UPDATE

Preliminary data through week **201910**, the week ending **3/9/2019**

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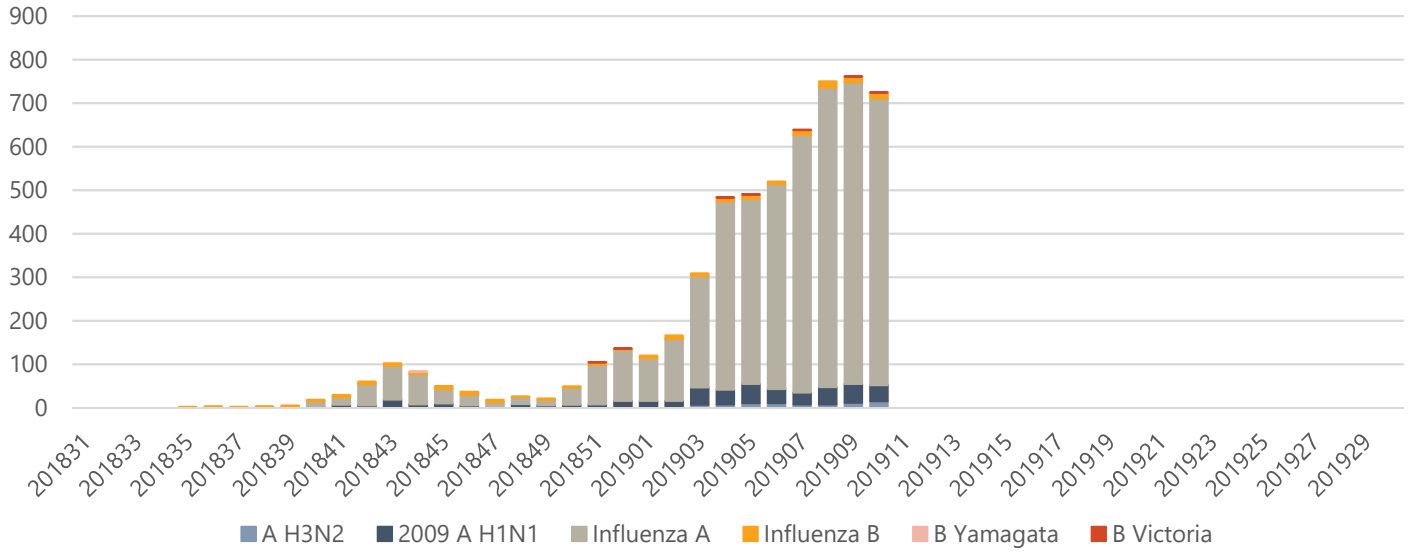
OVERVIEW

As of this week:	This season (2018-19)	Last season (2017-18)
Cases reported for the week	725	217
Cumulative cases for season	5,717	7,295
Activity level	Widespread	Regional

Influenza activity is still elevated in our state and nationwide. Most cases that have been subtyped have been identified as influenza A H1N1, although the proportion of influenza A H3N2 continues to increase. As of March 9, 2019, the CDC estimated between 25.5 and 29.3 million people have been sick with influenza in the United States this flu season. The NDDoH continues to recommend flu vaccination and appropriate use of antiviral medications for high-risk persons and those who are severely ill. It's not too late to get a flu vaccine!

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

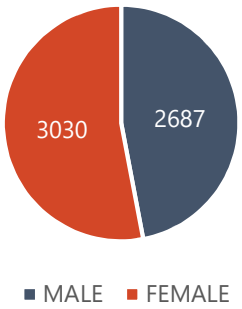


Number of cases:	A H3N2	2009 A H1N1	Influenza A	Influenza B	B Yamagata	B Victoria
This week	15	37	659	13	0	1
This season	84	431	5031	161	3	7

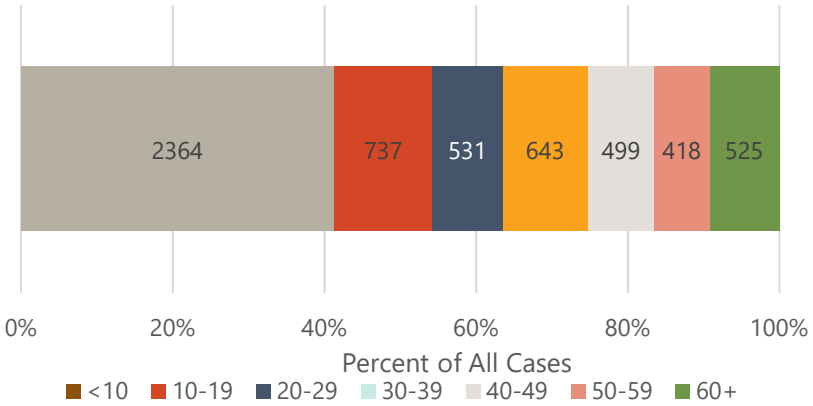
Laboratory-confirmed influenza is a reportable disease in North Dakota. Influenza "cases" include people that have tested positive for influenza in a healthcare setting. It does not include people with influenza who did not seek healthcare, or who were diagnosed without a lab test, which is common. The 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

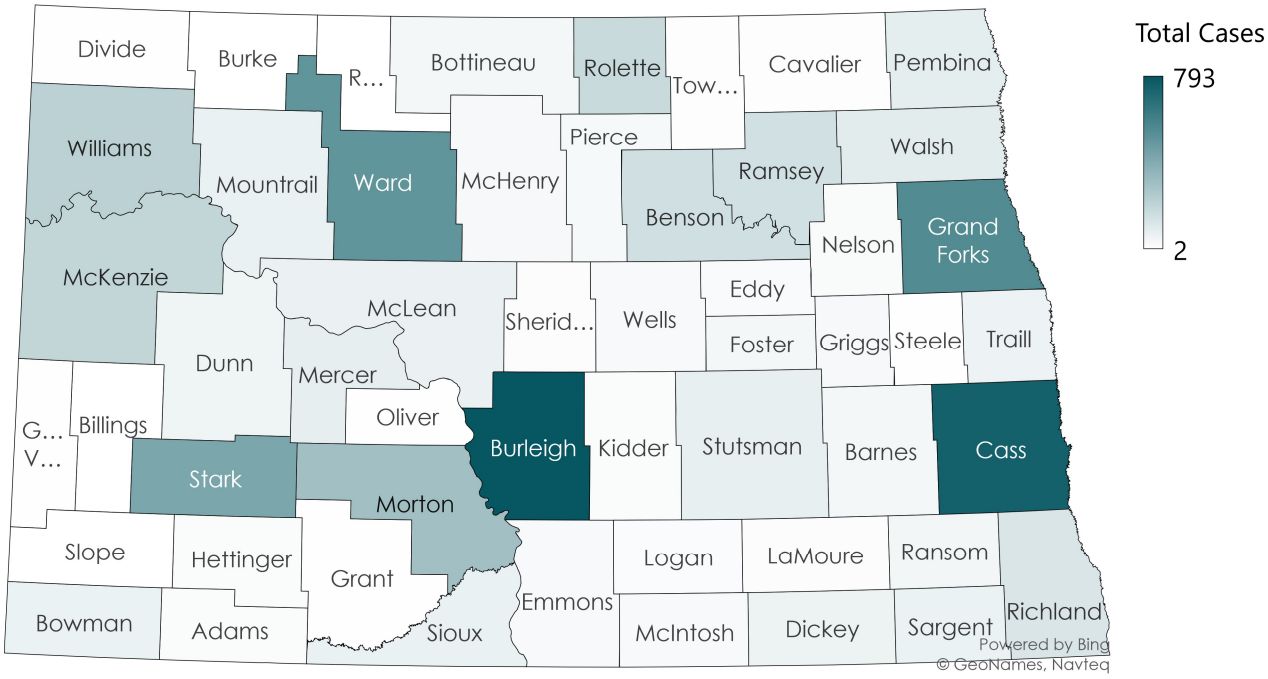
Case Count for Lab-Confirmed Cases by **Gender**



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



Cases by **County**



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:

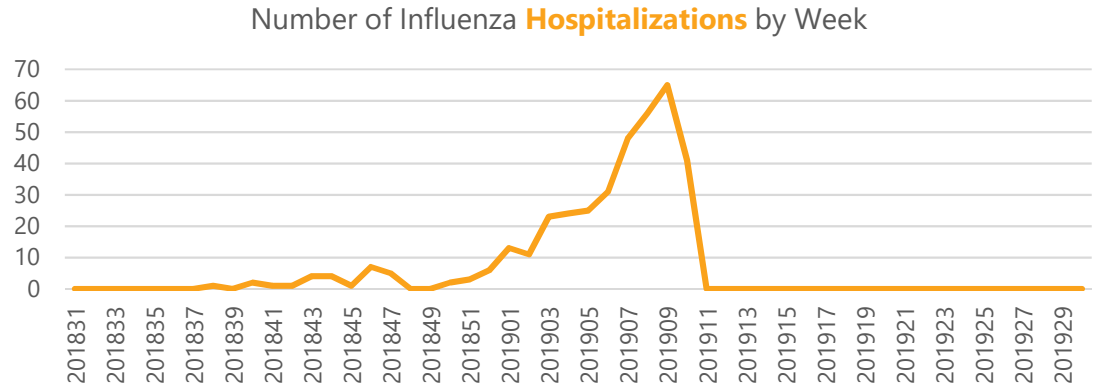
Setting	Number of outbreaks	Identified pathogens
Long Term Care, Basic Care, Assisted Living	16	10 influenza A; 1 flu A/B; 1 rhinovirus/*Haemophilus influenzae*; 4 unknown
Schools	1	1 flu A/B
Child Care Centers	2	1 influenza A; 1 unknown

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

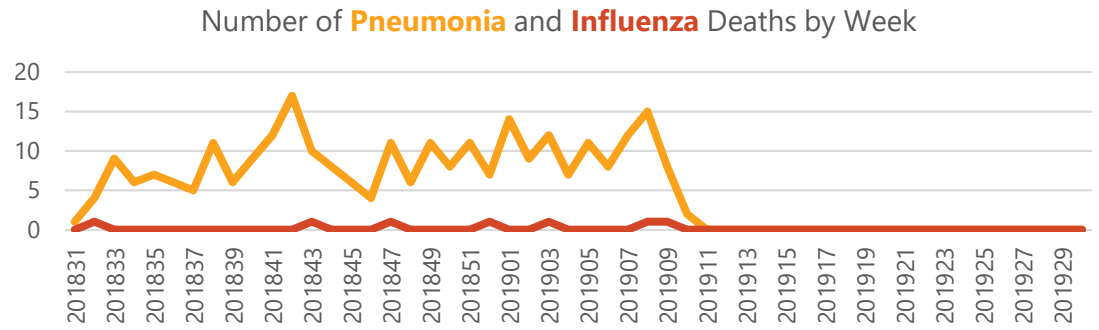
This season, the NDDoH has introduced a new influenza hospitalization surveillance program. Select North Dakota hospitals report the number of influenza-related hospitalizations weekly to the NDDoH. Because this surveillance methodology is new, hospitalization numbers this year may not be comparable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



Total number of hospitalizations:	
This week	41
This season	374

Deaths

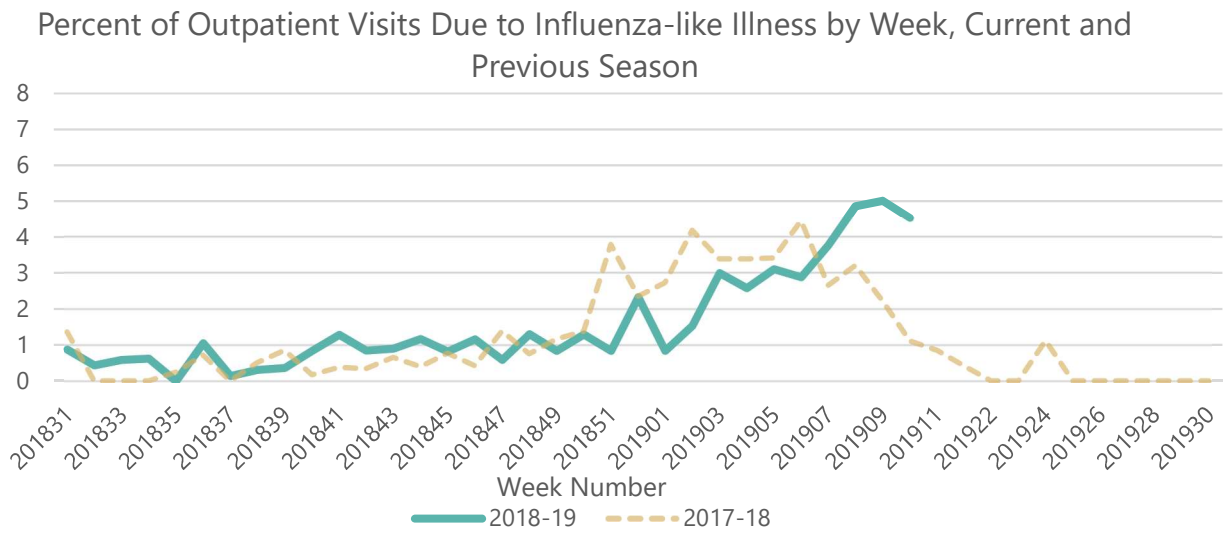
Data on pneumonia and influenza deaths is obtained from Vital Records and based on the cause of death listed on the death certificate.



Total number of deaths for the season:	
Pneumonia	273
Influenza	7

Outpatient Influenza-like Illness

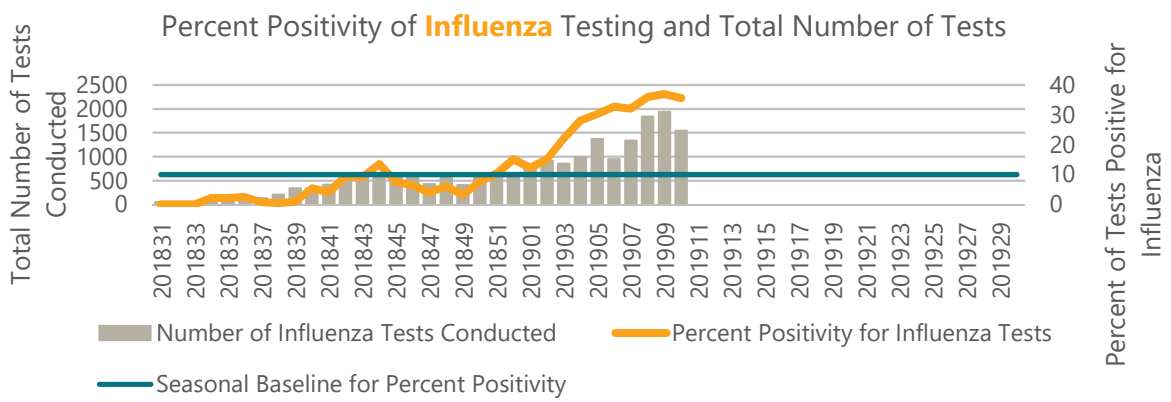
The NDDoH participates in the national U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet). Data from participating outpatient providers in North Dakota are pooled to create a state-wide estimate for the weekly percent of healthcare visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI). Patients presenting with a fever of 100ºF 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.



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
201907	**3.77%**	24	59	42	7	7	3684
201908	**4.85%**	47	74	59	18	12	4326
201909	**5.01%**	42	65	59	18	11	3892
201910	**4.53%**	**37**	**56**	**41**	**22**	**17**	**3823**

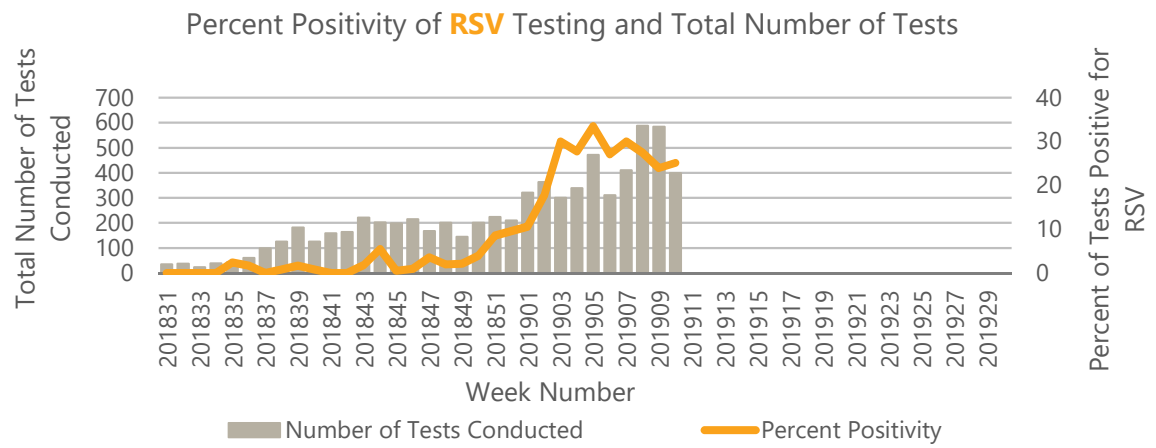
Sentinel Laboratory Data

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 for Influenza:

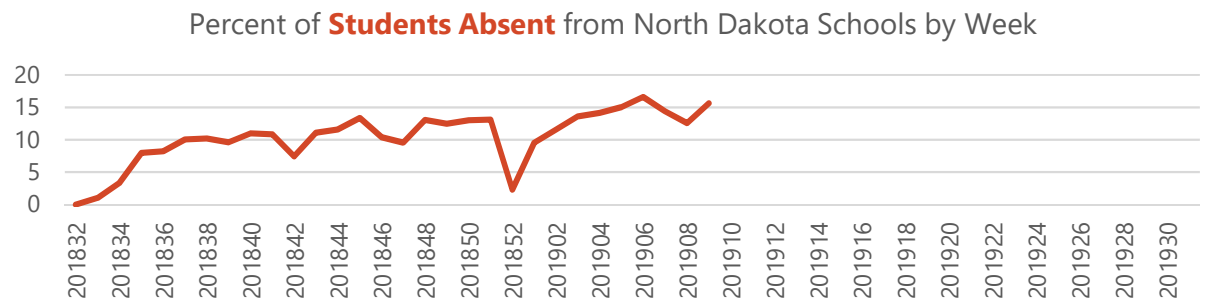
35.62%



Percent Positivity for RSV:
25.13%

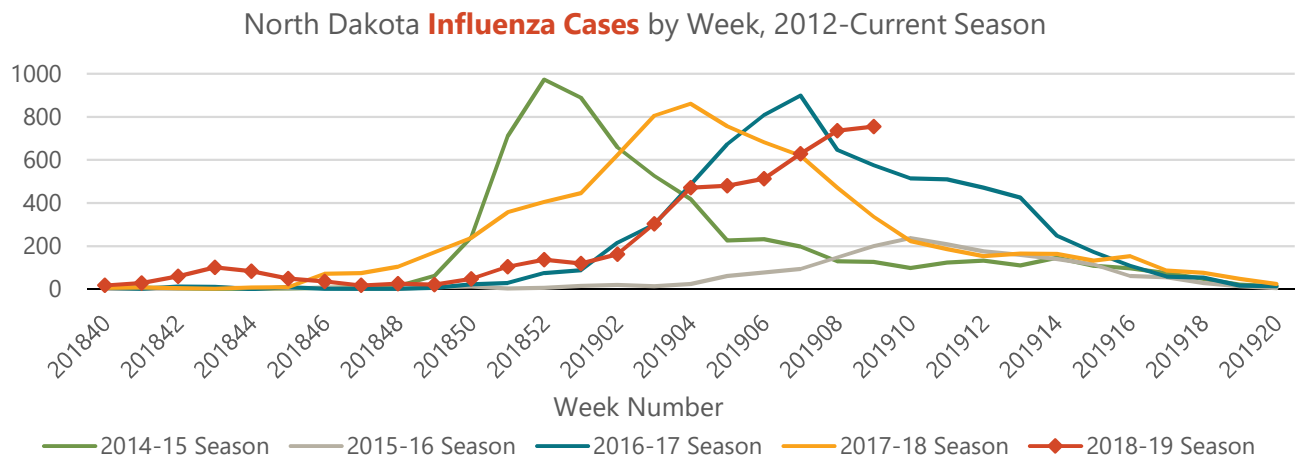
School Absenteeism

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
15.65%

MULTISEASON COMPARISON



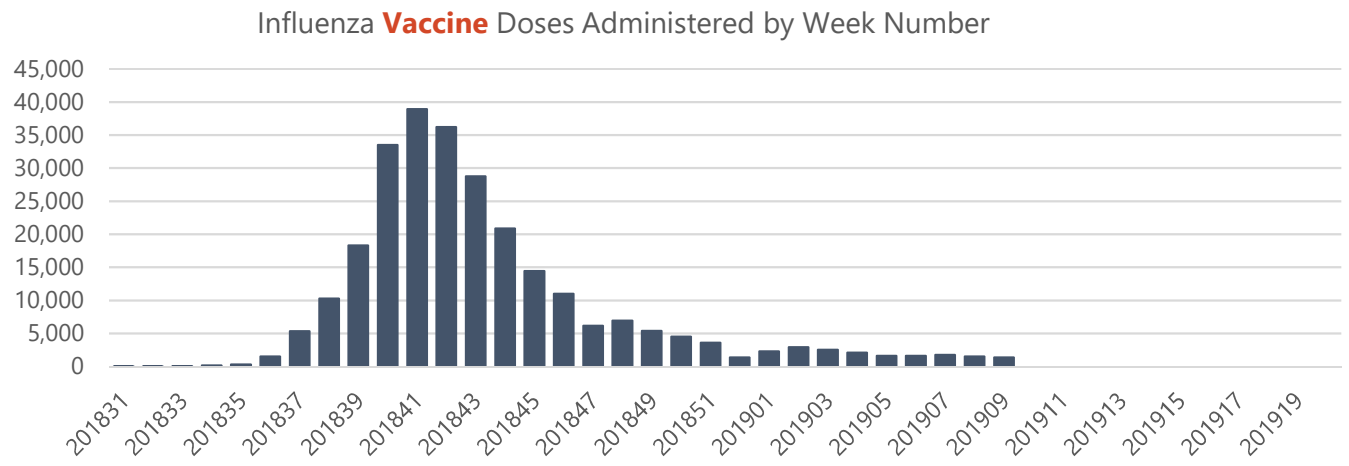
Season	Total Cases	Peak Week (week ending)	Predominant Strain
2014-15	6,443	12/27/2014	A H3N2 (vaccine mismatch)
2015-16	1,942	3/12/2016	2009 A H1N1
2016-17	7,507	2/18/2017	A H3N2

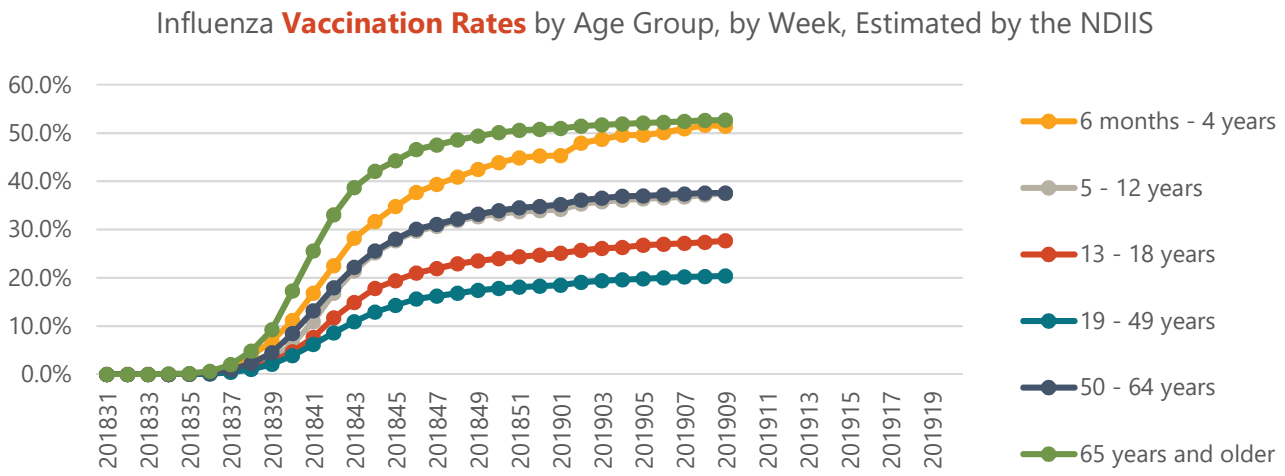
2017-18	8,498	1/27/2018	A H3N3
2018-19	**5,717 (current)**	**TBD**	**TBD**

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 **265,660** doses of 2018-19 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+** at **52.7%**, and the age group with the lowest vaccination rate is **19-49 year-olds**, at **20.4%.**