2019-20 Weekly Influenza Update

Preliminary data through week 201948, the week ending 11/30/2019
Edited by: Levi Schlosser, Influenza Surveillance Coordinator

Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of this week:</th>
<th>This season (2019-20)</th>
<th>Last season (2018-19)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cases reported for the week</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative cases for season</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity level</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Sporadic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Influenza activity is still on the climb, both across the state and nationwide. We are now beginning to see increased numbers of Influenza A virus in addition to the usual Influenza B. As a reminder for providers, when testing patients with parotitis, include influenza in your testing as well. This week is also National Influenza Vaccination Week; if you have not already done so, now is a great time for you to get your influenza vaccination. Now is a perfect time to get vaccinated as soon as possible—especially with the holiday season fast approaching. Everyone can get the flu, so this year be sure to prioritize getting your flu vaccine!

![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>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This season</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>29</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**: 167
- **FEMALE**: 193

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

- **<10**: 130
- **10-19**: 87
- **20-29**: 44
- **30-39**: 50
- **40-49**: 101
- **50-59**: 6
- **60+**: 23

### Cases by County

[Map showing total cases by county, with Cass County highlighted in dark blue.]

Total Cases

0

172

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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>0</td>
<td></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.

![Number of Influenza Hospitalizations by Week Number](image)

**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](image)

Total number of Hospitalizations:
- This week: 2
- This season: 10

Total number of deaths for the season:
- Pneumonia: 134
- Influenza: 0
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.

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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Peak Week (week ending)</th>
<th>Predominant Strain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2015-16</strong></td>
<td>1,942</td>
<td>3/12/2016</td>
<td>2009 A H1N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2016-17</strong></td>
<td>7,507</td>
<td>2/18/2017</td>
<td>A H3N2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2017-18</strong></td>
<td>8,498</td>
<td>1/27/2018</td>
<td>A H3N3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018-19</strong></td>
<td>7,946</td>
<td>3/27/2019</td>
<td>2009 A H1N1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2019-20</strong></td>
<td>360 (current)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2019-20 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 233,484 doses of 2019-20 influenza vaccine have been entered into the NDIIS so far this season.

![Influenza Doses Administered by Week](chart)

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 46%, and the age group with the lowest vaccination rate is 19-49 year-olds, with 17.6%.

![Influenza Vaccination Rates by Age Group by Week (according to the NDIIS)](chart)