Oregon ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance: Oregon Public Health tracks hospital emergency department (ED) visits throughout the state using the Oregon ESSENCE syndromic surveillance system. ESSENCE categorizes chief complaints into syndrome categories, which includes influenza-like illness (ILI). Figure 1, above, displays percentages for all of Oregon during this flu season compared with the previous three flu seasons. The percent of ED visits for ILI in all of Oregon was 1.2% during week 43, 2017.
Influenza-like Illness Outbreaks:
The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) is a laboratory-based system that monitors influenza and other respiratory viruses circulating the United States. More information is at CDC’s website.

Table 1 shows the current week and cumulative totals (since October 1, 2017) for influenza in specimens tested at 25 Oregon laboratories contributing data to NREVSS. Figure 2 shows that 4.1% of specimens tested at these Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 43, and the chart displays the number of influenza-positive tests by flu type and percent positivity.

Table 1. Influenza Test Results in Oregon, NREVSS, 2017–2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Week</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of specimens tested</td>
<td>1,180</td>
<td>4,397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of positive specimens (%)</td>
<td>48 (4.1%)</td>
<td>167 (3.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive specimens by type</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A</td>
<td>39 (81%)</td>
<td>141 (84%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B</td>
<td>9 (19%)</td>
<td>26 (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type Unavailable</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Oregon Influenza Surveillance Percent Positive Influenza Tests by Week, NREVSS 2017–2018 Season
ILINet: Oregon’s Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network: Oregon’s outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) network comprises 84 reporting facilities across Oregon. Facilities include 20 outpatient providers, and 54 emergency departments and 10 urgent care clinics reporting to ESSENCE. Data are reported to CDC weekly. The percent of outpatients seen with ILI for week 43 of 2017 was highest in the Central Oregon and Gorge region (1.5%) and lowest in the North Coast region (0.6%).

Figure 3. Portland Metro Area Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Week and Age Group, 2017-2018

Figure 4. Percentage of Visits for ILI at ILINet Outpatient Clinics and Emergency Departments, by Oregon Region, 2017–2018
Flu Immunization Update:

This week’s seasonal influenza immunization reporting is based on ALERT IIS data through Epiweek 42 (October 15–21). To date the ALERT IIS has received over 690,000 reports of seasonal influenza immunizations for Oregon residents. The peak of this year’s influenza immunization seeking has already occurred, in Epiweek 41 (October 8–14).

As with prior influenza seasons, the majority of non-senior adult influenza immunization seeking is done by women, as shown in the chart below. Over 60% of adult non-senior influenza immunizations have been received by women across the last five seasons, as well as the two seasons shown in the chart. In contrast, no gender difference for influenza immunization exists among Oregon children. To date there are no known interventions for narrowing the gender gap in influenza immunizations.
US Data (from CDC FluView): During week 43 (October 22-28, 2017), influenza activity was low in the United States.

- **Viral Surveillance**: The most frequently identified influenza virus type reported by public health laboratories during week 43 was influenza A. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- **Novel Influenza A Virus**: Three human infections with novel influenza A viruses were reported.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality**: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths**: One influenza-associated pediatric death was reported that occurred during the 2016-2017 season.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance**: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.5%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. One state experienced moderate ILI activity, four states experienced low ILI activity, New York City and 45 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza**: The geographic spread of influenza in Guam and four states was reported as regional; Puerto Rico and 12 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia and 31 states reported sporadic activity; one state reported no activity; and the U.S. Virgin Islands and two states did not report.

All Flu Bites data provided are preliminary and may change as additional reports are received. Find the most recent report online at: http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/DiseaseSurveillanceData/Influenza/Pages/surveil.aspx