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 include 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 1.6% during week 16, 2020.

Data at a Glance
April 12—April 18, 2020 (Week 16)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Week (16)</th>
<th>Previous Week (15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of emergency department visits for ILI(^1)</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage positive influenza tests(^2)</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza-associated hospitalizations(^3)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported influenza outbreaks</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza-associated pediatric mortality</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) activity(^4)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)Based on Oregon ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance. Data represent statewide aggregate percent.
\(^2\)Percent positivity based on data from Oregon reporters to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)
\(^3\)Based on hospitalization surveillance in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties only.
\(^4\)Percent positivity based on data from Oregon’s RSV Laboratory Surveillance System.

![Figure 1. Percentage of ED Visits for ILI, Oregon ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance, 2016–2017, 2017–2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020](image-url)
**Laboratory Surveillance:** 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](https://www.cdc.gov/).

Table 1 shows the tests conducted and results by region for the current week for influenza in specimens tested at the Oregon laboratories reporting to NREVSS. Figure 2 shows that 0.1% of specimens tested at Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 16, and the bar chart displays the number of influenza-positive tests by flu type and percent positivity.

Participation by laboratories is voluntary. Current labs participating in NREVSS in Oregon include:
- Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center (Portland, OR)
- Oregon Health & Science University (Portland, OR)
- Providence Health (Oregon)
- Kaiser Permanente (Oregon)
- Veteran’s Administration Hospital (Portland, OR)
- Adventist Health (Portland, OR)
- Bay Area Hospital (Coos Bay, OR)
- Curry Health Network (Brookings, OR)
- Mercy Medical Center (Roseburg, OR)
- Sky Lakes Medical Center (Klamath Falls, OR)
- Lake Health District, (Lakeview, OR)
- Rogue Valley Medical Center (SW Oregon)
- Good Shepherd Medical Center (Hermiston, OR)
- Grande Ronde Hospital (La Grande, OR)
- Mid-Columbia Medical Center (The Dalles, OR)
- Central Oregon Pediatric Associates (Central Oregon)
- Harney District Hospital (Burns, OR)
- St. Charles (Bend, OR)
- Samaritan Health Services (Lebanon, OR)
- Columbia Memorial Hospital (Astoria, OR)
- PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center (Vancouver, WA)
- Salem Hospital (Salem, OR)
- Willamette Valley Medical Center (McMinnville, OR)

Table 1. Influenza Test Results in Oregon by Region, NREVSS, Current Week, 2019–2020 Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Tests</th>
<th>Positive No.</th>
<th>Flu A No.</th>
<th>Flu B No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland Metro</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Gorge</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette Valley</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>807</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 2. Oregon Influenza Laboratory Surveillance**

Percent Positive Influenza Tests by Week, NREVSS, 2019–2020 Season
Hospitalizations: In Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties no influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported during week 16 of 2020. In total, there have been 669 hospitalizations; 375 (56.1%) were positive for flu A and 294 (44.0%) were positive for flu B. Of the 60 flu A specimens that have been subtyped, 54 (90.0%) were 2009 H1N1 and 6 (10.0%) were H3. All 22 flu B specimens that were differentiated were Victoria lineage.

Influenza Outbreaks: There were no influenza outbreaks reported during week 16, 2020. There have been a total of 92 influenza outbreaks reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2019—2020 flu season; 56 (60.9%) occurred in a long-term care facility, 27 (29.3%) occurred in a school, and 9 (9.8%) occurred in another setting.
Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance: Oregon’s outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance comprises 17 voluntary reporting outpatient providers, 64 emergency departments and urgent care clinics reporting to ESSENCE, and 310 OCHIN clinics from across Oregon. The percentage of outpatients seen with ILI across the state during week 16 of 2020 was 2.5%. Regionally, the percentage was highest in the Central and Gorge region (4.7%) and lowest in the Willamette Valley (0.9%).

**Figure 5. Percentage of Visits for ILI at Outpatient Clinics & Emergency Departments, by Oregon Region, 2019-2020**

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality Surveillance: Influenza-associated deaths in children 17 years of age and younger are nationally notifiable. There were no pediatric flu deaths in Oregon reported during week 15, 2020. There have been a total of 3 influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2019—2020 flu season.
US Data (from CDC FluView): Laboratory confirmed flu activity as reported by clinical laboratories is now low. Influenza-like illness activity continues to decrease and is below the national baseline. The percent of deaths due to pneumonia or influenza (P&I) is high but the increase is due primarily to COVID-19, not influenza. Reported pediatric flu deaths for the season are high at 169.

Viruses
- **Clinical Labs:** The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories is 0.4%. This is approximately the same as the previous week.
- **Public Health Labs:** Nationally, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses are now the most commonly reported influenza viruses this season.

Illness
- **ILINet Outpatient Illness:** Visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased from 2.8% last week to 2.9% this week. All regions are above their baselines.
- **ILINet Activity Map:** The number of jurisdictions experiencing high or very high ILI activity decreased from 12 last week to 8 this week.
- **Geographic Spread:** The number of jurisdictions reporting regional or widespread influenza activity decreased from 17 last week to 10 this week.

Severe Disease
- **Hospitalizations:** The overall cumulative hospitalization rate for the season increased to 68.6 per 100,000.
- **P&I Mortality:** The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza is 11.4%, down from 14.5% last week, but above the epidemic threshold of 6.9%.
- **Pediatric Deaths:** One influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2019-2020 season were reported this week. The total for the season is 169.

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**Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet**

2019-20 Influenza Season Week 16—ending April 18, 2020

**Map above:** This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to ILINet sentinel providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not, however, measure the extent of geographic spread of flu within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.

**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported by State and Territorial Epidemiologists**

2019-20 Influenza Season Week 16—ending April 18, 2020

**Map left:** The map left measures the geographic spread of influenza viruses, but does not measure the intensity of influenza activity.

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