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 influenza-like illness (ILI).

Figure 1, above, displays percentages for all of Oregon during this influenza season compared with the previous four influenza seasons. The percent of ED visits for ILI in all of Oregon was 0.5% during week 13, 2021.

Data at a Glance
March 28, 2021—April 03, 2021 (Week 13)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Week (13)</th>
<th>Previous Week (12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of emergency department visits for ILI¹</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage positive influenza tests²</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>&lt;0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland tri-county influenza-associated hospitalizations³</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland tri-county COVID-19-associated hospitalizations³</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</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) activity⁴</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Oregon ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance Report
Influenza & Respiratory Viruses
Oregon Public Health Division
Published April 9, 2021
**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.

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 13, and the bar chart displays the number of influenza-positive tests by influenza 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),
- 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),
- Mid-Columbia Medical Center (The Dalles, OR),
- Central Oregon Pediatric Associates (Central Oregon),
- Harney District Hospital (Burns, OR),
- St. Charles (Bend, OR),
- Columbia Memorial Hospital (Astoria, OR),
- Willamette Valley Medical Center (McMinnville, OR).

### Table 1. Influenza Test Results in Oregon, NREVSS, Current Week, 2020–2021 Season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Total Tests</th>
<th>Positive No.</th>
<th>Positive (%)</th>
<th>Flu A No.</th>
<th>Flu A (%)</th>
<th>Flu B No.</th>
<th>Flu B (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland Metro</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Gorge</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette Valley</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2744</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.1%</strong></td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.0%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 2. Oregon Influenza Laboratory Surveillance**

Percent Positive Influenza Tests by Week, NREVSS, 2020–2021 Season
**Portland Tri-County Influenza Hospitalizations:** In Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties there were no influenza-associated hospitalizations reported during week 13 of 2021, bringing us to a total of three reported during the 2020-2021 season.

**Portland Tri-County COVID-19 Hospitalizations:** There were 28 COVID-19-associated hospitalizations among residents of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties reported during week 13 of 2021. A total of 2,308 hospitalizations have been reported since Week 40 of 2020. Please note that data are preliminary and may be revised as more reports are received.
**Influenza Outbreaks:** There were no influenza outbreaks reported during week 13, 2021 and none yet reported during the 2020-2021 influenza season.

**Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance:** Oregon’s outpatient influenza-like illness (ILI) surveillance comprises 16 voluntary reporting outpatient providers, 64 emergency departments and urgent care clinics reporting to ESSENCE, and 150 OCHIN clinics from across Oregon. The percent of outpatients seen with ILI across the state during week 13 of 2021 was 1.3%. Regionally, the percent was highest in the Central and Gorge regions (2.8%) and lowest in the Willamette Valley (0.5%).

**Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality Surveillance:** Influenza-associated deaths in children 17 years of age and younger are nationally notifiable. There were no pediatric influenza deaths in Oregon reported during week 13, 2021 and none yet reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2020—2021 influenza season.
US Data (from CDC FluView): Seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains lower than usual for this time of year.

Viruses
- **Clinical Labs:** The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories is 0.1% this week.
- **Public Health Labs:** The number of influenza positives reported by public health labs remains unusually low.
- **Virus Characterization:** Influenza virus characterization information will be reported later this season.

Illness
- **ILI/N Outpatient Illness:** During week 13 1.0% of patient visits to a health care provider were for influenza-like illness (ILI), remaining stable (change of ≤0.1%) compared to the previous week. Nationaly, ILI remains below the national baseline of 2.6%. ILI surveillance may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.
- **ILI/N Activity Map:** During week 13, all jurisdictions experienced minimal activity. ILI activity levels may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.

Severe Disease
- **Hospitalizations:** FluSurv-NET sites reported a current cumulative hospitalization rate of 0.7 per 100,000 population, which is about one-seventh the rate reported at this time during the low severity 2011-12 season.
- **P&I Mortality:** 11.4% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC). This is above the epidemic threshold of 7.0%. Currently, the majority of PIC deaths are due to COVID-19.
- **Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC this week. The total for the season is one.

*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 influenza within a state. Therefore, outbreaks occurring in a single city could cause the state to display high activity levels.