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 3.6% during week 9, 2020.
**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 19.7% of specimens tested at Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 9, 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 (Coom 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>2048</td>
<td>392 (19.1%)</td>
<td>326 (83.2%)</td>
<td>66 (16.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td>259 (23.7%)</td>
<td>152 (58.7%)</td>
<td>107 (41.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Gorge</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>16 (26.7%)</td>
<td>15 (93.8%)</td>
<td>1 (6.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>96 (18.7%)</td>
<td>76 (79.2%)</td>
<td>20 (20.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette Valley</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>33 (9.8%)</td>
<td>27 (81.8%)</td>
<td>6 (18.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4050</strong></td>
<td><strong>796 (19.7%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>596 (74.9%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>200 (25.1%)</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 28 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported during week 9 of 2020. In total, there have been 523 hospitalizations; 240 (45.9%) were positive for flu A and 283 (54.1%) were positive for flu B. Of the 40 flu A specimens that have been subtyped, 34 (85.0%) were 2009 H1N1 and 6 (15.0%) were H3. All 22 flu B specimens that were differentiated were Victoria lineage.

Influenza Outbreaks: There were 8 influenza outbreaks reported during week 9, 2020. There have been a total of 65 influenza outbreaks reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2019—2020 flu season; 38 (58.5%) occurred in a long-term care facility, 21 (32.3%) occurred in a school, and 6 (9.2%) 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 9 of 2020 was 4.1%. Regionally, the percentage was highest in the Central Oregon and Columbia Gorge region (8.1%) and lowest in the North Coast (2.2%).

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Mortality Surveillance: Influenza-associated deaths in children 17 years of age and younger are nationally notifiable. There was 1 pediatric flu death in Oregon reported during week 9, 2020. There have been a total of 2 influenza-associated pediatric deaths reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2019—2020 flu season.

Immunizations data: Weekly influenza immunization reporting is based on ALERT Immunization Information System (ALERT IIS) data through epi week 9 of 2020 (February 29th). Rates of new influenza immunization per week are currently running slightly above what is typically seen at this time of the season. As a caveat, while most immunizations are reported quickly and electronically to ALERT IIS, some reporting is delayed—current weekly totals will be adjusted upward later.
Figure 7. 2019-2020 Flu Vaccination in ALERT IIS by Epi Week, Cumulative Doses Compared to Last Season

Figure 8. Weekly Influenza Immunization Rate Among Not-Yet Immunized Oregonians, 2019-20 Compared to 2018-19 by Epi Week
US Data (from CDC FluView): Key indicators that track flu activity remain high but decreased for the third week in a row. Severity indicators (hospitalizations and deaths) remain moderate to low overall, but hospitalization rates differ by age group, with high rates among children and young adults.

**Viruses**
- **Clinical Labs:** The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at clinical laboratories decreased from 28.0% last week to 24.3% this week.
- **Public Health Labs:** Nationally, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses are now the most commonly reported influenza viruses this season.

**Illness**
- **ILI Net Outpatient Illness:** Visits to health care providers for influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased from 5.5% last week to 5.3% this week. All regions remain above their baselines.
- **ILI Net Activity Map:** The number of jurisdictions experiencing high ILI activity decreased from 45 last week to 42 this week.
- **Geographic Spread:** The number of jurisdictions reporting regional or widespread influenza activity increased from 50 last week to 51 this week.

**Severe Disease**
- **Hospitalizations:** The overall cumulative hospitalization rate for the season increased to 57.9 per 100,000.
- **P&I Mortality:** The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza is 6.9%, below the epidemic threshold of 7.3%.
- **Pediatric Deaths:** 11 influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2019-2020 season were reported this week. The total for the season is 136.

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

**2019-20 Influenza Season Week 9—ending February 29, 2020**

**Map above:** This map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to ILI Net 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 9—ending February 29, 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/surveil.aspx