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 1.7% during week 46, 2019.
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 7.1% of specimens tested at Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 46, 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), 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), Salem Hospital (Salem, OR), Willamette Valley Medical Center (McMinnville, OR).

<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>1014</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Gorge</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette Valley</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1754</strong></td>
<td><strong>125</strong></td>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>99</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 4 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported during week 46 of 2019. In total, there have been 13 hospitalizations; 7 were positive for flu A and 6 were positive for flu B. One specimen has been subtyped as H1N1.

Influenza Outbreaks: There was 1 influenza outbreak reported during Week 46, 2019. There have been a total of 2 influenza outbreaks reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2019—2020 flu season, 1 occurred in a long-term care facility, and the other occurred in a school.
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 179 OCHIN clinics from across Oregon. The percent of outpatients seen with ILI across the state during week 46 of 2019 was 1.9%. Regionally, the percent was highest in the Central and Gorge region (2.7%) and lowest in the Willamette Valley (0.8%).

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

Vaccination Information: Weekly influenza immunization reporting is based on ALERT Immunization Information System (ALERT IIS) data through Epiweek 46 of 2019 (November 16th). The ALERT IIS to date this season has received over 1.1 million influenza immunization reports (Figure 7).

**Figure 6. 2019-2020 Oregon Flu Vaccine Doses in ALERT IIS by Epiweek**
Vaccination Information (continued): It is typical that influenza immunization seeking will drop off from Thanksgiving onward (see Figure 8). During October of 2019, on average, every week 4.2% of all Oregonians who had not yet gotten an influenza immunization got one. In contrast, the average weekly rate among Oregonians who were not yet immunized last season in October was 4.1%; with a November weekly average rate of 1.5%; and a December weekly average rate of only 0.5%. 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 Epiweek, Cumulative Doses Compared to Last Season**

**Figure 8. Weekly Influenza Immunization Rate Among Not-Yet Immunized Oregonians, 2019-20 and 2018-19 by Epiweek**
US Data (from CDC FluView): According to this week’s FluView report, seasonal influenza activity in the United States continues to increase but the amount of activity and the predominant influenza virus varies by region.

**Viruses**
- **Clinical Lab:** 7.3% of respiratory specimens tested by clinical laboratories were positive for influenza viruses. This is higher than the previous week.
- **Public Health Lab:** Nationally, B/Victoria viruses are most common followed by A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) viruses. The predominant virus varies by region and age.
- **Virus Characterization:** Genetic and antigenic characterization and antiviral susceptibility of viruses collected in the U.S. this season is now being reported.

**Illness**
- **ILI Net Outpatient Illness:** 2.5% of visits to health care providers were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI was above the baseline of 2.4% for the first time. Four of 10 regions were at or above their baselines.
- **ILI Net Activity Map:** The number of jurisdictions experiencing high ILI activity increased from 1 last week to 8 this week; however 44 jurisdictions experienced minimal to low ILI activity.
- **Geographic Spread:** The number of jurisdictions reporting regional or widespread activity increased from 10 last week to 15 this week.

**Severe Disease**
- **Hospitalizations:** The overall hospitalization rate for the season is 1.4 per 100,000. This is similar to what has been seen at this time during other recent seasons.
- **P&I Mortality:** 5.2% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This is below the epidemic threshold of 6.2%.
- **Pediatric Deaths:** One new influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2019-2020 season was reported to CDC this week. The total for the season is 4.