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 1.1% during week 43, 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 1.0% of specimens tested at Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 43, 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 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>594</td>
<td>7 (1.2%)</td>
<td>3 (42.9%)</td>
<td>4 (57.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>2 (0.8%)</td>
<td>2 (100.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Gorge</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>1 (0.6%)</td>
<td>0 (0.0%)</td>
<td>1 (100.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette Valley</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>2 (1.0%)</td>
<td>1 (50.0%)</td>
<td>1 (50.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1232</strong></td>
<td><strong>12 (1.0%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 (50.0%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>6 (50.0%)</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 43 of 2019. In total, there have been 2 hospitalizations; one was subtyped as flu A and the second as flu B.

**Influenza Outbreaks:** There were 0 influenza outbreaks reported to the Oregon Health Authority during Week 43, 2019.

**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 180 OCHIN clinics from across Oregon. The percent of outpatients seen with ILI across the state during week 43 of 2019 was 1.9%. Regionally, the percent was highest in the Eastern region (2.6%) and lowest in the Willamette Valley (0.7%).
**Vaccination Information:** Weekly influenza immunization reporting is based on ALERT Immunization Information System (ALERT IIS) data through Epiweek 43 of 2019 (October 26th). At this time, the peak of immunization delivery has already passed. So far this season, over 820,000 influenza immunizations for Oregonians have been reported to ALERT IIS. While most immunizations are reported quickly and electronically to ALERT IIS, some reporting is delayed. Current weekly totals will be adjusted upward later.

**Figure 5. 2019-2020 Oregon Flu Vaccine Doses in ALERT IIS by Epiweek**

**Figure 6. 2018-2019 Flu Vaccination in ALERT IIS by Epiweek, Cumulative Doses Compared to Last Season**

This week we are including a chart showing the percentage of influenza immunizations by age that were reported by pharmacies. Oregon law allows pharmacists to give immunizations from age seven without a prescription; this is reflected in Figure 7. For seniors, pharmacies give roughly half of all influenza immunizations in Oregon. A large number of pharmacy influenza immunizations are also given at grocery stores. To date, 57% of pharmacy influenza immunizations were given at grocery stores. Grocery store pharmacies tend to immunize a slightly older mix of patients; 55% of grocery store pharmacy influenza immunizations were given to seniors, compared to 48% of influenza immunizations going to seniors at other pharmacy locations.

**Figure 7. Oregon Pharmacy Influenza Immunization by Age as a Percentage of Total, as of 10/30/2019**
US Data (from CDC FluView): According to this week’s FluView report, seasonal influenza activity in the United States increased slightly, but remains low.

**Viruses**
- **Clinical Lab:** 2.4% of respiratory specimens tested in clinical laboratories were positive for influenza viruses. This is slightly higher than the previous week.
- **Public Health Lab:** Influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B/Victoria viruses have been most common so far, with influenza A(H3N2) viruses slightly outnumbering influenza B/Victoria viruses.
- **Virus Characterization:** Data for this season will be reported when a sufficient number of viruses have been characterized. Virus characterization data through September 28 is available.

**Illness**
- **ILINet Outpatient Illness:** 1.9% of visits to a health care provider were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI activity is higher than the previous week but remains below the national baseline of 2.4%.
- **ILINet Activity Map:** The majority of jurisdictions experienced minimal ILI activity; however, Louisiana and Puerto Rico experienced high ILI activity and 7 states experienced low ILI activity.
- **Geographic Spread:** The majority of jurisdictions reported sporadic or local activity; however, Louisiana reported regional activity and Rhode Island reported no activity.

**Severe Disease**
- **Hospitalizations:** Data for this season will be provided when a sufficient number of hospitalizations have been reported.
- **P&I Mortality:** 5.1% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I). This is below the epidemic threshold of 5.8%.
- **Pediatric Deaths:** No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2019-2020 season were reported to CDC this week. The total for the season is 2.

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**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 dis-