Oregon Public Health Division

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 1.3% during week 48, 2020.

Data at a Glance
November 22—November 28, 2020 (Week 48)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Category</th>
<th>Current Week (48)</th>
<th>Previous Week (47)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of emergency department visits for ILI¹</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage positive influenza tests²</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.2%</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>125</td>
<td>150</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.
Laboratory Surveillance: The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) is a laboratory-based system that monitors influenza and other respiratory viruses circulating in 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 0.2% of specimens tested at Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 48, 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), Salem Hospital (Salem, 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 (%)</th>
<th>Flu A (%)</th>
<th>Flu B (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portland Metro</td>
<td>1477</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Oregon</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Gorge</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Oregon</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette Valley</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State Total 2523 5 0.2% 1 20.0% 4 80.0%

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 48 of 2020 and none yet reported during the 2020-2021 season.

**Portland Tri-County COVID-19 Hospitalizations:** There were 125 COVID-19-associated hospitalizations among residents of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties reported during week 48 of 2020. A total of 786 hospitalizations have been reported since Week 40 of 2020. Please note that data are preliminary and may be revised as more reports are received.
**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 48 of 2020 was 2.1%. Regionally, the percent was highest in the Southern region areas (3.2%) and lowest in the Willamette Valley (0.9%).

**Figure 5. Number of Influenza Outbreaks in Oregon by Setting, 2020-2021 Season**

**Influenza Outbreaks:** There were no influenza outbreaks reported during Week 48, 2020 and none yet reported during the 2020-2021 influenza season.

**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 48, 2020 and none yet reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2020—2021 influenza season.

**Figure 6. Percentage of Visits for ILI at Outpatient Clinics & Emergency Departments, by Oregon Region, 2020-2021**
**Vaccination Information:** As of Nov. 28th (Epi Week 48), the pattern of new influenza immunizations in Oregon continues to closely follow last season. Typically, immunization seeking is low over Thanksgiving week, followed by a mild rebound into December. This season, National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) starts on Dec. 6th and is expected to help drive new influenza immunizations in Oregon.

As a data note for this week, in all past seasons a strong gender difference has been observed in adult, non-senior influenza immunizations. Last season, 577,000 non senior adult influenza immunizations were reported to ALERT IIS by Thanksgiving week, with women receiving 60% of these immunizations. By Thanksgiving week this season, ALERT IIS had received reports of 642,000 influenza immunizations among non-senior adults, for an 11% increase in volume. For this season, the percentage of influenza immunizations given to non-senior women has not substantially changed at 59%, despite the increase in adult immunization volume.

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**Figure 7. 2020-21 Season Oregon Influenza Vaccine Doses in ALERT IIS by Week**

**Figure 8. 2020-21 Influenza Vaccination in ALERT IIS by Week, Cumulative Doses Compared to Last 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:** Influenza activity has been low over the summer months and few specimens have tested positive in the public health labs during recent weeks.
- **Virus Characterization:** Influenza virus characterization information will be updated weekly starting later this season.

**Illness**
- **ILINet Outpatient Illness:** 1.6% of visits to a health care provider were for ILI, similar to the previous week (1.6%). ILI activity remains below the national baseline of 2.6%. ILI surveillance may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.
- **ILINet Activity Map:** This week, five jurisdictions experienced low ILI activity and the remaining jurisdictions experienced minimal ILI activity. ILI activity levels may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.

**Severe Disease**
- **Hospitalizations:** Hospitalization rates will be updated weekly starting later this season.
- **P&I Mortality:** 12.8% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19 (PIC). This is above the epidemic threshold of 6.4%.
- **Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths occurring during the 2020-21 season were reported to CDC.

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.

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](http://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/DiseasesConditions/CommunicableDisease/DiseaseSurveillanceData/Influenza/Pages/surveil.aspx)