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 0.8% during week 40, 2018.

## Data at a Glance
September 30–October 6, 2018 (Week 40)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Current Week (40)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of emergency department visits for ILI</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage positive influenza tests</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza-associated hospitalizations</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported ILI/influenza outbreaks</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza-associated pediatric mortality</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) activity</td>
<td>&lt;1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Based on Oregon ESSENCE Syndromic Surveillance. Data represent statewide aggregate percent.  
2 Percent positivity based on data from Oregon reporters to the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS).  
3 Based on hospitalization surveillance in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties only.  
4 Percent 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 the United States. More information is at CDC’s [website](https://www.cdc.gov).

Table 1 shows the current week and cumulative totals (since October 1, 2018) for influenza in specimens tested at the Oregon laboratories reporting to NREVSS. Figure 2 shows that 0.9% of specimens tested at Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 40, and the bar chart displays the number of influenza-positive tests by flu type and percent positivity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation by laboratories is voluntary. Current labs participating in NREVSS in Oregon include: Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center (Portland, OR), Oregon Health &amp; 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 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)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Table 1. Influenza Test Results in Oregon, NREVSS, 2018–2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Week</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of specimens tested</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of positive specimens (%)</td>
<td>7 (0.9%)</td>
<td>7 (0.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Positive specimens by type**

- Influenza A: 7 (100.0%) 7 (100.0%)
- Influenza B: 0 (0%) 0 (0%)
- Type Unavailable: 0 (0%) 0 (0%)

Figure 2. Oregon Influenza Surveillance

Percent Positive Influenza Tests by Week, NREVSS 2018-2019 Season
**Oregon’s 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 178 OCHIN clinics from across Oregon. The percent of outpatients seen with ILI for week 40 of 2018 was highest in the Central and Gorge (3.1%) area and lowest in the Willamette Valley (0.7%).

**Figure 5. Percentage of Visits for ILI at Outpatient Clinics & Emergency Departments, by Oregon Region, 2018-2019**

**Hospitalizations:**
In Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties no influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported during the first week of flu season.

**Influenza Outbreaks:**
There have been no influenza outbreaks reported to the Oregon Health Authority the first week of the 2018–2019 flu season.
Flu Immunization Update:
Influenza immunizations across the state are reported to the Oregon Immunization Program (OIP) ALERT Immunization Information System (ALERT IIS), which receives both child and adult immunization reports from Oregon healthcare providers and payors. In the 2017-18 flu season, ALERT received 1.4 million reports of influenza immunizations.

This week’s reporting is based on ALERT IIS data through Epiweek 40 (October 6th). ALERT IIS has received approximately 396,000 reports of seasonal influenza immunizations for Oregon residents, compared to 440,000 reports last year at this time. In a typical season, influenza immunizations peak in mid to late October. While last season (2017-18) saw a record number of influenza immunizations in Oregon, this season looks more like the 2015-16 and 2016-17 seasons, when fewer Oregonians received flu vaccine. As a caveat, while most immunizations are reported quickly and electronically to ALERT IIS, some reporting is delayed—current weekly totals may be adjusted upward later.

To date, lower uptake of influenza vaccine is seen across all age groups. Although last season Oregon saw gains in influenza immunization of children and seniors, the numbers of immunizations given to these two vulnerable groups is well below vaccination levels last year at this time.

**2018/2019 Oregon Flu Vaccine Doses in ALERT IIS by Epiweek, Compared to Prior Three Seasons, as of Oct. 6th**

**Oregon Influenza Immunizations Reported to ALERT IIS by EpiWeek 40 (Oct 6th) for the 2018-19 Season, by Age, Compared to 2017-18 EpiWeek 40**
US Data (from CDC FluView): Influenza activity in the United States remained low throughout the summer months and early October.

- **Viral Surveillance**: While influenza B viruses were more commonly detected from May until late June, influenza A viruses have predominated from the beginning of July onward. The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories is low.
- **Virus Characterization**: The majority of tested influenza viruses were characterized antigenically and genetically as being similar to the cell-grown reference viruses representing the 2018–2019 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine viruses.
- **Antiviral Resistance**: All tested viruses showed susceptibility to antiviral drugs.
- **Outpatient Illness Surveillance**: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) remained low and was 1.4%, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels.
- **ILI State Activity Indicator Map**: New York City, the District of Columbia, and 49 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and Puerto Rico and one state had insufficient data.
- **Geographic Spread of Influenza**: The geographic spread of influenza in two states was reported as local activity; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and 35 states reported sporadic activity; 12 states reported no activity; and Guam, Puerto Rico and one state did not report.
- **Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality**: The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the system-specific epidemic threshold in the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance System.
- **Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths**: Two influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported that occurred during the 2017-2018 season. No influenza-associated pediatric deaths for the 2018-2019 season have been reported to CDC.

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