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 2.6% during week 6, 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](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 **23.7% of specimens tested at Oregon labs were positive for influenza during week 6**, 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>Positive specimens by type</th>
<th>Current Week</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Influenza A</td>
<td>735 (99.7%)</td>
<td>4,086 (98.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza B</td>
<td>3 (0.4%)</td>
<td>60 (1.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TypeUnavailable</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
<td>0 (0%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Influenza Test Results in Oregon, NREVSS, 2018–2019.
**Hospitalizations**: In Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties 59 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported during week 6 of 2019. In total, there have been 240 hospitalizations, 238 (99.2%) of which have been positive for flu A. Of the 63 tests that have been subtyped, 47 (74.6%) are flu A 2009 H1N1 and 16 (25.4%) are flu A H3.

**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 186 OCHIN clinics from across Oregon. The percent of outpatients seen with ILI across the state during week 6 of 2019 was 3.7%. Regionally, the percent was highest in the Central Oregon and Columbia Gorge area (5.4%) and lowest in the Willamette Valley (2.2%).
**Influenza Outbreaks:** There were eight influenza outbreaks reported during Week 6, 2019. There have been a total of 24 influenza outbreaks reported to the Oregon Health Authority in the 2018–2019 flu season, 18 of which have occurred in long-term care facilities and 5 of which have occurred in schools.

**Vaccination Data:** This week’s reporting is based on ALERT IIS data through Epiweek 6 of 2019 (February 9th). To date, over 1.42 million seasonal influenza immunizations for Oregonians have been reported this season to ALERT IIS. Current influenza immunization activity is below last year’s activity at this time but is consistent with other prior seasons. 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.
US Data (from CDC FluView): Influenza activity continues to increase in the United States. Influenza A (H1N1)pdm09, influenza A(H3N2), and influenza B viruses continue to co-circulate. Below is a summary of the key influenza indicators for the week ending February 9, 2019:

- **Viral Surveillance**: The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza viruses in clinical laboratories increased. Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses have predominated in most areas of the country, however influenza A(H3) viruses have predominated in the southeastern United States (HHS Region 4). In the most recent three weeks, influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and influenza A(H3) viruses were reported in approximately equal numbers in HHS Regions 6 and 7.

- **Virus Characterization**: The majority of influenza viruses characterized antigenically are similar to the cell-grown reference viruses representing the 2018–2019 Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccine viruses.

- **Antiviral Resistance**: The vast majority of influenza viruses tested (>99%) show susceptibility to oseltamivir and peramivir. All influenza viruses tested showed susceptibility to zanamivir.

- **Influenza-like Illness Surveillance**: The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) increased to 4.8%, which is above the national baseline of 2.2%. All 10 regions reported ILI at or above their region-specific baseline level.

- **ILI State Activity Indicator Map**: New York City and 26 states experienced high ILI activity; the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and eight states experienced moderate ILI activity; 11 states experienced low ILI activity; and the U.S. Virgin Islands and five states experienced minimal ILI activity.

- **Geographic Spread of Influenza**: The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and 48 states was reported as widespread; one state reported regional activity; the District of Columbia and one state reported local activity; the U.S. Virgin Islands reported sporadic activity; and Guam did not report.

- **Influenza-associated Hospitalizations**: A cumulative rate of 23.8 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations per 100,000 population was reported. The highest hospitalization rate is among adults 65 years and older (64.1 hospitalizations per 100,000 population).

- **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**: Six influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 6.

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