



End of Season Influenza Fact Sheet

2018-2019



Sacramento County Public Health uses various sources of data to monitor influenza activity in the County. Using these sources of data, this fact sheet provides preliminary surveillance data on influenza activity in Sacramento County for the 2018-2019 influenza season to include data from Week 40 to Week 21 (9/30/18 to 5/25/19).



Sacramento County –
Department of Health
Services – Division of
Public Health –
Epidemiology Unit

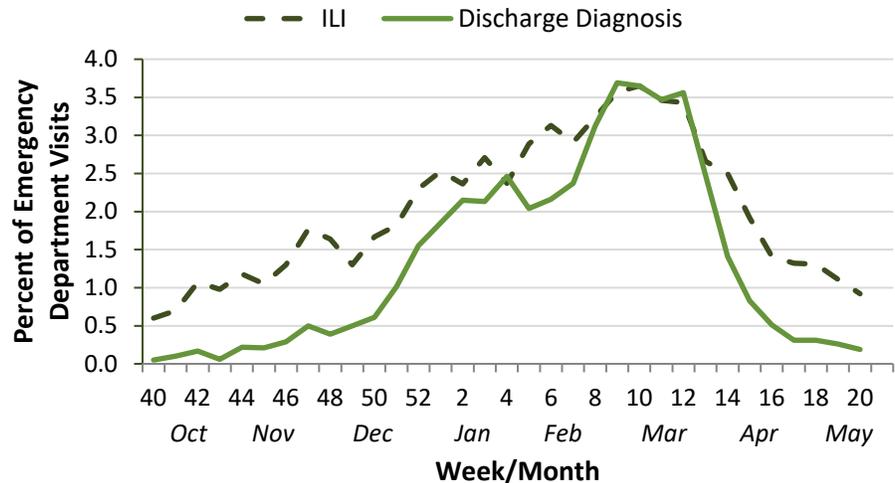
Dr. Olivia Kasirye,
Sacramento County
Public Health Officer

Phone: (916) 875-5881
Fax: (916) 854-9709

Hospital Emergency Department Syndromic Surveillance

Hospital emergency departments (EDs) in Sacramento County provide data to Public Health through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) [National Syndromic Surveillance Program](#). The percent of ED visits for influenza-like illness and with discharge diagnoses specific to influenza are shown in Figure 1. The percent of ED visits with discharge diagnoses for influenza peaked during Week 4 (ending 1/26/19) and then again in Week 9 (ending 3/2/19).

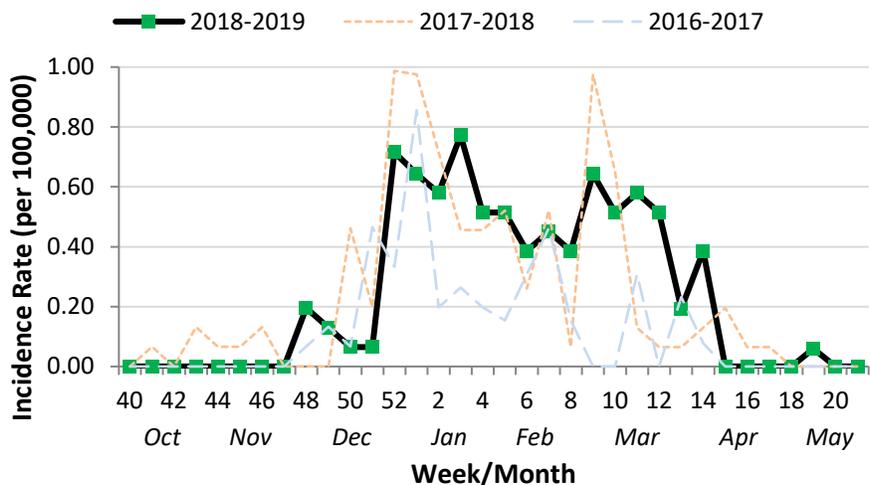
Figure 1. Percent of Emergency Departments Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Compared to Discharge Diagnoses for Influenza, Sacramento County, 2018-2019 Influenza Season



Sacramento County Public Health

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has confirmed a total of 129 influenza cases among all ages for the 2018-2019 season,* with 98 influenza-associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and 31 influenza-associated deaths. This is a 39.5% decrease among confirmed cases less than 65 years old compared to the previous season. Peaks occurred during Week 3 (ending 1/19/19) and Week 9 (ending 3/2/19) [Figure 2].

Figure 2. Incidence of Influenza-Associated Intensive Care Unit Hospitalizations and Deaths, Sacramento County, 2016-2019



*For the 2018-2019 season, influenza-associated ICU admissions and deaths of all ages were reportable in Sacramento County. Previously, only those less than 65 years old were reportable.

For the 2018-2019 season, all confirmed cases were influenza type A. Of the 49 (38.0%) that were subtyped, 36 (73.5%) were 2009 H1N1 and 13 (26.5%) were H3 [Figure 3]. The 2009 H1N1 strain predominated most of the season with the H3 strain predominating in the latter part of the season (data not shown). Persons younger than 65 years old accounted for a higher proportion (61.2%) of cases [Figure 4], which is consistent with influenza seasons in which 2009 H1N1 predominates. However, those 65 years and older still accounted for a higher percent of influenza-related deaths.

Figure 3. Percent of Influenza-Associated Intensive Care Unit Hospitalizations and Deaths by Influenza A Subtype, Sacramento County, 2018-2019

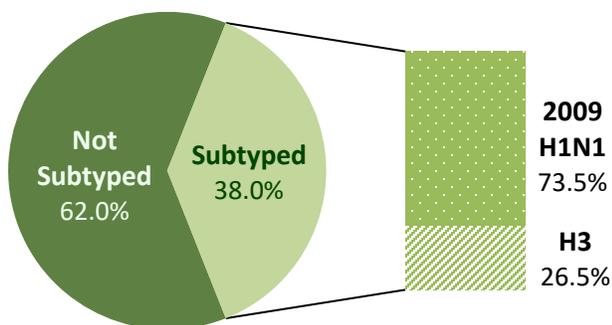
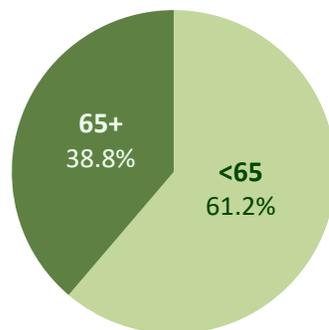


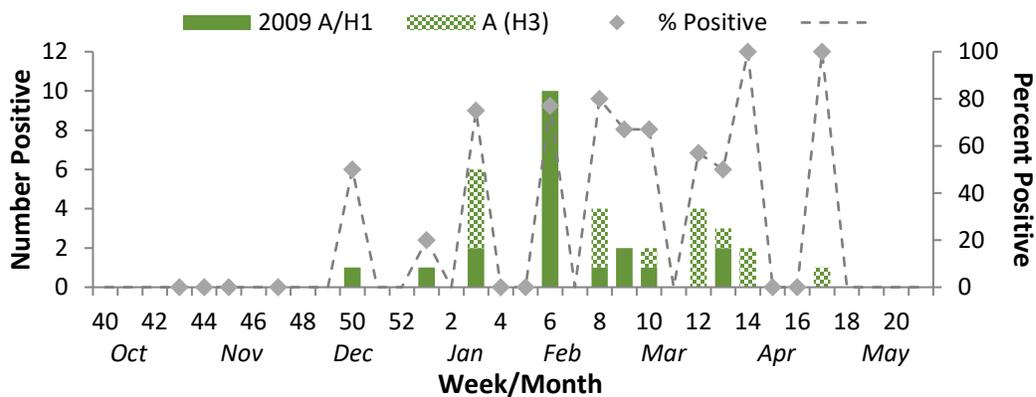
Figure 4. Percent of Influenza-Associated Intensive Care Unit Hospitalizations and Deaths by Age Group, Sacramento County, 2018-2019



Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory

For the 2018-2019 season, Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory tested 71 specimens for influenza of which 36 (50.7%) were positive. All positive specimens were influenza type A [Figure 5]. Slightly more than half (55.6%) were subtype 2009 H1N1 and the rest (44.4%) were subtype H3, which predominated towards the end of the season.

Figure 5. Number and Percent of Positive Influenza Detections by Type and Subtype at the Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory, 2018-2019



Vaccination

CDC recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone six months of age and older, with rare exceptions.¹ In an interim report released by CDC in February, the overall effectiveness of the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine was estimated to be 47%.² The effectiveness was higher (61.0%) for children six months to 17 years old. Vaccine effectiveness was estimated to be 46% against the influenza A 2009 H1N1 strain.

Resources/References

¹ CDC – Influenza (Flu): <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>
² CDC – Interim Estimates of the 2018-19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness – United States, February 2019: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6806a2.htm>
³ California Department of Public Health – Influenza (Flu): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx>
⁴ SCPH – What You Need to Know About the Flu: <http://www.dhs.sacounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/What-You-Need-to-Know-About-the-Flu.aspx>