Influenza Lab-Confirmed Cases Summary

Influenza season is typically early October through the end of May.

- 320 lab-confirmed influenza hospitalizations within Spokane County this season.
- 89 lab-confirmed influenza deaths reported in Washington State this season as of week 7.
- 17 lab-confirmed influenza deaths in total have been reported in Spokane County.
- This time last season, there were 408 hospitalizations and 21 deaths in Spokane County.

Hospitalized Influenza Cases by Influenza Type, 2023-2024
**Influenza-like Illness Visits Summary (Syndromic Surveillance)**

Syndromic surveillance, the collection and analysis of patient healthcare visit data from electronic data sources, is commonly used for early detection and monitoring influenza incidence in a population. SRHD will use syndromic surveillance data (syndromes grouped from chief complaint and discharge diagnosis) collected from Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics (ESSENCE) platform to track influenza-like illness and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in Spokane County beginning with the current 2023-2024 influenza season.

Influenza-like illness (ILI) ILI is defined as fever (temp 100°F/37.8°C or higher) plus cough and/or sore throat.

In this report, ILI visits are defined as: a resident of Spokane County presenting to an emergency room (ER) with: 1) a chief complaint of ILI symptoms and/or 2) a discharge diagnosis of influenza.

In this report, RSV visits are defined as: a resident of Spokane County presenting to an emergency room (ER) with: 1) a chief complaint of RSV and/or 2) a discharge diagnosis of RSV.

It should be noted that in addition to the overarching impacts of COVID-19 on influenza surveillance systems, interpretation of Syndromic Surveillance influenza data during 2023-2024 should consider the following COVID-19 impacts:

- changes in the health seeking behavior at syndromic surveillance sites
- limited ability to distinguish between ILI and COVID-19 symptoms

For more information about Syndromic Surveillance in Washington State, see:

Percent of Hospitalized Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Visits by CDC Week, 2020-2024

Percent of Emergency Department Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Visits by CDC Week, 2020-2024
Percent of Emergency Department Respiratory Syncitial Virus (RSV) Visits by CDC Week, 2020-2024

![Graph showing the percent of visits for respiratory syncitial virus (RSV) by CDC week from 2020 to 2024. The graph includes four lines representing different years: 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. The x-axis represents CDC weeks, and the y-axis represents the percent of visits for RSV.]
Laboratory Data: WA State Influenza Positive Tests

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) summarizes influenza laboratory data from the World Health Organization (WHO) & National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) as reported to CDC.

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC, WA Public Health Laboratories

![Figure 1: Influenza Positive Tests Reported to the CDC from WA Public Health Laboratories](image)

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC, WA Commercial Laboratories

![Figure 2: Influenza Positive Tests Reported to the CDC from WA Commercial Laboratories](image)
Links

- Centers for Disease Control Weekly Flu View http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/
- Flu Near You https://flunearbyou.org/

Data reflected is updated as of 02/24/2024. CDC Report Weeks begin with Sunday. Data is subject to change.

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