Influenza Activity in the United States
2021 – 2022 Season

Data through the week ending November 6, 2021 (week 44)

Influenza Virologic Surveillance – United States,
May 23, 2021, through November 6, 2021

Virus characterization data (genetic/antigenic and antiviral resistance) will be reported later this season.
Influenza Virologic Surveillance – United States,
May 23, 2021, through November 6, 2021
Compared to Similar Time Period in 2019

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by
U.S. Clinical Laboratories
National Summary

Influenza Positive Tests Reported to CDC by
U.S. Public Health Laboratories
National Summary

Virus characterization data (genetic/antigenic and antiviral resistance) will be reported later this season.
Percentage of Outpatient Visits for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Influenza, ILNet* United States

Percentage of Outpatient Visits for ILI National Summary, Overall 2021-2022 and Selected Previous Seasons

Percentage of Outpatient Visits for ILI National Summary, by Age Group May 23, 2021 – November 6, 2021

*This system monitors visits for ILI (fever and cough or sore throat), not laboratory confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.

ILI Activity Level, Determined by Data Reported to ILNet Week ending November 6, 2021 (Week 44)

*This system monitors visits for ILI (fever and cough or sore throat), not laboratory confirmed influenza and may capture patient visits due to other respiratory pathogens that cause similar symptoms.
Percent of Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) with at least One Confirmed Influenza Case among Residents, Reported to CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN), National Summary, May 24, 2021 – November 7, 2021

Influenza Hospitalizations
United States

Influenza Hospital Admissions Reported to HHS Protect National Summary
May 23, 2021 – November 6, 2021

Hospitalization rates will be updated starting after this season.
Influenza-Related Mortality
United States

Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths
by Week of Death, 2018-2019 season to 2021-2022 season

International Influenza Activity
Influenza Positives Reported to WHO’s FluNet

October 2018 – November 6, 2021

October 2020 – November 6, 2021
Influenza Vaccine

• Supply and distribution
  – Project as many as 200 million doses for 2021-22.
  – 162.5M doses of flu vaccine distributed (as of 11/5/21)

• Increases in flu activity + holidays = time to get vaccinated!

• There is confusion about the need for both a flu vaccine and a COVID vaccine.
  – Harris polled more than 2,000 American adults between Oct. 1 and 3 and found that:
    • 26% believe COVID vaccine protects against flu
    • 28% believe a COVID booster protects against flu.
    • 23% believe a flu vaccine will protect against COVID.
  – COVID vaccine and flu vaccine can be administered at the same time.

Summary

• Influenza activity is still low nationally but there are some increases that could mark the beginning of the influenza season.
  – H3N2 viruses are predominant so far and being reported from many areas of the country.
  – Most flu positives viruses have been detected in children and young adults.
  – Anecdotal reports of influenza outbreaks among young adults, possibly attending colleges/universities, in several states.
  – The occurrence and timing of these outbreaks is not unusual, but they are notable because they represent the first significant influenza activity of the 2021-2022 season (and the first since March 2020).

• It’s a great time to get the flu vaccine (and COVID vaccine/booster) for people not yet vaccinated (or boosted).
Additional Information

Influenza Activity
  • FluView
    - https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index
  • FluView Interactive
    - https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluviewinteractive.htm
  • WHO’s FluNet
    - https://www.who.int/tools/flunet

Other Respiratory Virus Activity
  • COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review
  • COVID Data Tracker
    - https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home
  • National Respiratory Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)
    - https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/index.html