The purpose of the weekly Influenza Watch is to summarize current influenza surveillance in San Diego County. Please note that reported weekly data are preliminary and may change due to delayed submissions and additional laboratory results.

Current Week 42 (ending 10/21/2017)

- 27 new influenza detections reported: Expected level
- 1% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: Expected level
- No new influenza-related deaths reported this week
- 6% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: Expected level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>FY 2017-18*</th>
<th>FY 2016-17</th>
<th>Prior 3-Year Average**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)</td>
<td>Week 42</td>
<td>Week 41</td>
<td>FYTD(^{#}) Week 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of emergency department visits for ILI</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of influenza-related deaths reported(^{#})</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{\#}\) FYTD—Fiscal Year To Date (FY is July 1 - June 30, Weeks 27-36). Total deaths reported for prior years: 87 in 2016-17, 68 in 2015-16, and 97 in 2014-15.


\(^{\#}\) Current FY deaths are shown by week of report; by week of death for prior FYs.
People at High Risk for Influenza Complications

Although everyone six months and older should get an annual influenza vaccine, some people are more likely to get influenza complications that can result in hospitalization and sometimes death. Influenza can also make chronic health problems worse. The groups of people who are more likely to get serious flu-related complications if they get sick with influenza are listed below.

- **Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old**
- **Adults 65 years of age and older**
- **Pregnant women** (and women up to two weeks postpartum)
- Residents of nursing homes and other **long-term care facilities**
- **American Indians and Alaskan Natives** seem to be at higher risk of flu complications
- **Asthma**
- Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability (mental retardation), moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].
- **Chronic lung disease** (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and cystic fibrosis)
- **Heart disease** (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)
- Endocrine disorders (such as diabetes)
- Kidney disorders
- Liver disorders
- Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- Weakened immune system due to disease or medication (such as people with HIV or AIDS, or cancer, or those on chronic steroids)
- People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- People with extreme obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or more)

Each year the majority of influenza deaths occur among people who had no evidence of having received an annual influenza vaccine. Providers should make extra efforts to ensure that everyone at risk for influenza complications gets vaccinated with the annual influenza vaccine. More information is available at the [CDC Influenza website](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/).
Figure 1. Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY

Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2017-18 FYTD (N=285)
Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2011-12 to 2017-18 FYTD

Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Week & Season
Figure 5. Percent of San Diego County Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY Compared to 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)

Figure 6. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)
Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type, and Season

Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season
Influenza Reporting in San Diego County

Local providers are encouraged to report laboratory positive influenza detections to the County Epidemiology Program by FAX (858) 715-6458. Please fax a Case Report Form and/or a printed laboratory result, and indicate if the patient was admitted to ICU or died, and/or is a resident of a congregate living facility.

For questions regarding sending specimens to Public Health Laboratory (PHL), call (619) 692-8500. Click here for the updated PHL PCR Test Request Form. Contact the Epidemiology Program with any questions at (619) 692-8499 or by email to: EpiDiv.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Resources
San Diego County Influenza Surveillance Weekly Slide Deck - presentation version of this report
County of San Diego Immunization Program www.sdiz.org
California Department of Public Health Influenza
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Influenza Surveillance Weekly Report

Figure 9. Number of Influenza Cases Requiring ICU Care by Episode Week and Type of Influenza, 2017-18 FYTD (N=2)

Episode week is the week of symptom onset, or earliest available date in which the case is identified.