



# INFLUENZA WATCH

Week 49  
Ending 12/9/2017

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.**

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Current Week

### Current Week 49 (ending 12/9/2017)

- 232 new influenza detections reported: *Elevated level*
- 4% influenza-like-illness (ILI) among emergency department visits: *Expected level*
- No new influenza-related deaths reported this week
- 1 new ICU case reported this week
- 6% of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza: *Expected level*

Current Season Summary

1,092

Total Cases

7

ICU Cases

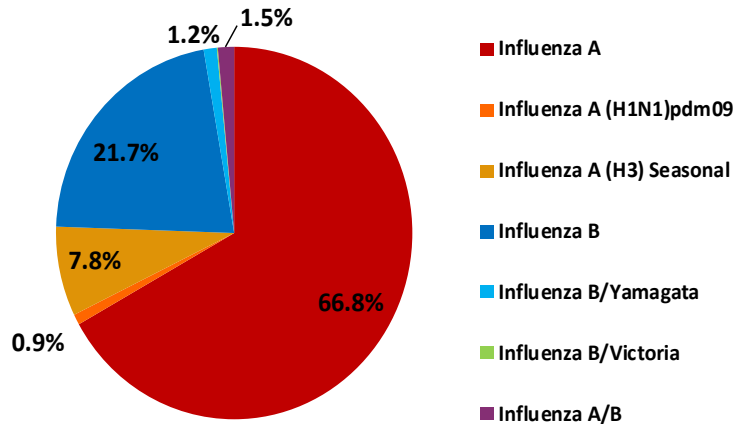
4

Deaths

5

Outbreaks\*

### Virus Characteristics



\* At least one case of laboratory-confirmed influenza in a setting experiencing ≥2 cases of influenza like illness (ILI) within a 72-hour period.

Table 1. Influenza Surveillance Indicators

Indicator	FY 2017-18*			FY 2016-17		Prior 3-Year Average**	
	Week 49	Week 48	FYTD#	Week 49	FYTD#	Week 49	FYTD#
All influenza detections reported (rapid or PCR)	232	183	1,092	62	304	47	219
Percent of emergency department visits for ILI	4%	2%		2%		3%	
Percent of deaths registered with pneumonia and/or influenza	6%	7%		6%		6%	
Number of influenza-related deaths reported^	0	0	4	0	3	0	2

# FYTD=Fiscal Year To Date (FY is July 1- June 30, Weeks 27-26). Total deaths reported in prior years: 87 in 2016-17, 68 in 2015-16, and 97 in 2014-15.

\* Previous weeks case counts or percentages may change due to delayed processing or reporting.

\*\* Includes FYs 2014-15, 2015-16, and 2016-17.

^ Current FY deaths are shown by week of report; by week of death for prior FYs.

## Maternal Flu Vaccination Protects Newborns

A study published this month in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* shows that maternal flu vaccination was associated with good protection against flu in infants. The research was based on data collected during the 2013-14 influenza season in Japan.

Researchers found that the flu vaccine administered during pregnancy was 61% effective in preventing influenza in infants, and postpartum maternal vaccination was 53% effective. Babies younger than six months of age are not recommended to receive the flu vaccine, and many countries, including the United States and Japan, routinely recommend that women get vaccinated during pregnancy.

The study was based on records from 117 hospitals in Osaka. A total of 3,441 infants were included in the study, 39% of whom had mothers who received the flu shot either during pregnancy or in the first six weeks postpartum. A total of 71 infants (2%) were diagnosed as having influenza during the study period. Maternal influenza was associated with a 36-fold increased risk of infant influenza.

The authors concluded that "pregnant women should receive influenza vaccination in order to protect not only themselves but also their infants. If they fail to receive influenza vaccination during pregnancy, postpartum vaccination would also be useful in protecting their infants from the threat of influenza."

The study may be found here: [Protective effect of maternal influenza vaccination on influenza in their infants: a prospective cohort study.](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has various resources for pregnancy and influenza vaccination including: [Q&A on seasonal flu vaccine safety and pregnant women](#); [posters and print materials directed to pregnant women about flu vaccines](#); [a letter to healthcare providers of pregnant women about the 2017-2018 flu season](#); and [more](#).

**In addition to the annual flu vaccine, pregnant women should receive the pertussis (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) vaccine (Tdap) in every pregnancy. The recommended time to get the Tdap shot is during the 27<sup>th</sup> through 36<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, preferably during the earlier part of this time period.**

**Table 2. Influenza Detections Reported, FY 2017-18\***

Positive Test Type/Subtype	Week 49	Total FY-To-Date
Influenza A†	166	730
Influenza A(H1N1) Pandemic 2009	0	10
Influenza A (H3) Seasonal	9	85
Influenza B†	52	237
Influenza B/Victoria	0	1
Influenza B/Yamagata	1	13
Influenza A/B†	4	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>1,092</b>

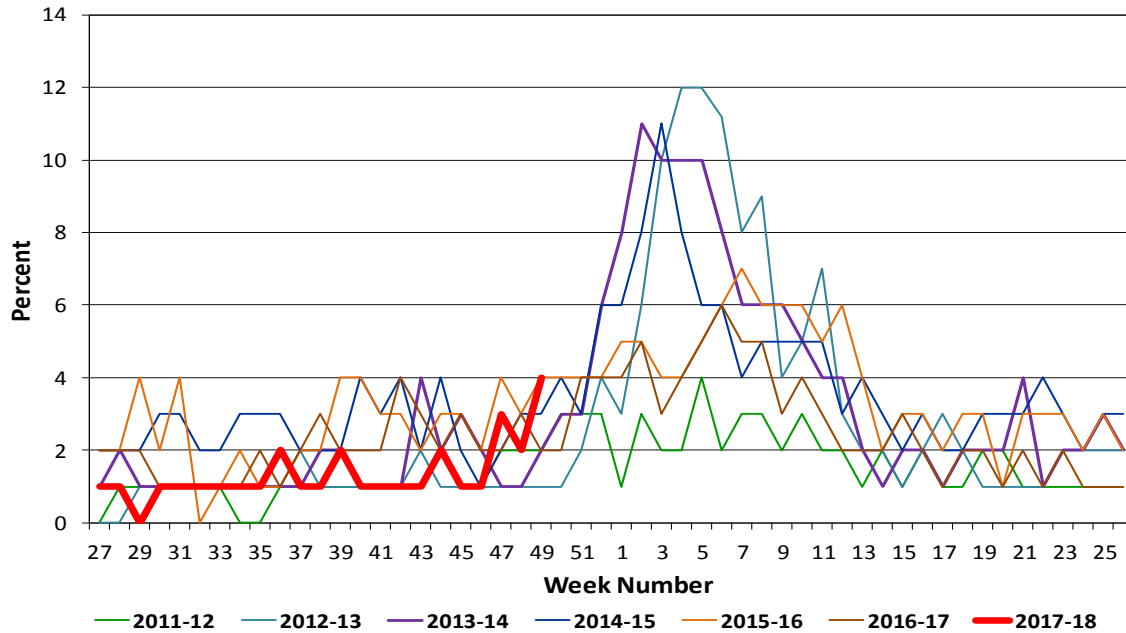
\* FY is July 1- June 30.

† No further characterization performed, or results were not yet available at time of publication.

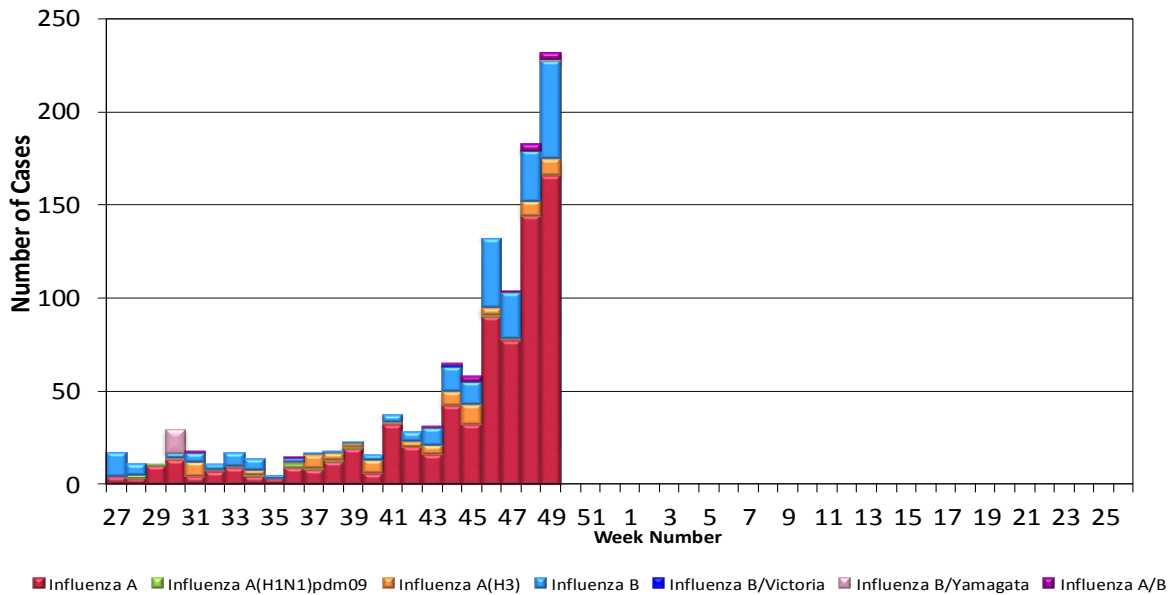
Note: Totals may change due to further laboratory findings.

# Influenza Watch

**Figure 1. Percent of Emergency Department Visits for Influenza-like Illness by Week and FY**

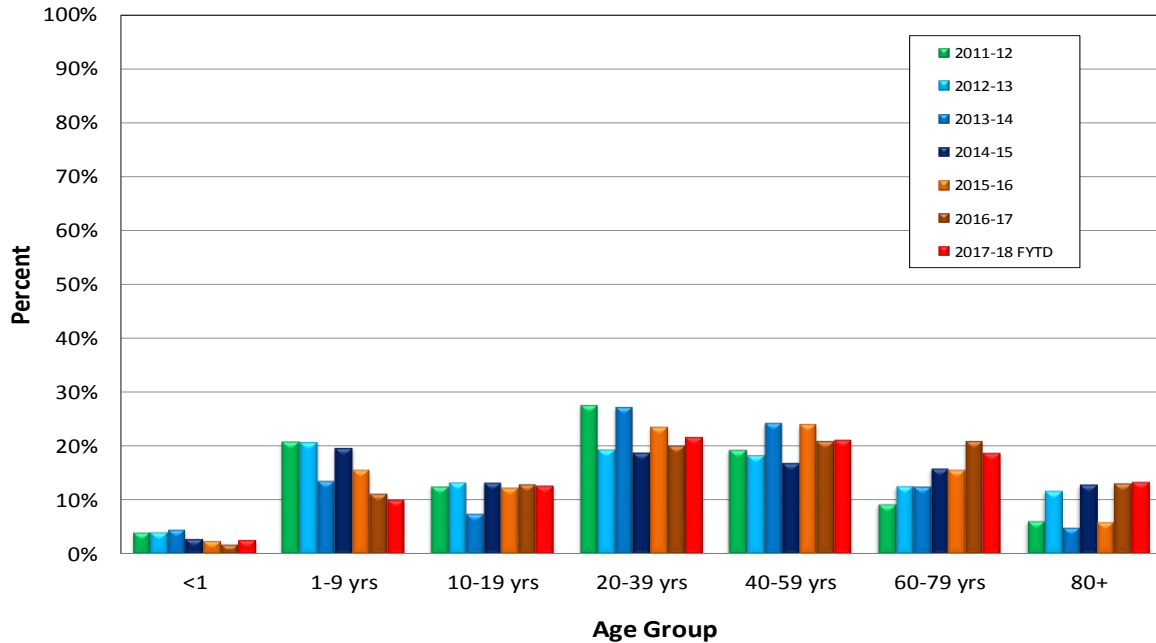


**Figure 2. San Diego County Influenza Detections by Type and Week of Report, 2017-18 FYTD (N=1,092)**

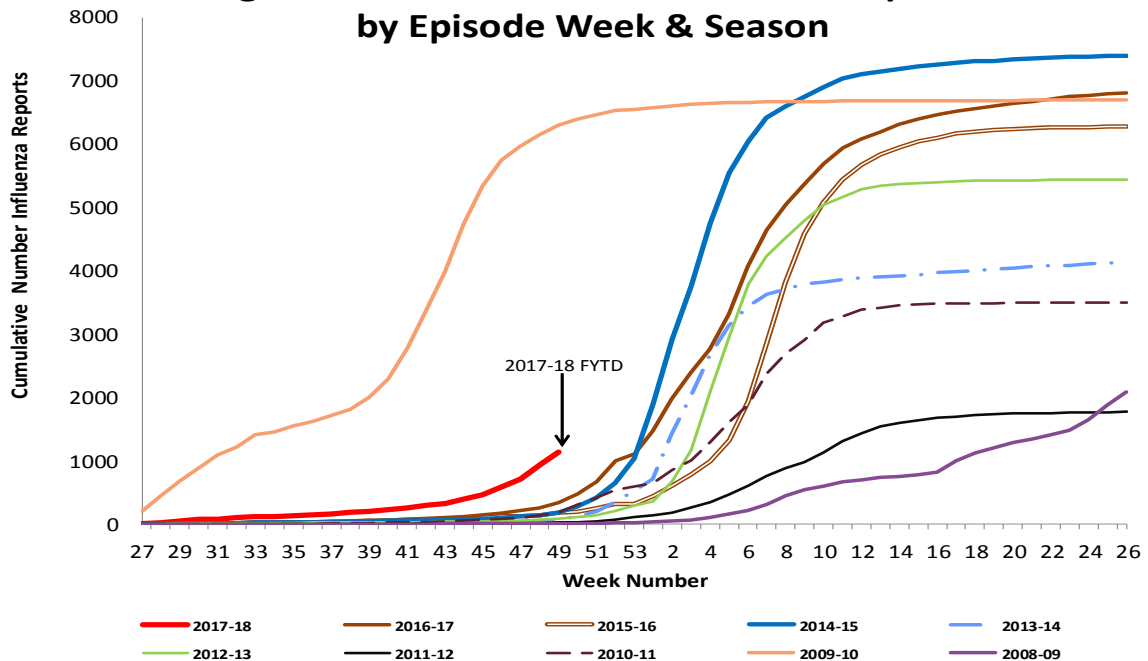


# Influenza Watch

**Figure 3. Percent of Reported Influenza Cases by Age Group and Season, 2011-12 to 2017-18 FYTD**

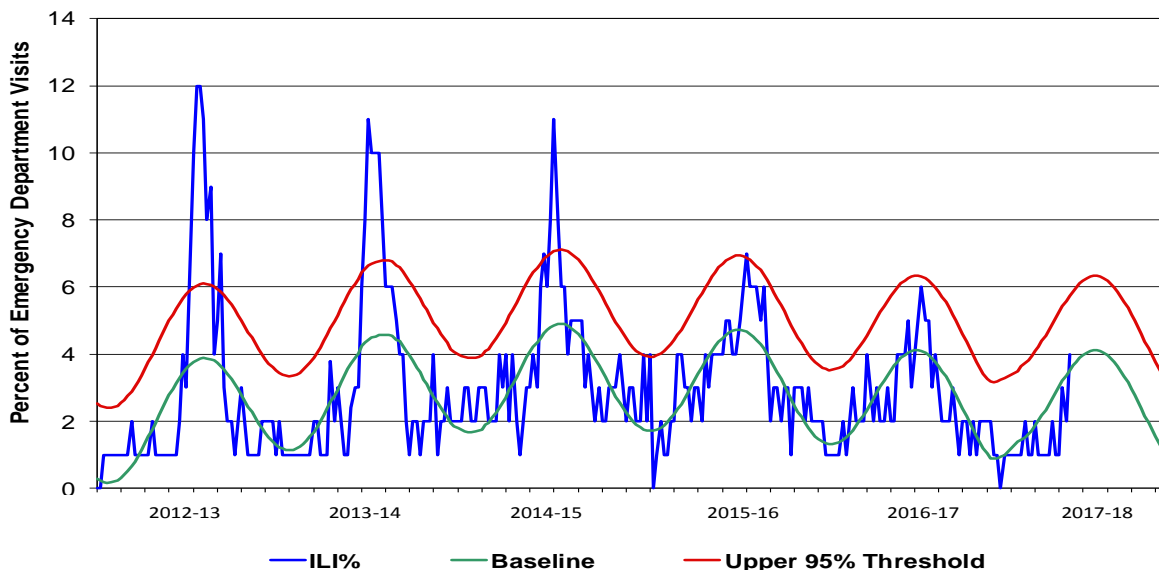


**Figure 4. Cumulative Influenza Case Reports by Episode Week & Season**

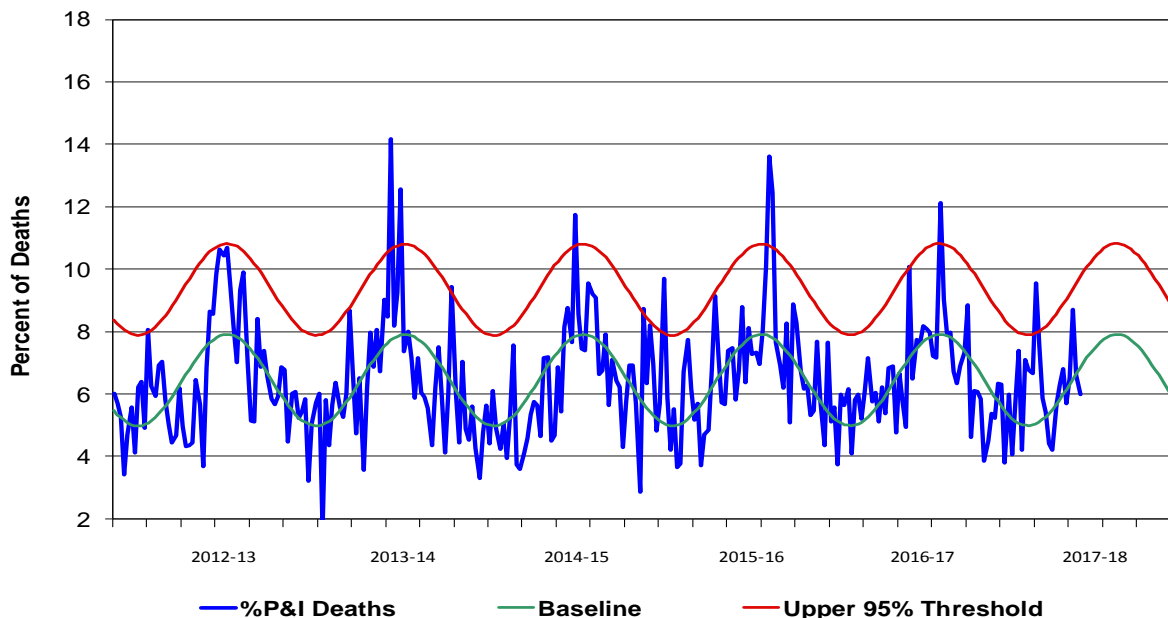


# Influenza Watch

**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)**

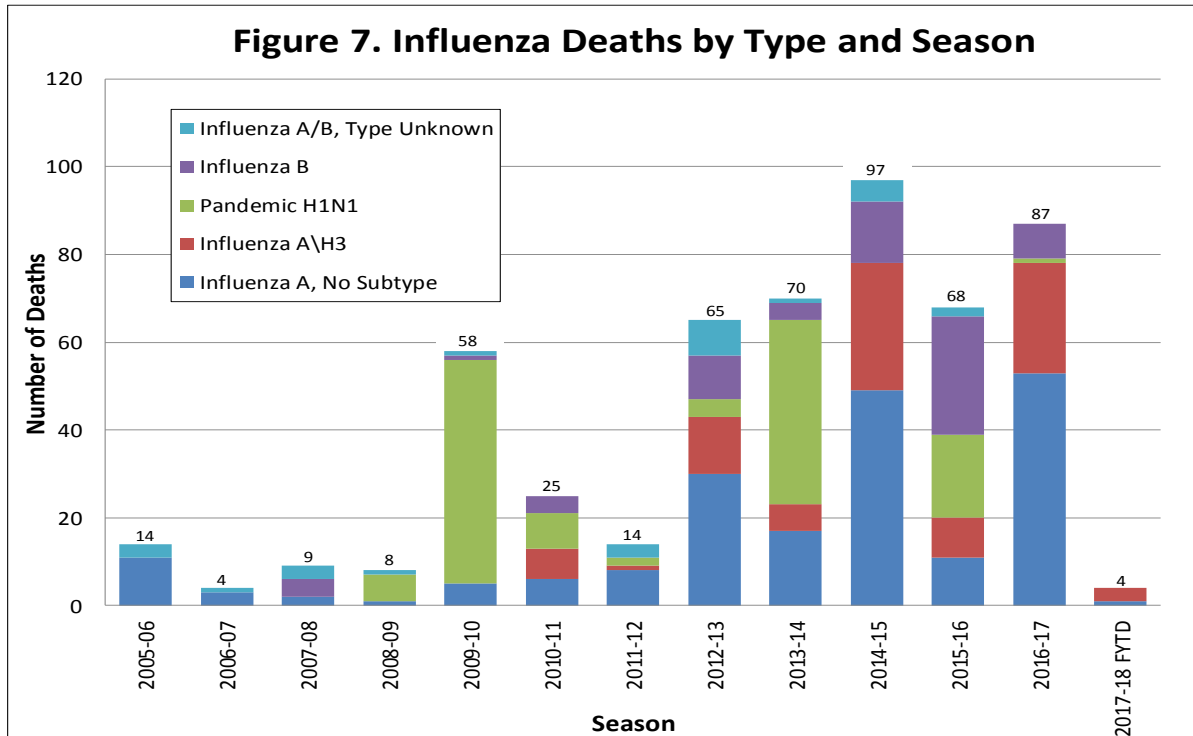


**Figure 6. Percent of San Diego County Deaths Registered with Pneumonia and/or Influenza by Week and FY Compared to Prior 5-Year Baseline & Upper 95% Threshold Values (Serfling Method)**

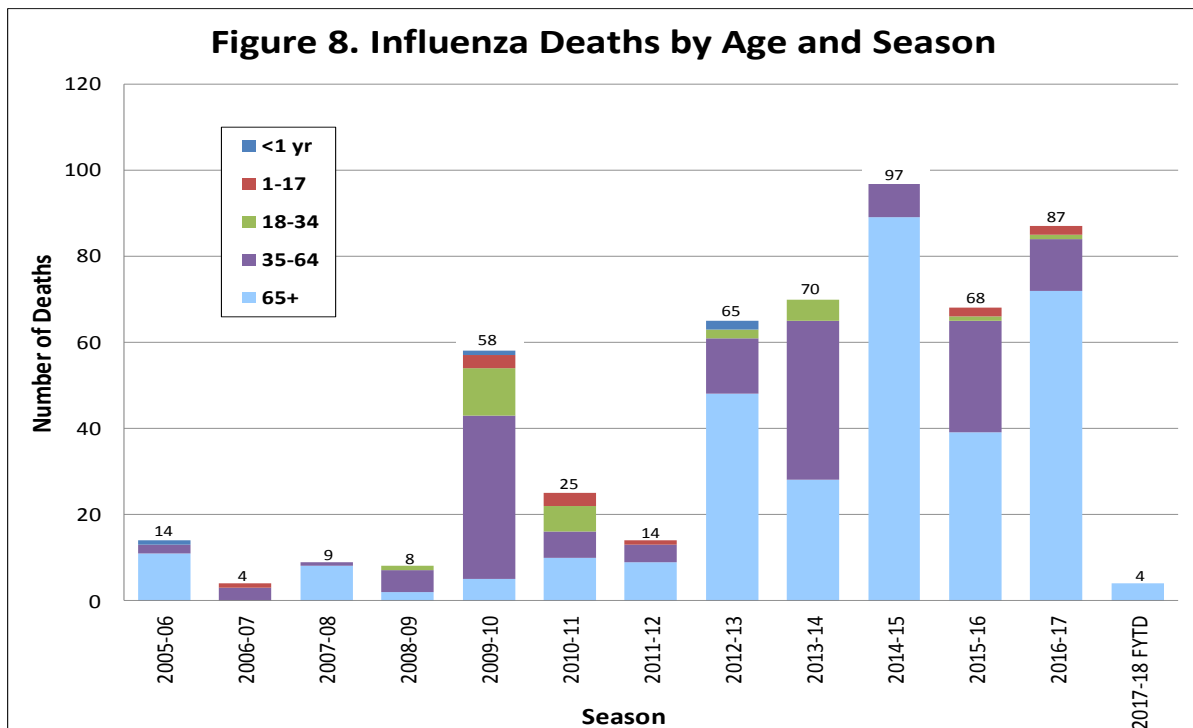


# Influenza Watch

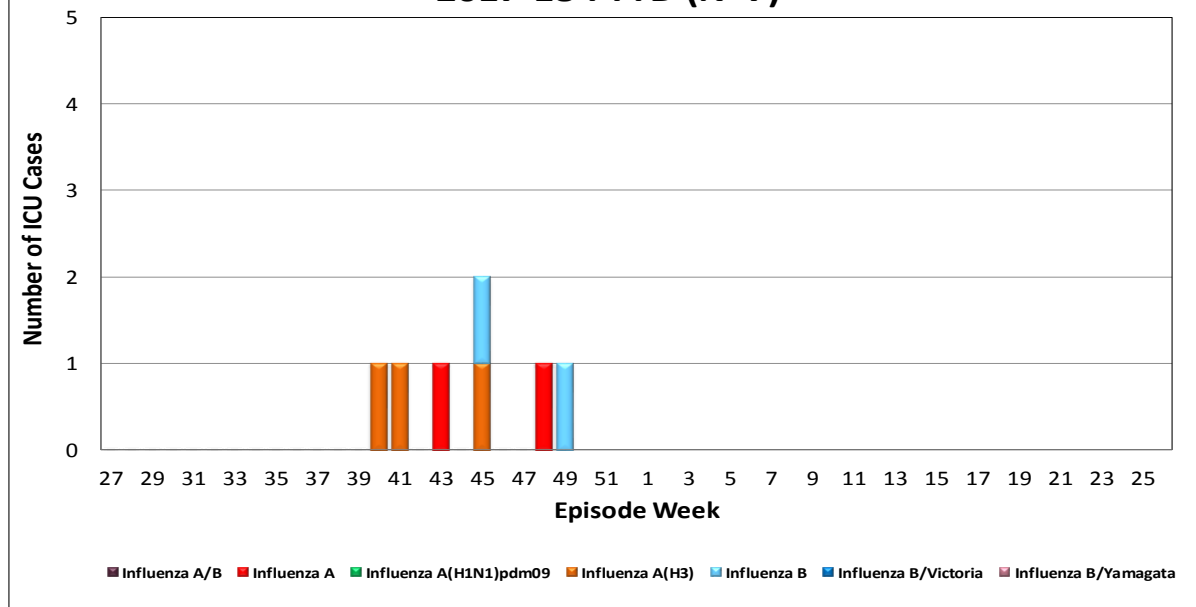
**Figure 7. Influenza Deaths by Type and Season**



**Figure 8. Influenza Deaths by Age and Season**



**Figure 9. Number of Influenza Cases Requiring ICU Care by Episode Week and Type of Influenza, 2017-18 FYTD (N=7)**



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

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.sdiz.org)

California Department of Public Health [Influenza](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Influenza Surveillance [Weekly Report](#)