

April 2, 2019 • Information for Pierce County Healthcare Providers

Matthew Rolloson, MPH&TM, RN • mrolloson@tpchd.org • (253) 798-6052

Communicable Disease Control
3629 S. D St. • Tacoma, WA 98418
(253) 798-6410 • (253) 798-7666 (fax)

Influenza Update—Week 12

Data are preliminary.

Pierce County

Influenza activity remains elevated.

Hospitalizations

- This season, 604 Pierce County residents have been hospitalized with lab-confirmed influenza.
- The median age of hospitalized patients is 64 years (range 9 days to 97 years).

Deaths

- Since Oct. 22, 2018, we identified 34 people who died with lab-confirmed influenza.
- The median age of those who died is 73 years (range 36 to 97 years).
- Five had no risk factor for influenza complications other than being older than 65 years.

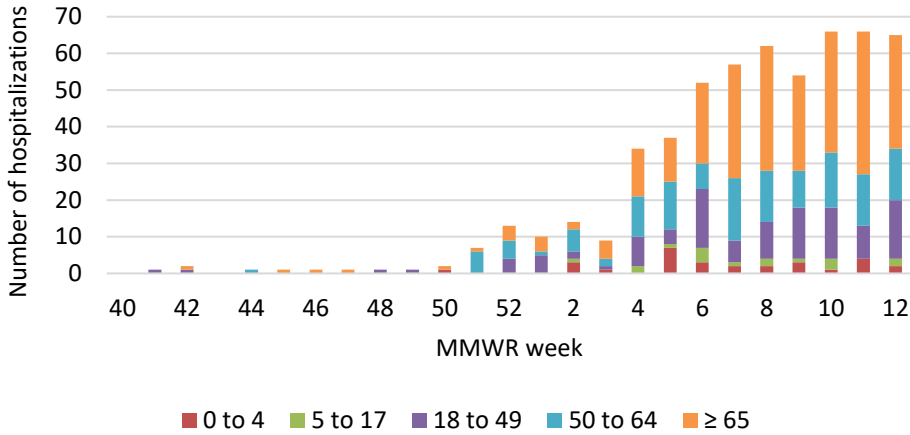
Viruses

- Of the 166 subtyped influenza A viruses from hospitalized patients, 92 (56%) were influenza A H3N2.
- The proportion of positive influenza tests remains high.
- Few cases of influenza B were identified.

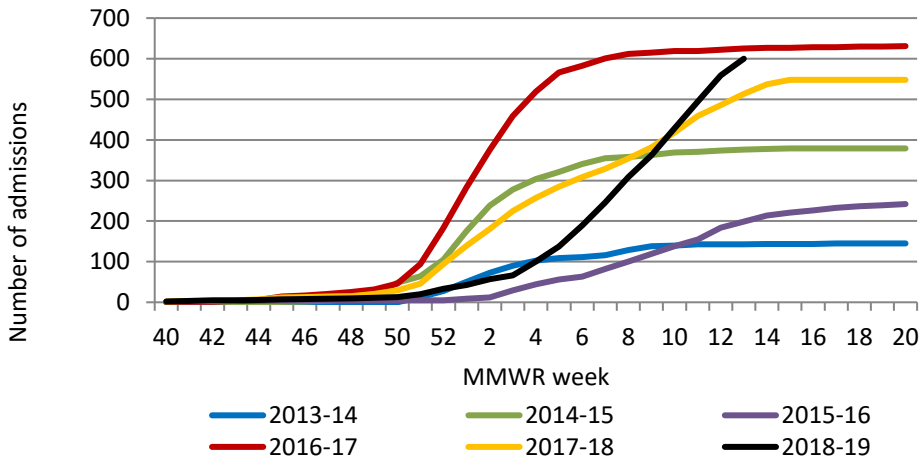
Influenza-like illness

- The proportion of visits to primary care for influenza-like illness (ILI) remains low.
- The proportion of visits to emergency department (EDs) and urgent care for ILI remain elevated.

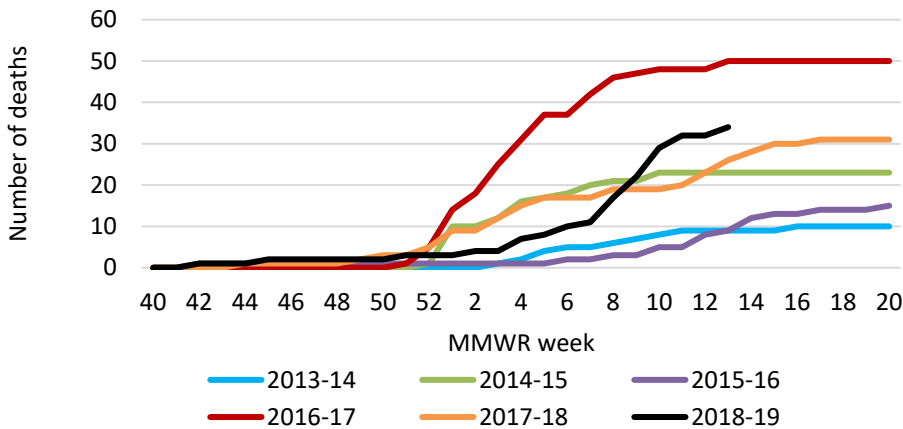
Pierce County influenza hospitalizations by age group



Pierce County influenza hospitalizations cumulative, by season

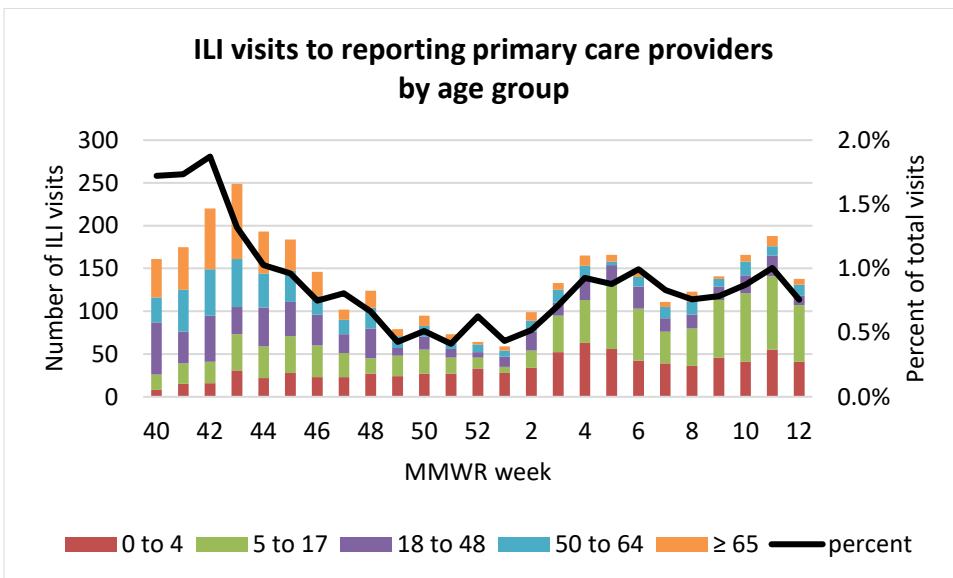
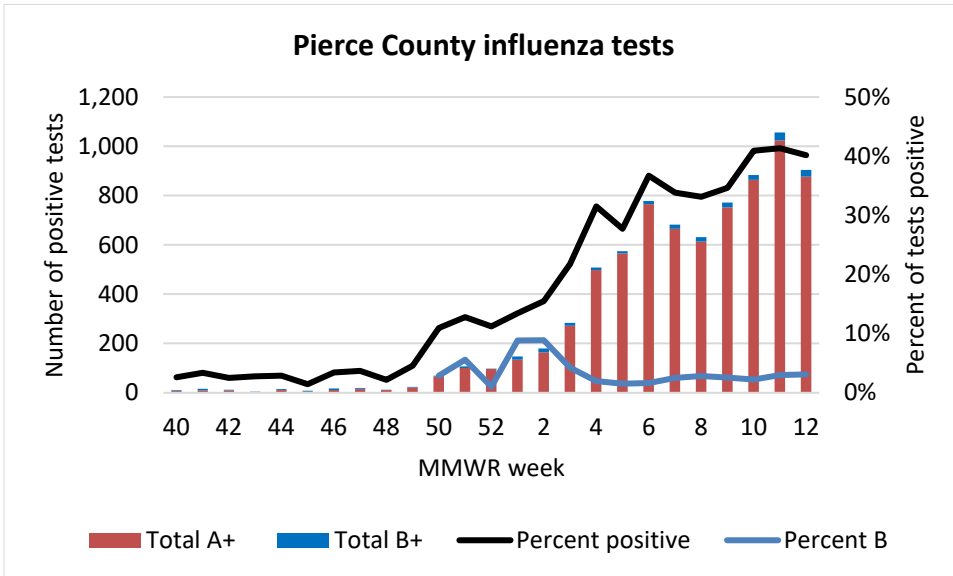


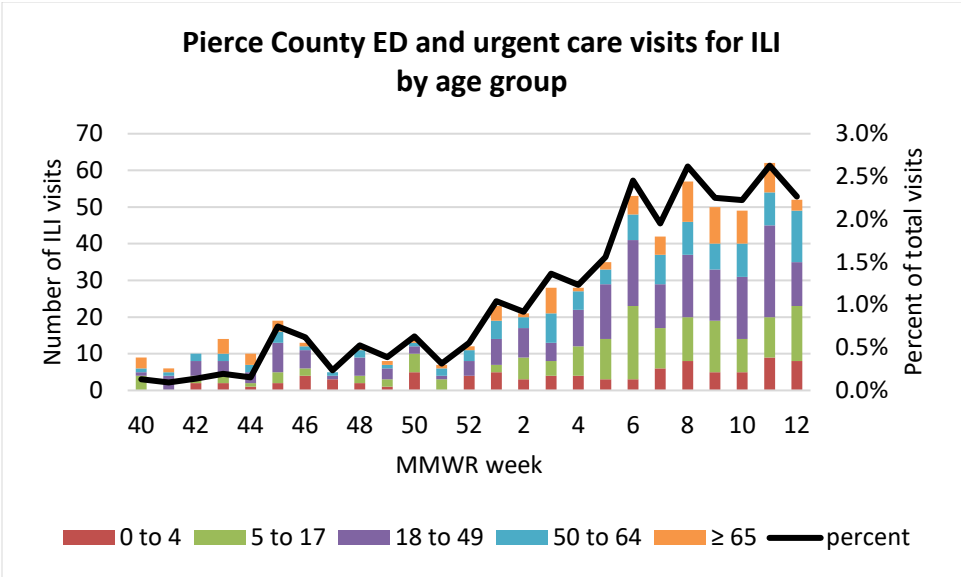
Pierce County influenza deaths cumulative, by season



Pierce County influenza deaths

Age	Number of deaths
0 to 4 years	0
5 to 17 years	0
18 to 49 years	4
50 to 64 years	7
65 years and older	23
Total	34





Washington

Influenza activity is elevated and widespread.

Deaths

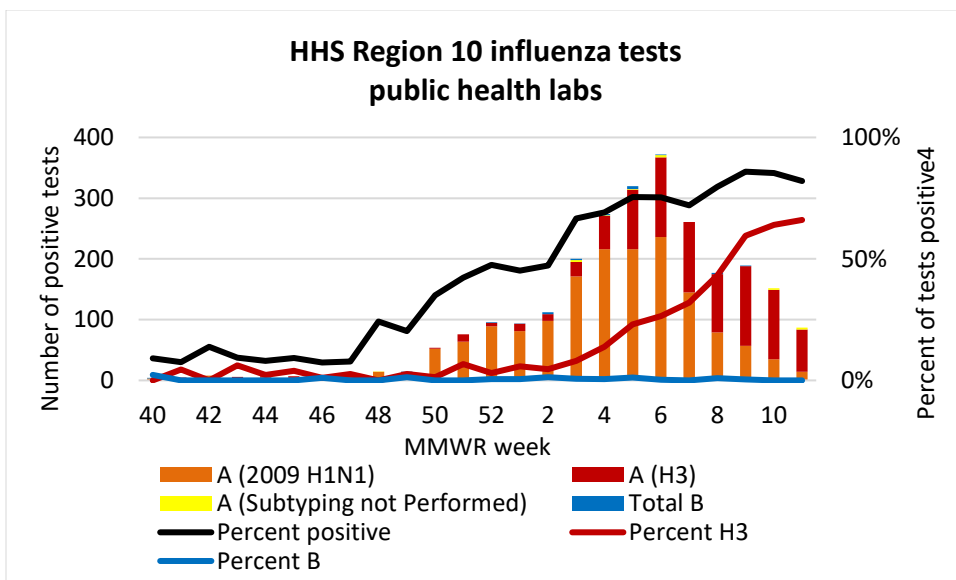
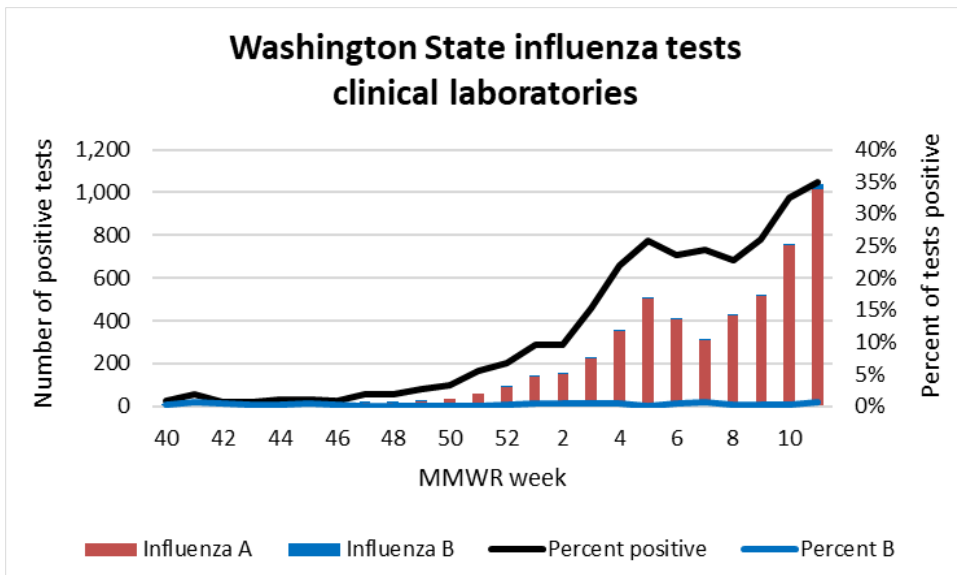
- This season, Washington Department of Health received notification of 139 people who died with lab-confirmed influenza.

Viruses

- During week 12, 33.5% of commercial lab specimens tested positive for influenza.
- Of the 44 influenza A viruses subtyped by public health labs, 34 (77%) were influenza A H3N2.

Influenza-like illness

- The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI is above baseline.
- Washington ILI activity is high.



United States

Influenza activity decreased during week 12 but remains elevated.

Deaths

- This season, CDC received notification of 77 children who died with lab-confirmed influenza.
- The proportion of deaths caused by pneumonia or influenza is above the epidemic threshold.

Viruses

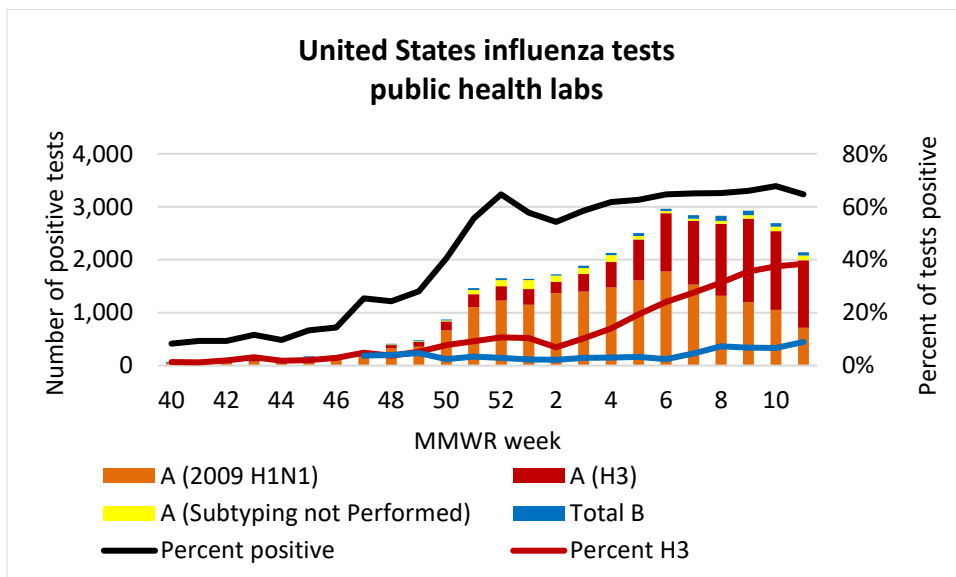
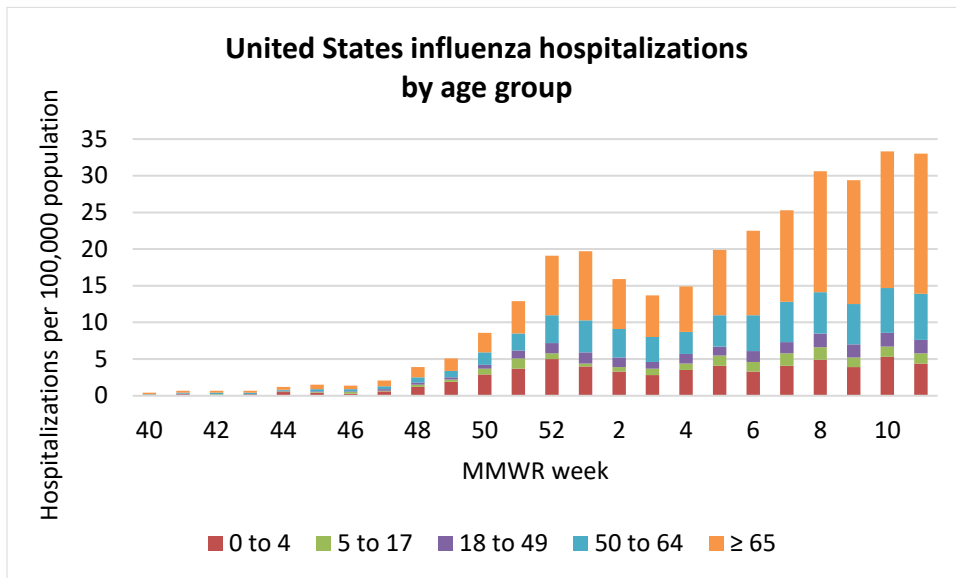
- During week 12, 68% of viruses subtyped by public health labs were influenza A H3N2.
- Influenza A H3N2 predominates in all 10 Health and Human Services (HHS) Regions.
- The proportion of influenza B viruses detected remains low.

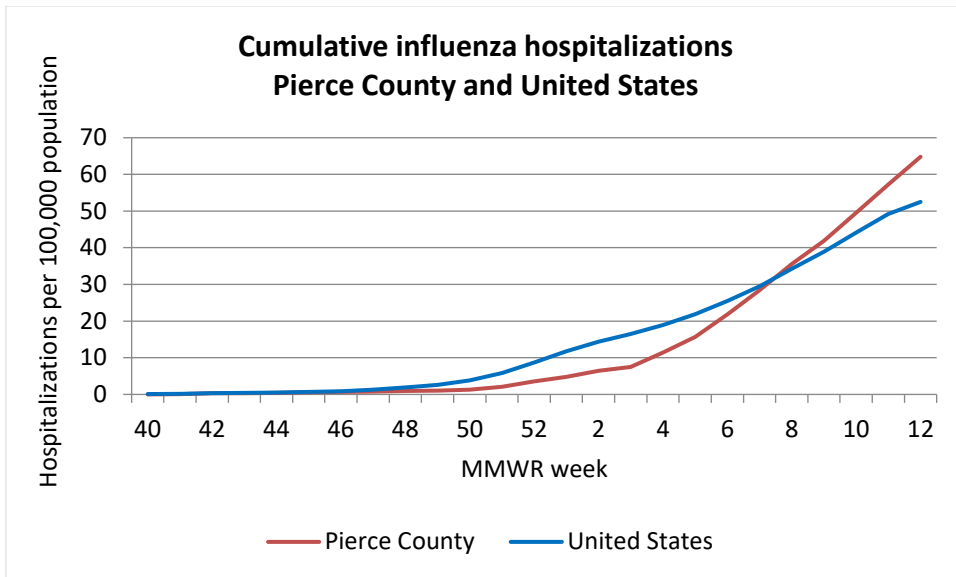
Influenza-like illness

- The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI is at or above HHS Regional baselines throughout the country.

Health alert

- On March 28, 2018, CDC issued a health alert notifying clinicians that United States influenza activity remains high.
- The proportion of influenza activity due to influenza A H3N2 is increasing.
- Influenza A H3N2 is associated with severe disease in older adults.
- Clinicians should have a high index of suspicion for influenza.
- CDC recommends rapid antiviral treatment for high-risk patients with suspected influenza.





Influenza hospitalizations per 100,000 population, 2018-2019 influenza season, weeks 40 through 11

Age	Pierce County	United States
0 to 4 years	48.4	63.6
5 to 17 years	11.5	17.9
18 to 49 years	31.3	21.9
50 to 64 years	79.8	67.4
65 years and older	217.6	167.0
Total	64.8	52.5

References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2019). Weekly United States influenza surveillance report. 2018-2019 influenza season week 12 ending March 23, 2019. Retrieved March 29, 2019 from www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (March 28, 2019). Influenza season continues with an increase in influenza A(H3N2) activity. Retrieved March 28, 2019 from <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/han00419.asp>.

Washington Department of Health. (2019). Washington influenza update. Week 12: March 17, 2019 - March 23, 2019. Retrieved April 1, 2019 from www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/DiseasesandChronicConditions/CommunicableDiseaseSurveillanceData/InfluenzaSurveillanceData.