



**Summit County Public Health  
Influenza Surveillance Report  
2020 – 2021 Season  
Report #27**



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Flu Surveillance Weeks 28 & 29 (4/11 to 4/24/2021)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR Weeks 15 & 16**

**Summit County Surveillance Data:**

During Week 29 of influenza surveillance, influenza-related activity was minimal in Summit County. COVID-19 activity is high with continued elevated risk of community exposure.

<b>Table 1: Overall Influenza Activity Indicators in Summit County by week</b>				
	<b>Week 28 MMWR 15 N (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Week 29 MMWR 16 N (%)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Percent change from previous week</b>	<b>Number of weeks increasing or decreasing</b>
<b>Lab Reports: Influenza</b>				
Tests Performed	466	480	+ 3.0%	↑1
Positive Tests (Number and %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
Influenza A (Number and %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
Influenza B (Number and %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
<b>Lab Reports: COVID-19</b>				
Tests Performed	1933	2107	+ 9.0%	↑3
Positive Tests (Number and %)	101 (5.2)	90 (4.3)	- 18.2%	↓3
<b>Acute care hospitalizations for Influenza:</b>	0	0	--	--
<b>Acute care hospitalizations for COVID-19:</b>	117	105	- 10.3%	↓1
<b>Pharmacy Prescriptions</b>				
Zanamivir (Relenza)	0	0	--	--
Oseltamivir (Tamiflu)	0	0	--	--
Baloxavir marboxil (Xofluza)	0	0	--	--
Peramivir (Rapivab)	0	0	--	--
<i>Total</i>	0	0	--	--
<b>Schools absenteeism<sup>2</sup></b>	6.9%	7.5%	+ 8.5%	↑2
<b>Deaths (occurred in Summit County)</b>				
Total deaths certified	150	132	- 12.0%	↓1
Pneumonia associated	10 (6.7)	11 (8.3)	+ 25.0%	↑1
Influenza associated	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
COVID-19 associated	12 (8.0)	12 (9.1)	+ 13.6%	↑1
<b>Emergency room visits (ESSENCE)<sup>3</sup> (Figure 3)</b>				
Total ED Visits	5872	5683	- 3.2%	↓1
Respiratory Encounters	551 (9.4)	613 (10.8)	+ 15.0%	↑1
ILI Encounters	47 (0.8)	51 (0.9)	+ 12.1%	↑2
1) N and % are reported when available				
2) Absence is for any reason. Percent is from total number of students enrolled. Data was collected from 12 schools or school districts throughout Summit County (n = approx. 32,000 students)				
3) Percent is from total number of emergency room interactions				
<b>Note:</b> Data is provisional and may be updated as more information is received. Percentages should be interpreted with caution. Small changes in number can result in large changes in percent. When a percentage, or prevalence, is available in this table, the percent change will be calculated from those values				

**Lab reports:** During the Week 29, reporting Summit County facilities ordered 480 influenza tests, none of which had a positive result. 2,107 COVID-19 tests were completed by reporting partners, with a positivity rate of 4.3% in Week 29 (an 18% decrease from Week 28) (Figure 4).  
**Note: Influenza and COVID-19 testing data are collected from selected reporting partners and do not represent positivity rates for the entire county.**

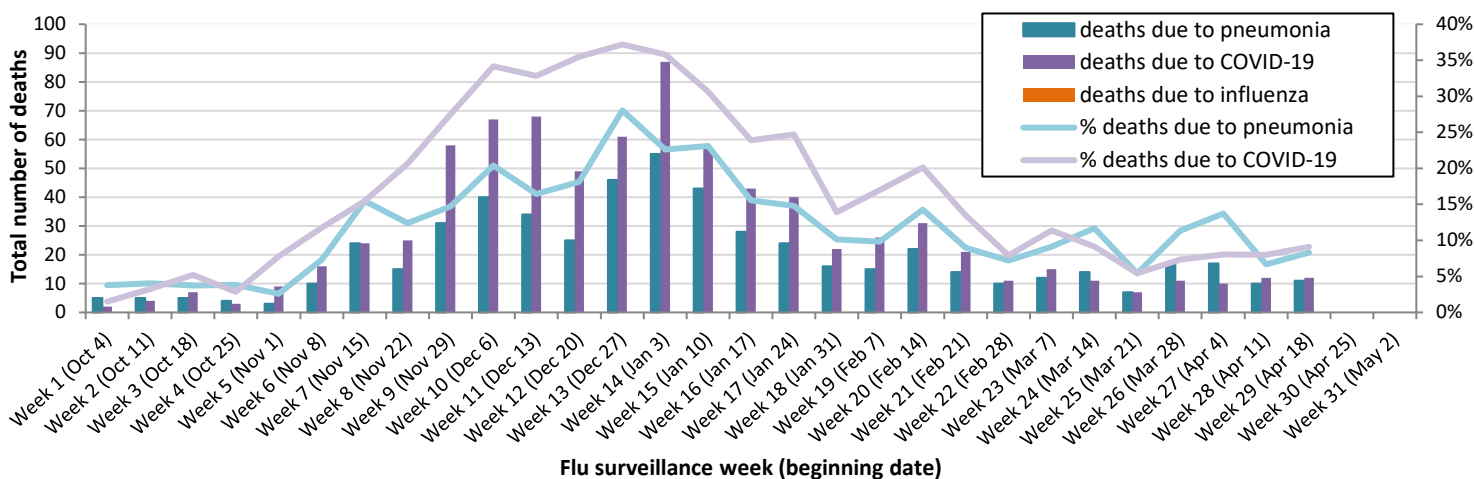
**Acute Care Hospitalizations:** There were zero reported influenza and 105 COVID-19 admissions during Week 29. (Figure 2).

**Pharmacies:** Zero prescriptions for CDC- approved influenza antiviral medications were reported during Week 29.

**School absenteeism** includes absences regardless of reason. In Week 29, the absence rate was 7.5%. This was 9% higher than the rate reported in Week 28. Attendance rates may be affected by school closures due to spring break.

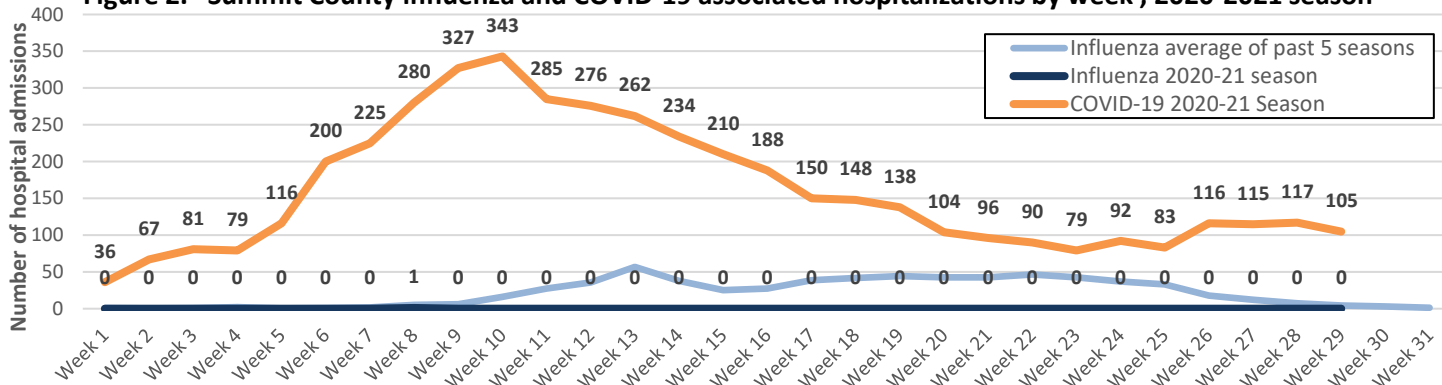
**Zero deaths** related to influenza, 12 COVID-19 deaths and 11 pneumonia related deaths were reported during Week 29. The rates of pneumonia deaths increased by 25% and the COVID-19 associated death rate increased by 14% (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Weekly Summit County death counts associated with pneumonia and influenza during 2020-2021 season**



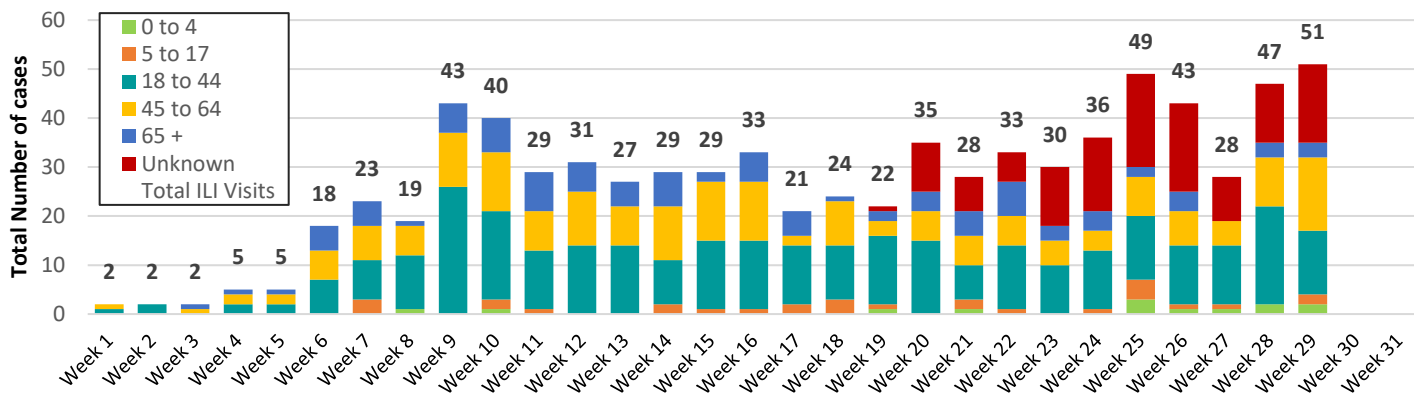
**Hospitalizations:** Summit County hospitals reported no influenza-associated hospitalizations, and 105 COVID-19 admissions in Week 29. **Figure 2** displays weekly confirmed hospitalization counts for Summit County facilities (**influenza total count to date = 1**).

**Figure 2. Summit County influenza and COVID-19 associated hospitalizations by week , 2020-2021 season**

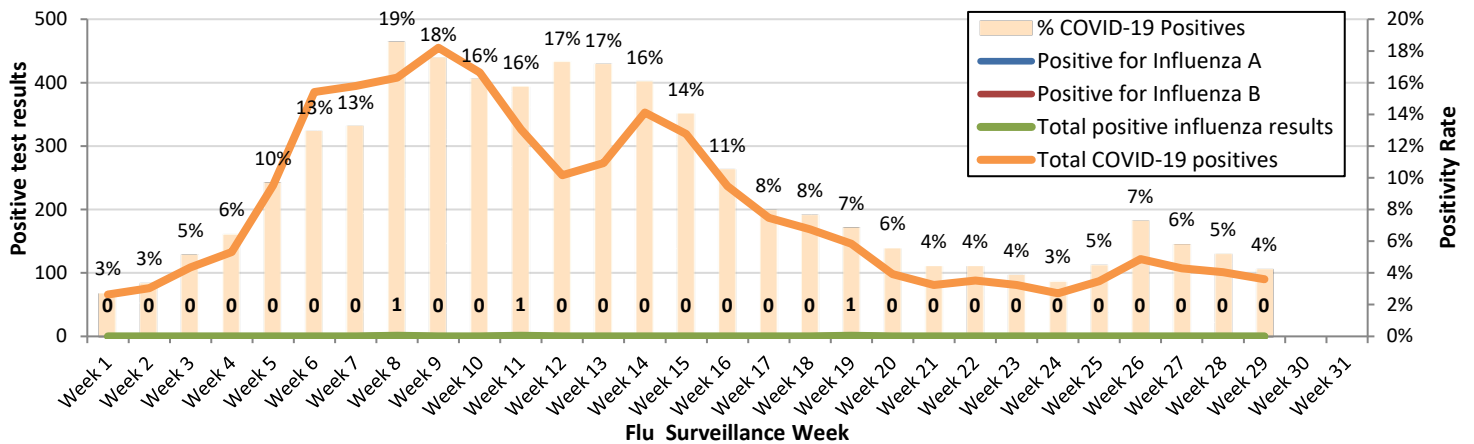


**ESSENCE** (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics) is a web-based disease surveillance information system that lets agencies analyze events of public health interest, monitor healthcare data for events that could affect public health. For this report, ED visits related to respiratory complaints and influenza-like illness (ILI) are included. **Figure 3** displays the weekly number of ER visits related to ILI symptoms in Summit County. There were 51 ILI-related visits reported during Week 29, which was 0.8% of total ED visits (n = 5683). This rate was 12% higher than the ILI rate during Week 28.

**Figure 3. Weekly ED visits in Summit County associated with influenza-like illness (ILI), by age groups, 2020 to 2021 season**



**Figure 4. Influenza diagnostic tests with positive results completed by Summit County health facilities, 2020 - 2021 season**



**Ohio Influenza Activity: from the Ohio Department of Health:**

**Current Ohio Activity Level (Geographic Spread) – Minimal**

During MMWR Week 16, public health surveillance data sources indicate minimal intensity for influenza-like illness outpatient settings reported by Ohio’s sentinel providers. Data from public health and clinical laboratories show very low levels of influenza virus circulation. Week 16 syndromic emergency department data is delayed as Ohio finalizes the transition between syndromic surveillance data vendors. Reported cases of influenza-associated hospitalizations are below the seasonal threshold (25 hospitalizations). There were 0 influenza-associated hospitalization reported during MMWR Week 16.

**Ohio Influenza Activity Summary Dashboard (April 18 to 24, 2021):**

Data Source	Current week value	Percent Change from last week <sup>1</sup>	# of weeks <sup>2</sup>	Trend Chart <sup>3</sup>
Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Outpatient Data (ILINet Sentinel Provider Visits)	1.14%	4.59%	↑ 3	
Thermometer Sales (National Retail Data Monitor) <sup>4</sup>	0.63%	0.00%	-	
Fever and ILI Specified ED Visits (EpiCenter) <sup>5</sup>	1.73%	-14.78%	↓ 4	
Constitutional ED Visits (EpiCenter) <sup>5</sup>	9.82%	-5.12%	↓ 2	
Confirmed Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (Ohio Disease Reporting System)	0	-100.00%	↓ 2	

<sup>1</sup>Interpret percent changes with caution. Large variability may be exhibited in data sources with low weekly values.

<sup>2</sup>Number of weeks that the % change is increasing or decreasing.

<sup>3</sup>Black lines represent current week’s data; red lines represent baseline averages

<sup>4</sup>Due to abnormally high thermometer sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019-2020 season data has been omitted. A 4-year average, which includes data from the 2015-2016 season through the 2018-2019 season, is shown

<sup>5</sup>Week 16 syndromic emergency department data is delayed as Ohio finalizes the transition between syndromic surveillance data vendors; Data through week 52 is shown.

Source: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/seasflu/Ohio%20Flu%20Activity.aspx>

## Ohio Surveillance Data:

- **The Ohio Department of Health Laboratory** has tested 17 specimens for influenza during the 2020-2021 influenza season; of these, **0 tested positive for influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 0 for influenza A(H3N2), 1 for influenza A (not subtyped), 0 for influenza B, and 16 were negative** (through 04/24/2021).
- The **National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)** and **U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Laboratories** reported **33,862 tests** for influenza performed at participating facilities; of these, **0 tested positive for influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 2 for influenza A(H3N2), 35 for influenza A (subtyping not performed), and 19 for influenza B** (through 04/17/2021; 2020-2021 season positive influenza testing data reflects a two-week lag to ensure data completeness).
- No **pediatric influenza-associated mortalities** have been reported so far during the 2020-2021 influenza season (through 04/24/2021).
- No **novel influenza A virus infections** have been reported so far during the 2020-2021 influenza season (through 04/24/2021).
- Incidence of confirmed **influenza-associated hospitalizations** in 2020-2021 season = **118** (through 04/24/2021).

## National Surveillance: from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

*Seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains lower than usual for this time of year.*

### National Outpatient Illness Surveillance:

During week 16, the percentage of outpatient visits for ILI remained at 1.1% (**Figure 5**), which is below the national baseline of 2.6%. During week 16, compared with week 15, the percentage of visits for ILI increased for one region (Region 10) and remained stable (change of  $\leq 0.1\%$ ) for the remaining nine regions. All regions reported percentages of outpatient visits for ILI below their region-specific baselines. In Week 16, all reporting states & territories experienced minimal activity as reported by sentinel ILINet providers (**Fig. 6**).

**Figure 5. Percentage of visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Surveillance Network (ILINet), weekly national summary, 2020-2021 and selected previous seasons**

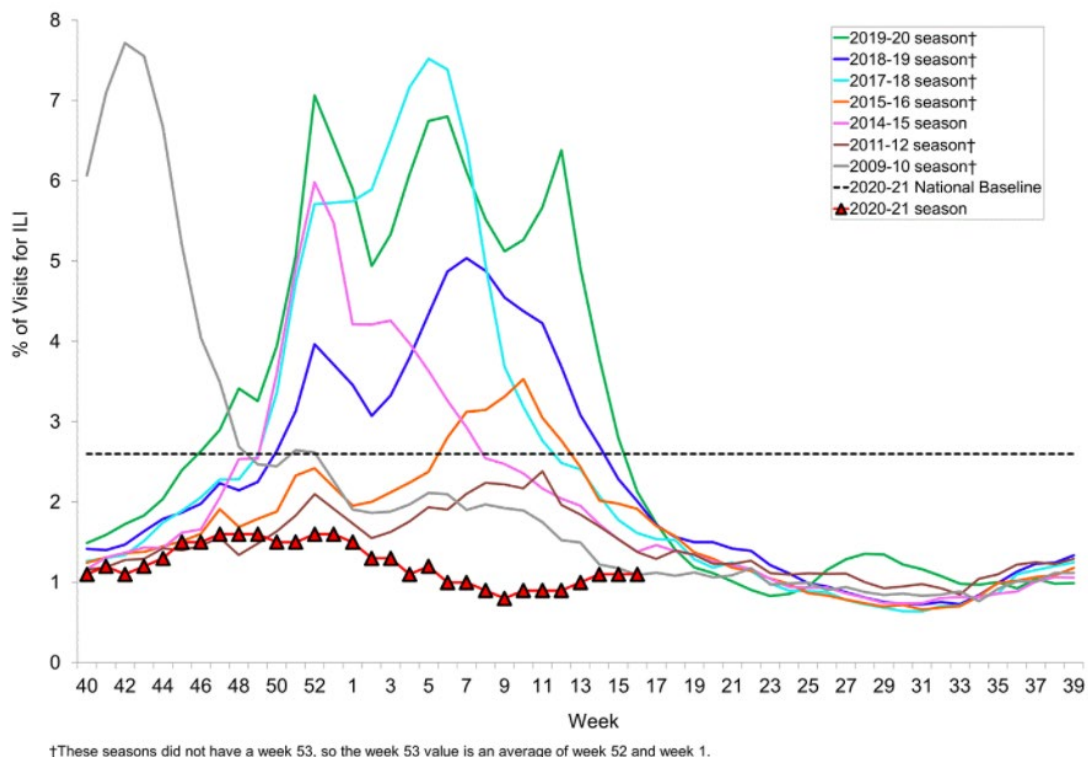
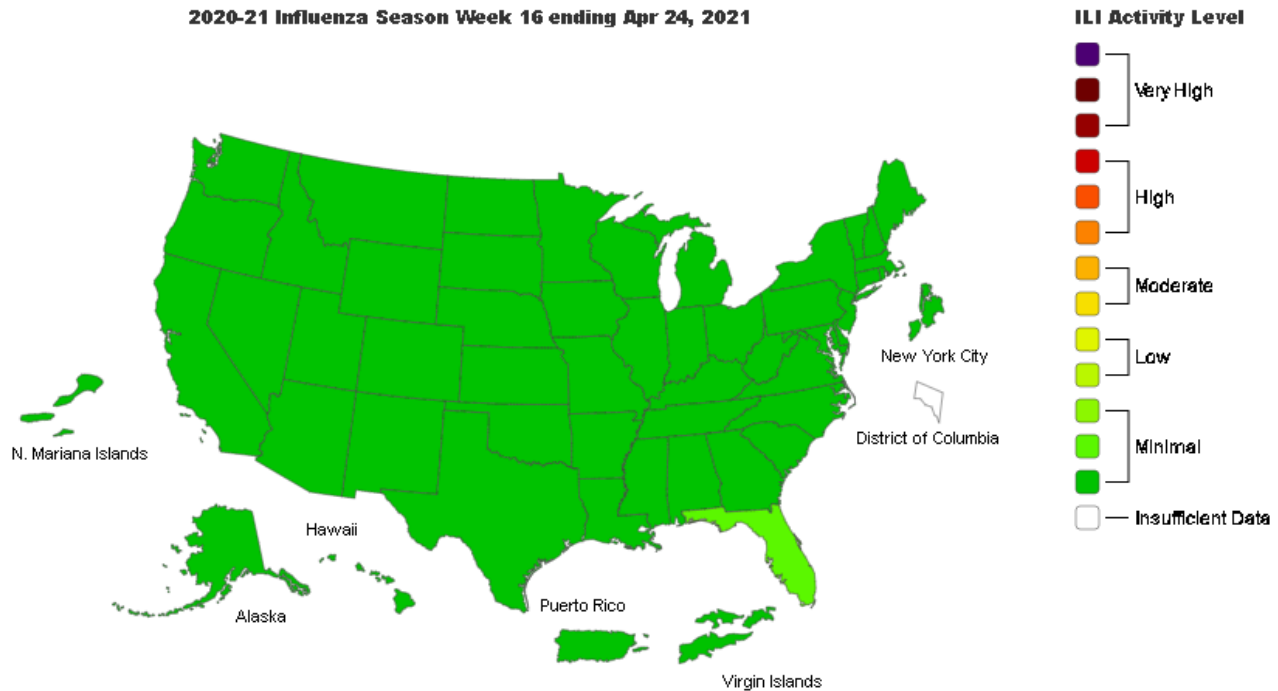


Figure 6. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity level indicator determined by data reported to ILINet



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

## Global Surveillance:

Influenza Update N° 392, World Health Organization (WHO), published 26 April 2021, based on data up to 11 April 2021. The Update is published every two weeks.

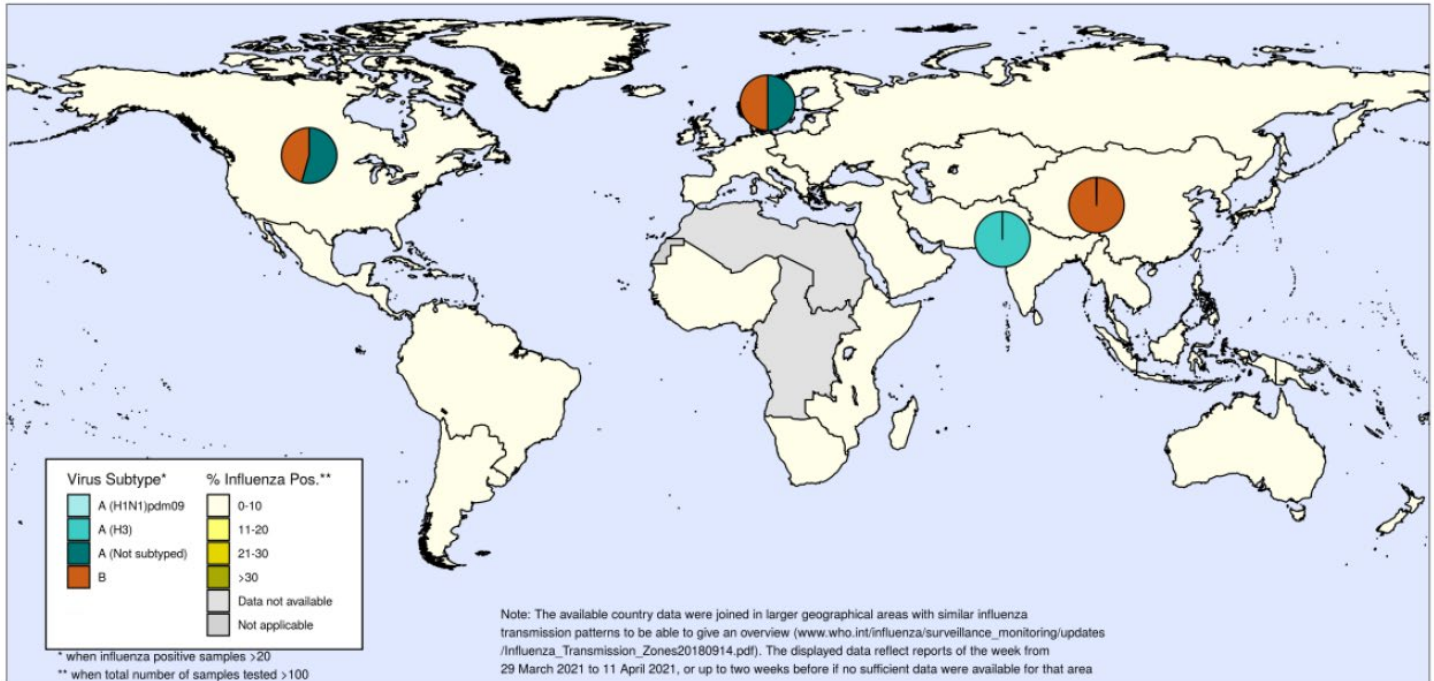
### Summary

*The current influenza surveillance data should be interpreted with caution as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has influenced to varying extents health seeking behaviours, staffing/routines in sentinel sites, as well as testing priorities and capacities in Member States. The various hygiene and physical distancing measures implemented by Member States to reduce SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission have likely played a role in reducing influenza virus transmission.*

- **Globally**, despite continued or even increased testing for influenza in some countries, influenza activity remained at lower levels than expected for this time of the year.
- In the **temperate zone of the northern hemisphere**, influenza activity remained below baseline, though sporadic detections of influenza A and B viruses continued to be reported in some countries.
- In the **temperate zone of the southern hemisphere**, influenza activity was reported at inter-seasonal level.
- In the **Caribbean and Central American countries**, sporadic detections of influenza A and B were reported in Mexico.
- In **tropical South America**, no influenza but respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) detections were reported in some countries.
- In **tropical Africa**, influenza detections were reported in some countries in Western, Middle and Eastern Africa.
- In **Southern Asia**, influenza activity continued to be reported at low levels in India and Nepal.
- In **South East Asia**, influenza A(H3N2) detections continued to be reported in Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) and Viet Nam.
- **Worldwide**, influenza B detections accounted for the majority of the very low numbers of detections reported.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 92 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 29 March 2021 to 11 April 2021 (data as of 2021-04-23 07:16:01 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 310129 specimens during that time period. A total of 588 specimens were positive for influenza viruses, of which 102 (17.3%) were typed as influenza A and 486 (82.7%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 9 (16.1%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 47 (83.9%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 1 (0.2%) belonged to the B-Yamagata lineage and 437 (99.8%) to the B-Victoria lineage.

**Figure 7. Percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza, by influenza transmission zone (based on data up to 23 April, 2021)**



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.



Data source: Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), FluNet ([www.who.int/flu-net](http://www.who.int/flu-net))  
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Source: [https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance\\_monitoring/updates/latest\\_update\\_GIP\\_surveillance/en/](https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/)

**About this report:** Reporting agencies include labs, hospitals, long-term care and community-based care providers, physician offices, university clinic, pharmacies, and schools. Agencies are distributed throughout Summit County and report different indicators of flu activity including total lab tests, numbers of positive tests and type, antiviral prescriptions filled, school absences, and influenza like illness (ILI). Hospitalizations are lab confirmed for influenza and are obtained from the Ohio Disease Reporting System. Number of deaths associated with influenza and pneumonia are gathered from the Summit County Office of Vital Records death listings. Emergency room visits for complaints related to influenza are obtained by syndromic surveillance system (Epicenter).

**Special thanks to all agencies who report Influenza related data weekly.**

Reporting from participants may not be complete each week. Numbers may change as updated reports are received. For questions, please contact Joan Hall at the Summit County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit (330-375-2662 or [cdu@schd.org](mailto:cdu@schd.org)). This report was issued on May 1, 2021.