



# Summit County Public Health Influenza Surveillance Report 2022 – 2023 Season



## Report #14

### Flu Surveillance Weeks 16 & 17 (1/15/2023 to 1/28/2023) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR Weeks 3 & 4

#### Summit County Surveillance Data:

In Weeks 16 & 17 of influenza surveillance, influenza-related activity was Very Low<sup>1</sup> in Summit County.

Table 1: Overall Influenza Activity Indicators in Summit County by week				
	Week 16 MMWR 3 N (%) <sup>1</sup>	Week 17 MMWR 4 N (%) <sup>1</sup>	Percent change from previous week	Number of weeks increasing or decreasing
<b>Lab Reports: Influenza</b>				
Test Performed	852	868	1.9%	↑1
Positive Tests (Number and %)	37 (4.3)	17 (2.0)	-54.9%	↓8
Influenza A (Number and %)	34 (4.0)	17 (2.0)	-50.9%	↓8
Influenza B (Number and %)	3 (0.35)	0 (0.0)	-100.0%	↓1
<b>Acute care hospitalizations for Influenza:</b>	6	3	-50.0%	↓7
<b>Schools absenteeism<sup>2</sup></b>	8.9	10.6	18.7%	↑2
<b>Deaths (occurred in Summit County)</b>				
Pneumonia associated	8	4	-50.0%	↓2
Influenza associated	0	1	+100.0%	↑1
COVID-19 associated	6	2	-66.7%	↓4
<b>Emergency room visits (EpiCenter)<sup>3</sup> (Figure 3)**</b>				
Total ED Visits	-	-	-	-
Constitutional Complaints	-	-	-	-
Fever and ILI	-	-	-	-
<p>2) Absence is for any reason. Percent is from total number of students enrolled. Data was collected from approx. 9 schools or school districts throughout Summit County (n = approx. 32,000 students)</p> <p>3)** Percent is from total number of emergency room interactions – elimination of data from a significant reporting facility has resulted in decreases in current and previous week data. <b>Notable changes in EpiCenter data are the result of a temporary programming issue in one or more of the reporting facilities. **A significant number of ER visits are expected to be unaccounted for at this time**</b> Notable decrease/ elimination of ER Related data may be the result of a reporting delay and not reflective of actual trends. <b>This will be revised in future reports.</b></p> <p><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</p>				

**Lab reports:** During week 16 & 17 of influenza surveillance, reporting Summit County facilities performed 1,720 flu tests, of which 54 had positive results. **(Figure 4) Note: Influenza data are collected from selected reporting partners and do not represent positivity rates for the entire county.**

**Acute Care Hospitalizations:** There were 3 reported admissions during week 17 down 50.0% from the previous week. **Figure 2** displays hospitalizations in Summit County.

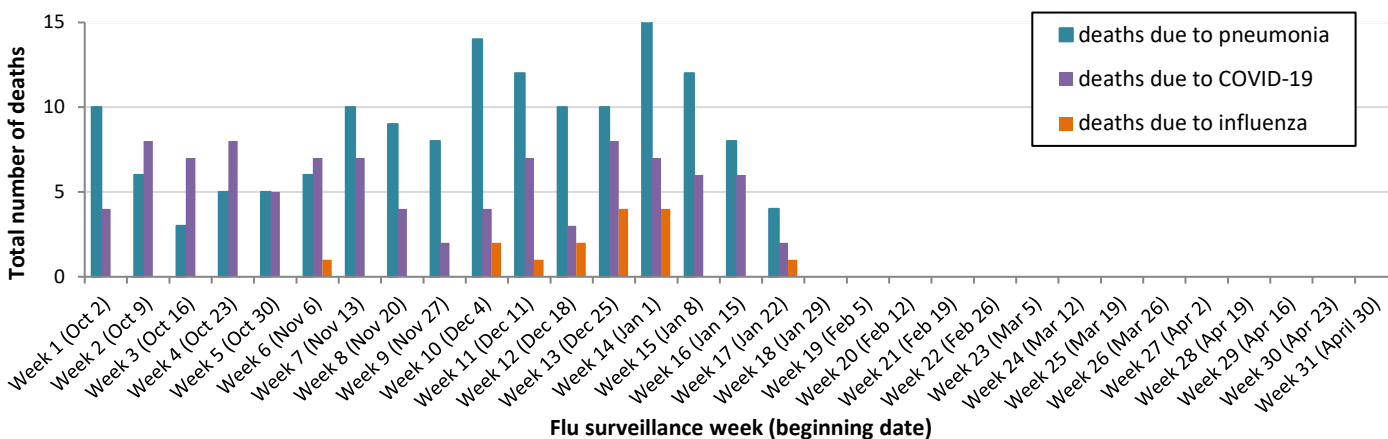
**School absenteeism** includes absences regardless of reasoning. There was an 18.7% increase in school absences from week 16 to 17.

1 death related to influenza, 8 COVID-19 related deaths and 12 pneumonia related deaths occurred in Summit County during week 16 & 17. The number of pneumonia and COVID-19 associated deaths decreased in week 17 and influenza associated deaths increased.

**Figure 1** displays weekly counts of deaths occurring in Summit County associated with pneumonia, COVID-19 and influenza.

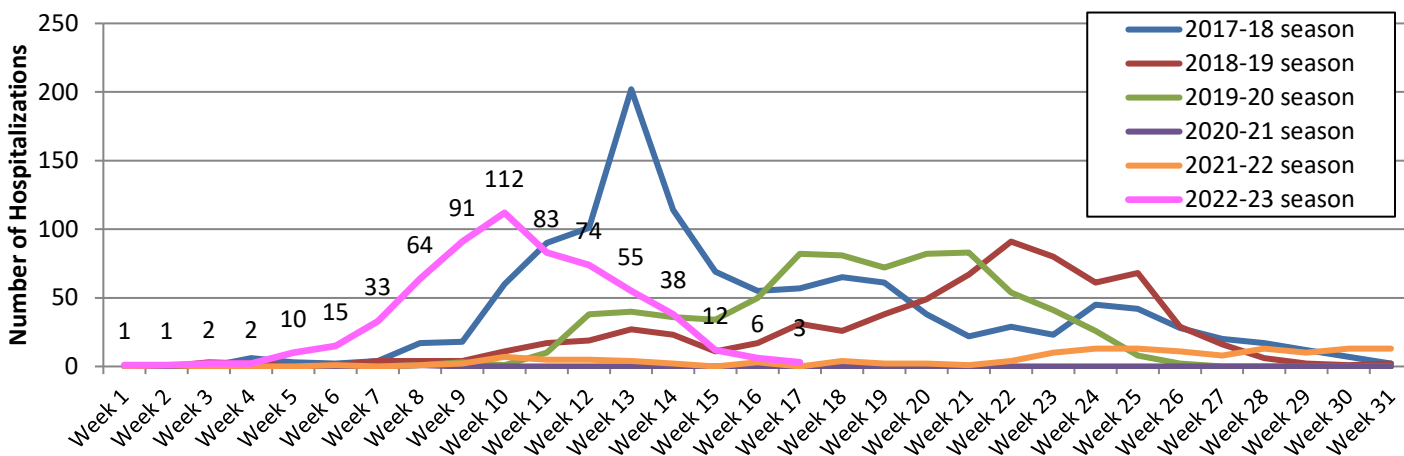
<sup>1</sup>The measure of 'influenza-related activity in Summit County' will be determined based on week to week comparison of table 1 indicators. The scale is as follows: 1/5 indicators increase (very low), 2/5 indicators increase (low), 3/5 indicators increase (moderate), 4/5 indicators increase (high), 5/5 indicators increase (very high).

**Figure 1. Weekly Summit County death counts associated with pneumonia and influenza during 2022-2023 season**



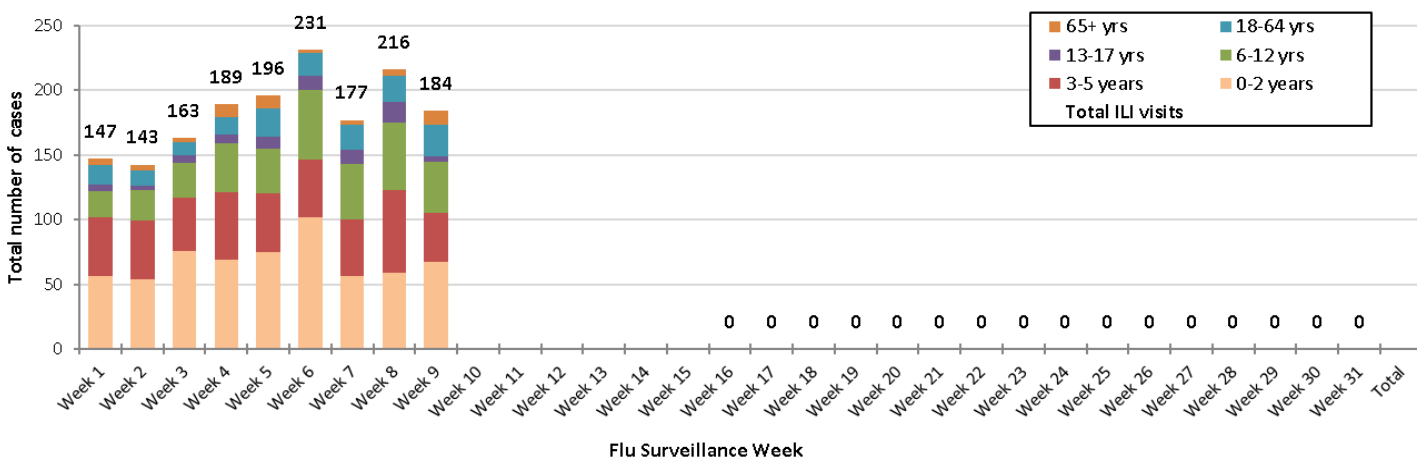
**Hospitalizations:** In Week 16, Summit County hospitals reported 6 influenza-associated hospitalizations. In Week 17 there were 3 new influenza-associated hospitalizations. **Figure 2** displays weekly confirmed hospitalization counts for Summit County.

**Figure 2. Summit County weekly influenza-associated hospitalizations, 2022-2023 season and previous five seasons**

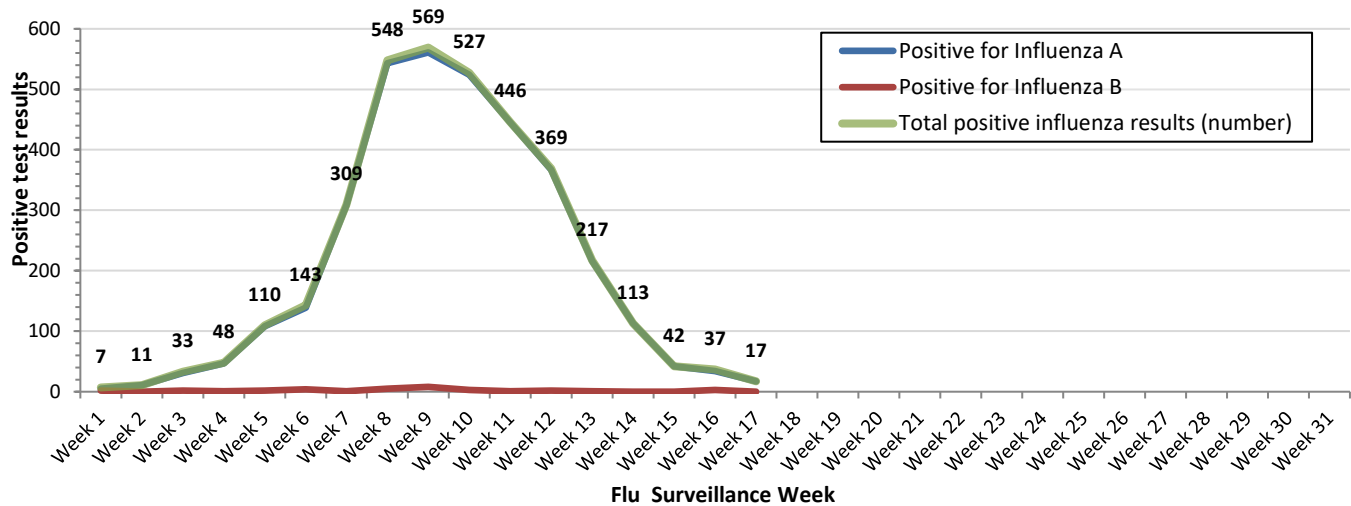


**EpiCenter** collects and analyzes health related data in real time to provide information about the health of the community. This system tracks ER visits related to constitutional complaints and fever and ILI. **Figures 3** displays the weekly number of ER visits related to ILI and flu symptoms in Summit County. **\*\*A significant number of ER visits are expected to be unaccounted for at this time\*\*** The graph containing ER deaths will be updated once the data is available for weeks 10-17.

**Figure 3. Weekly ED visits in Summit County related to Fever + ILI stratified by age groups, 2022 to 2023 season**



**Figure 4. Influenza diagnostic tests with positive results completed by Summit County health facilities, 2022 - 2023 season**



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

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

During MMWR Week 4, public health surveillance data sources indicate minimal intensity for influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatient settings reported by Ohio’s sentinel ILINet providers. The percentage of emergency department (ED) visits with patients exhibiting constitutional symptoms and fever/ILI specified ED visits are below baseline levels statewide. Reported cases of influenza-associated hospitalizations decreased. There were 98 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported during MMWR Week 4.

**Ohio Department of Health Seasonal Influenza Activity Summary January 22<sup>th</sup> – January 28<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

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)	2.30%	-4.56%	↓ 9	
Thermometer Sales (National Retail Data Monitor) <sup>4</sup>	0.52%	-3.70%	↓ 3	
Fever and ILI Specified ED Visits (EpiCenter)	1.36%	1.49%	↑ 1	
Constitutional ED Visits (EpiCenter)	9.25%	-3.65%	↓ 9	
Confirmed Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (Ohio Disease Reporting System)	98	-39.13%	↓ 4	

<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. The 2020-2021 influenza season has been omitted from the five-year baseline averages due to abnormal counts reported during the COVID-19 pandemic. A five-year average, which includes data from the 2016-2017 season through the 2021-2022 season, is displayed.

<sup>4</sup>Due to abnormally high thermometer sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 season data has been omitted. A 5-year average, which includes data from the 2015-2016 season through the 2021-2022 season, is shown.

## Ohio Surveillance Data:

- The U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Laboratories System and the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) has reported 117,493 tests for influenza performed at participating facilities; of these, 1,013 tested positive for influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 1,207 for influenza A(H3N2), 21,187 for influenza A (subtyping not performed), and 114 for influenza B (through 01/28/2023).
- Four influenza-associated pediatric mortalities have been reported so far during the 2022-2023 influenza season (through 01/28/2023).
- No novel influenza A virus infections have been reported so far during the 2022-2023 influenza season (through 01/28/2023).
- Incidence of confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations in 2022-2023 season = 8,584 (through 01/28/2023).

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

### National Outpatient Illness Surveillance:

Nationwide during week 4, 2.6% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to respiratory illness that included fever plus a cough or sore throat, also referred to as ILI. This has remained stable compared to what was reported in week 3 and remains above the national baseline of 2.5%. Seven of the 10 HHS regions are below their respective baselines, and regions 2, 3, and 9 are above their respective baselines. The percent of patient visits for respiratory illness remained stable for seven regions during week 4 compared to week 3, declined in regions 1 and 2, and increased in region 6. Multiple respiratory viruses are co-circulating, and the relative contribution of influenza virus infection to ILI varies by location.

**Figure 5. Percentage of Outpatient Visits for Respiratory Illness reported By the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, 2022-2023\* and Selected Previous Seasons.**

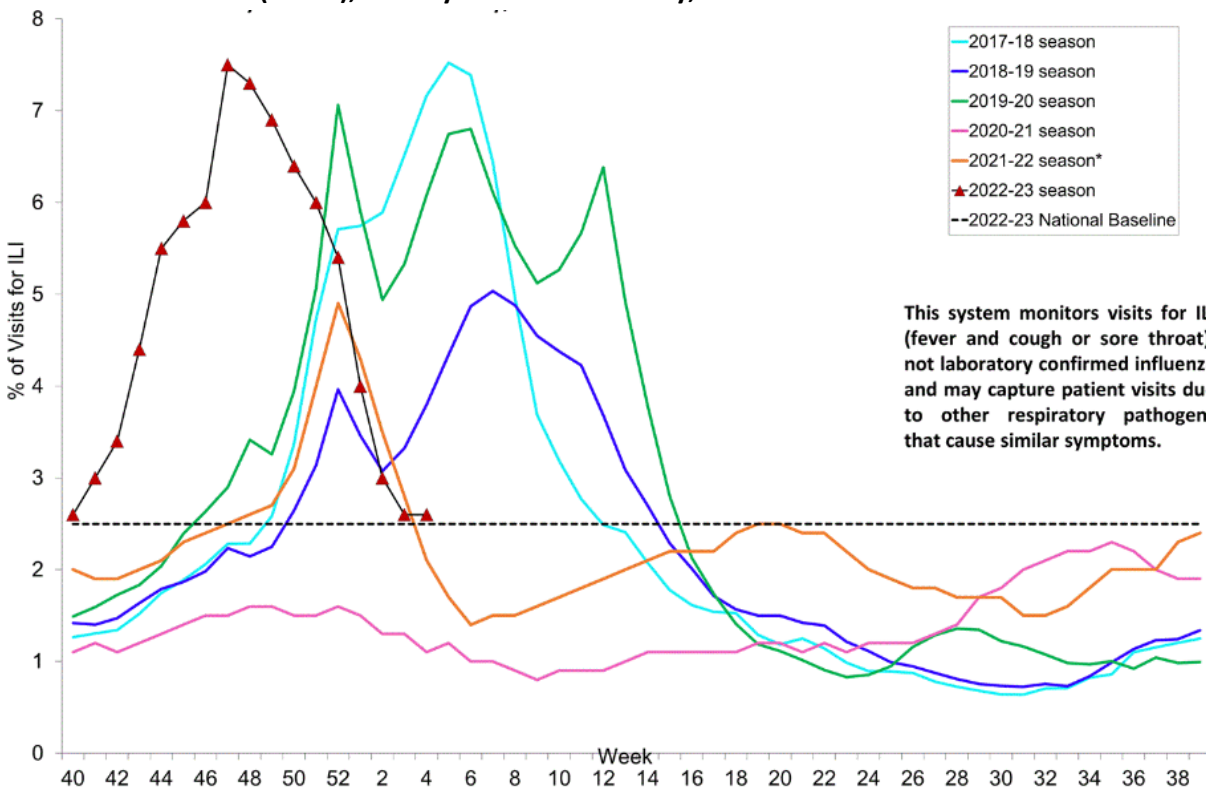
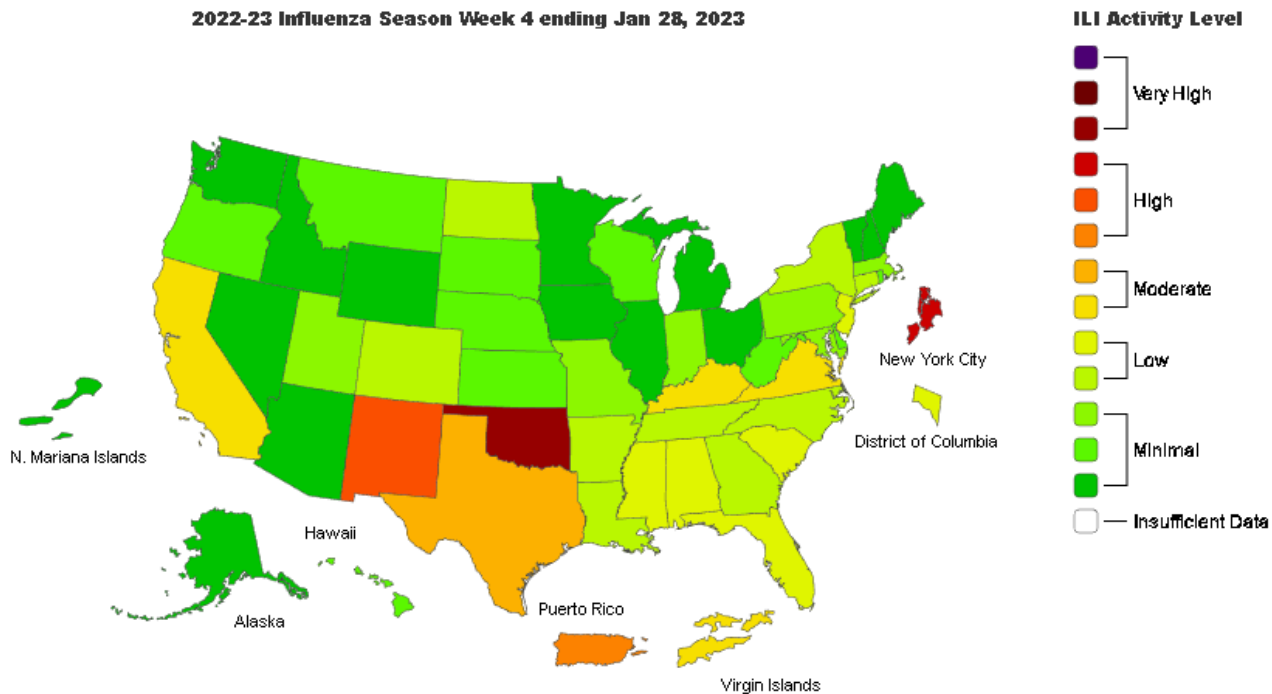


Figure 6. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity level indicator determined by data reported to ILINet



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

## Global Surveillance:

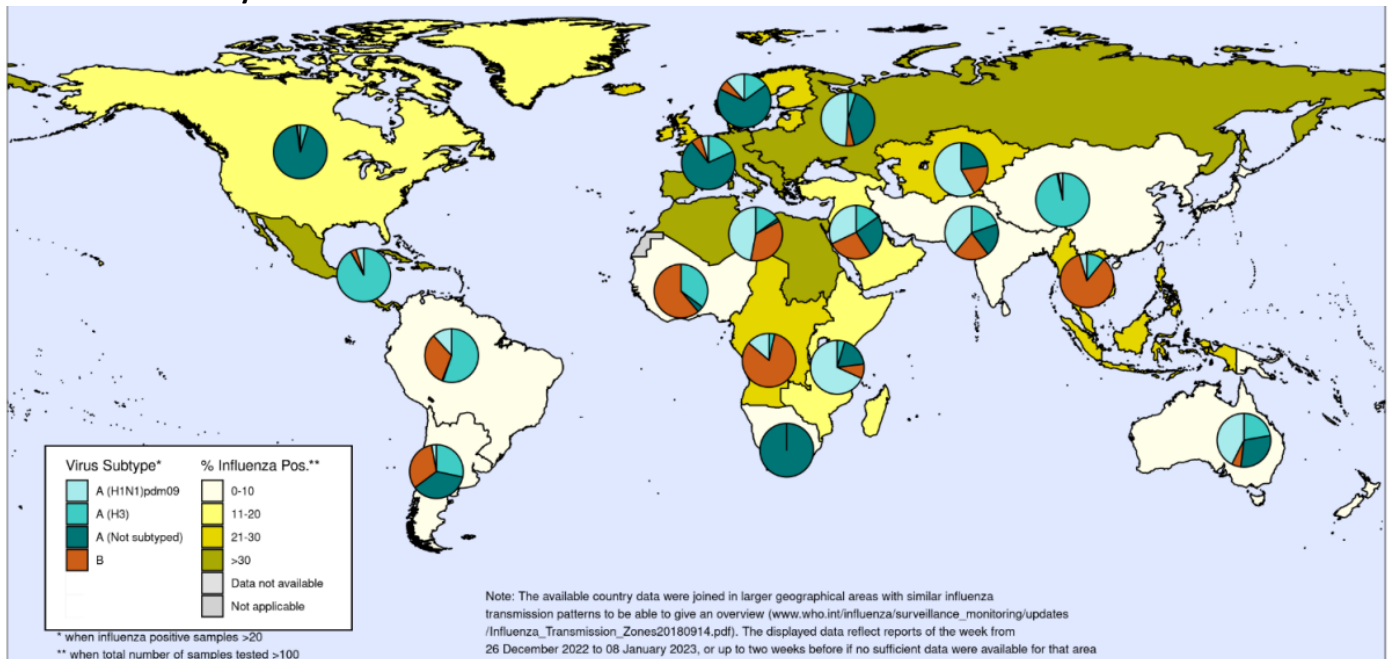
Influenza Update N° 437 23 January 2023, based on data up to 8 January 2023

### Summary

- Countries are recommended to monitor the relative co-circulation of influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses and report to FluNet and FLUID directly or via regional platforms. They are encouraged to enhance integrated surveillance, and in northern hemisphere countries step up their influenza vaccination campaign to prevent severe disease and hospitalizations associated with influenza. Clinicians should consider influenza in differential diagnosis, especially for high-risk groups for influenza, and test and treat according to national guidance. Because of changes in surveillance of respiratory viruses during the COVID-19 pandemic, comparisons of current data with that from previous seasons should be interpreted with caution. Under-reporting due to the end of the year holidays may affect the data and conclusions below.
- Globally, influenza activity decreased but remained somewhat elevated due to activity in the northern hemisphere. Influenza A viruses predominated with a slightly larger proportion of A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses detected among the subtyped influenza A viruses during this reporting period.
- In the countries of North America, most indicators of influenza activity decreased to levels similar or below levels typically observed this time of year. Influenza A(H3N2) was the predominant virus detected.
- In Europe, overall influenza activity decreased but influenza positivity from sentinel sites remained above the epidemic threshold at the regional level. Overall, influenza A viruses predominated with similar proportions of A(H1N1)pdm09 and A(H3N2) influenza viruses detected in primary care sentinel sites but with regional differences. Many countries reported high or very high intensity, and more than half reported widespread activity. Indicators of influenza activity (influenza like illness (ILI), acute respiratory infection (ARI), severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), influenza-associated hospitalizations) decreased in many countries while other countries reported increases.
- In central Asia, influenza activity decreased overall with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses predominant followed by influenza B viruses, but with some differences in trends by country.
- In Northern Africa, influenza detections decreased after a peak in week 52, with all seasonal influenza subtypes detected.

- In Western Asia, influenza activity decreased overall with all seasonal influenza subtypes detected, though increased activity was reported in some countries.
- In East Asia, influenza activity of predominantly influenza A(H3N2) viruses remained low overall though detections continued to be reported at elevated levels in Mongolia and the Republic of Korea. In the Caribbean and Central American countries, influenza activity of predominantly influenza A(H3N2) viruses was low overall but remained elevated in Mexico.
- In the tropical countries of South America, influenza detections were generally low, and influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B viruses predominated. Influenza positivity was at a moderate level in Ecuador.
- In tropical Africa, influenza activity was highest in eastern Africa but remained low overall with detections of all seasonal influenza subtypes reported.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low and continued to decrease with influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 predominant and influenza A(H3N2) and influenza B also reported.
- In South-East Asia, detections of predominantly influenza B remained elevated due to continued detections reported in Malaysia.
- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity decreased to low levels

**Percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza, by influenza transmission zone. Map generated on 20 January 2023.**



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)  
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**Source:** <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/influenza-update-n-437>

**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 Julie Zidones at the Summit County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit (330-375-2662 or cdu@schd.org). This report was issued on February 3, 2023.