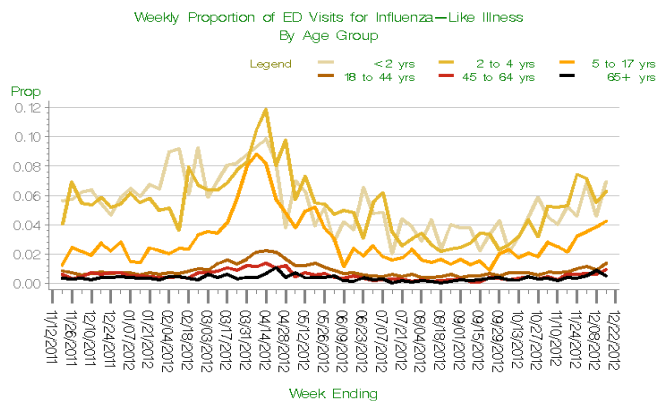
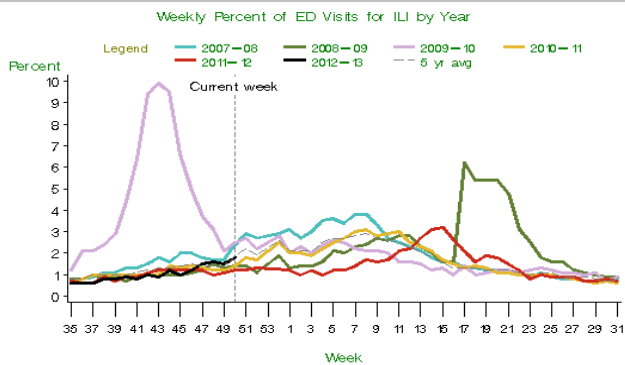


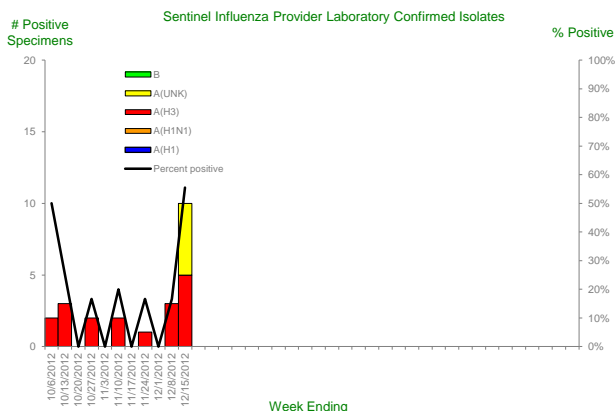
Influenza activity continued to increase in King County during week 50. All subtyped positive specimens from outpatient surveillance have been identified as influenza A(H3). The proportion of hospital rapid antigen tests positive for flu is above average compared to this time in past years; in recent weeks, almost all positive tests have identified influenza A. The proportion of emergency department visits attributed to influenza-like illness during week 50 increased for all ages except those over 65; visit levels are comparable to the 5-year average for this time of year. Three additional long-term care facilities reported laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks during week 50; all reported influenza A. The University of Washington Virology Laboratory data is not yet available for week 50; the most recently available data showed increases in respiratory viruses including influenza A, RSV, parainfluenza and rhinovirus.

	Data for this week	Cumulative data this season since October 1, 2012
Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Deaths	0	0
King County Outpatient Sentinel Influenza Providers		
Specimens Submitted	18	109
Proportion Positive for Influenza	55.6%	Season Peak: 55.6%
A (H1)	0	0
A (H3)	5	18
A (Unknown)	5	5
B	0	0
Hospital Laboratory Influenza Rapid Antigen Test Submissions		
Number of Labs Reporting	9	Weekly Average: 9
Number of Specimens Submitted	482	Weekly Average: 238
Proportion of Tests Positive for Influenza	15.8%	Season Peak: 15.8%
Hospital Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI)		
Proportion of Visits Due to ILI	1.8%	Season Peak: 1.8%
Percent of All King County Deaths Due to Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I)	5.2%	--
National Epidemic Threshold	7.0%	# Weeks Threshold Exceeded: 1
Respiratory Disease Outbreaks at Long-Term Care Facilities (LCTFs)	3	4
Laboratory-Confirmed LCTF Influenza Outbreaks	3	4



Note: 5 yr avg excludes the current season and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic period
Last updated Dec 16, 2012 ; 'current week' is week ending Dec 15, 2012

ALLHOSPITALS, Last Updated Dec 20, 2012



Resources

Additional Flu Information, Resources and Surveillance:
www.kingcounty.gov/health/flu

UW Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Surveillance:
<http://depts.washington.edu/rspvirus/documents/VD2012-13.pdf>

Washington State Influenza Surveillance Update:
www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Epidemiology/CD/fluupdate.pdf

National Influenza Update:
www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/

Global Influenza Update:
www.who.int/csr/disease/influenza/en/

¹Influenza-like illness is defined as fever and cough or sore throat, or specific mention of influenza in chief complaint or discharge diagnosis