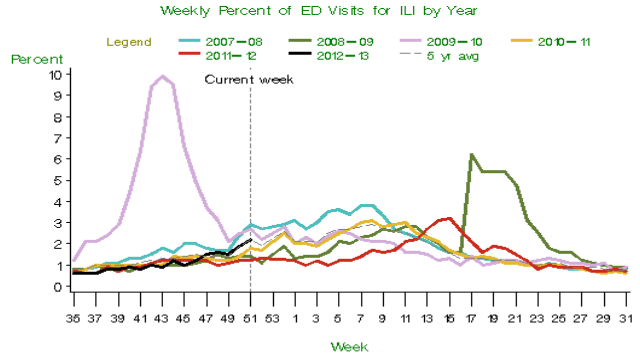
Influenza surveillance summary for week 51 ending December 22, 2012

Public Health
Seattle & King County

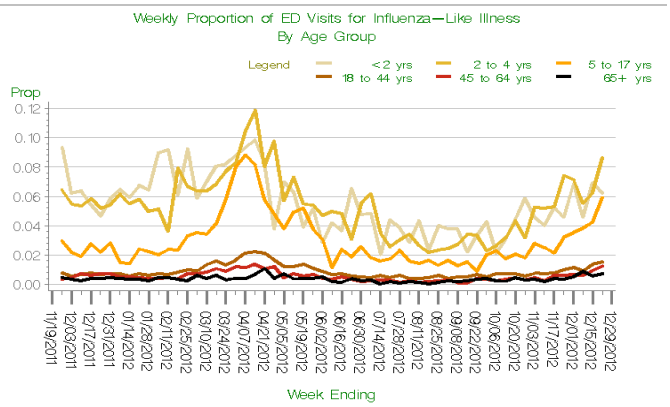
Influenza activity continued to increase in King County during week 51. The first two influenza deaths of the season were reported, both in adults over age 65 who tested positive for influenza A. All subtyped positive specimens from outpatient surveillance have been identified as influenza A(H3). The 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 51 increased for all ages except those under 2 years; overall visit levels are comparable to the 5-year average for this time of year. Two additional long-term care facilities reported influenza-like illness, one of which had positive laboratory tests for influenza A. The University of Washington Virology Laboratory data showed the greatest increases in influenza A and RSV.

	Data for this week	Cumulative data this season since October 1, 2012
Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Deaths	2	2
King County Outpatient Sentinel Influenza Providers		
Specimens Submitted	18	127
Proportion Positive for Influenza	33.3%	Season Peak: 55.6%
A (H1)	0	0
A (H3)	4	29
A (Unknown)	2	2
B	0	0
Hospital Laboratory Influenza Rapid Antigen Test Submissions		
Number of Labs Reporting	4	Weekly Average: 9
Number of Specimens Submitted	171	Weekly Average: 233
Proportion of Tests Positive for Influenza	11.7%	Season Peak: 15.8%
Hospital Emergency Department (ED) Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI)		
Proportion of Visits Due to ILI	2.2%	Season Peak: 2.2%
Percent of All King County Deaths Due to Pneumonia and Influenza (P & I)	5.6%	--
National Epidemic Threshold	7.1%	# Weeks Threshold Exceeded: 1
Respiratory Disease Outbreaks at Long-Term Care Facilities (LCTFs)	2	6
Laboratory-Confirmed LTCF Influenza Outbreaks	1	5

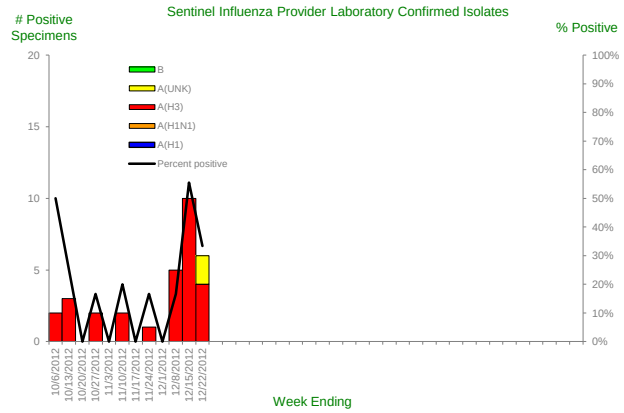


All ages

Note: 5 yr avg excludes the current season and the 2009 H1N1 pandemic period
Last updated Dec 23, 2012 ; 'current week' is week ending Dec 22, 2012



ALLHOSPITALS, Last Updated Dec 28, 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/

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