Influenza activity remained high in King County during week 1 (week ending 01/10/2015), and above peak levels for recent influenza seasons. Positive specimens from outpatient surveillance and from reporting hospital laboratories have been identified as influenza A, with a small number of influenza B infections also detected. Among specimens submitted to King County Public Health Laboratory, the majority have been typed as A(H3). During the week ending 01/03/2015, King County received 21 reports of laboratory-confirmed influenza A outbreaks from long-term care facilities (LTCFs) and eight reports for laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths; these are the highest levels observed this season for both indicators. The proportion of emergency department visits attributable to influenza-like illness (ILI) remained high, and exceeded peak levels of the past five flu seasons, excluding the 2010 pandemic; while ILI visits in the under 18 year age group trended downward, they continued to increase in older age groups. During the week ending 01/03/2015, the University of Washington Virology laboratory continued to see high numbers of specimens positive for influenza A and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Resources

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

UW Virology Laboratory Respiratory Virus Surveillance:

Washington State Influenza Surveillance Update:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5100/420-100-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**