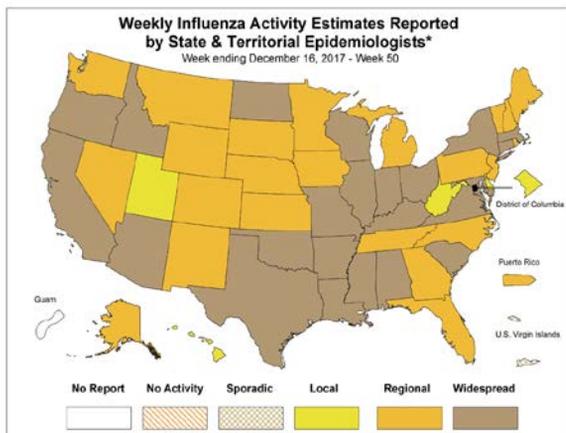


### Widespread Influenza Activity in Los Angeles County

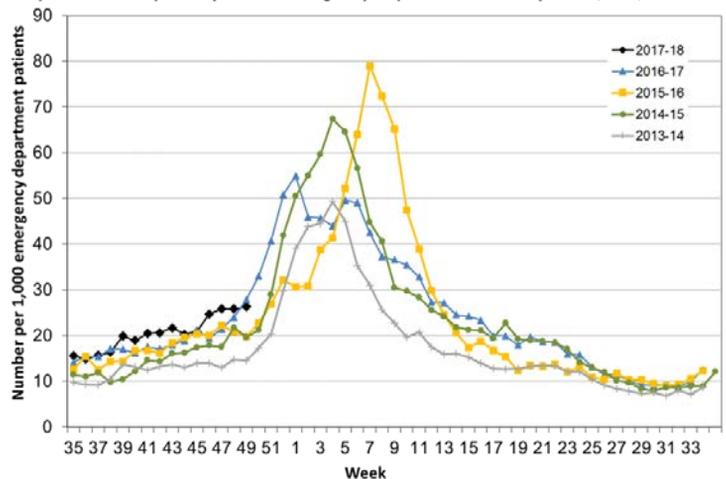
Los Angeles County is currently seeing widespread influenza (flu) activity. During the week of 12/10/17 – 12/16/17, 23.5% of tested respiratory specimens were positive for flu. Los Angeles County emergency departments are also seeing an uptick in visits due to influenza like illness. So far this season, flu activity has remained higher than at comparable points in previous seasons.

It's never too late to vaccinate! The CDC reports that this year's vaccine is a good match with the strains of flu that are circulating. Laboratory data on viruses collected in the United States since October 1, 2017, indicate that most (98%) of circulating H3N2 influenza viruses remain similar to the cell-grown reference viruses that represent vaccine viruses recommended for use in the production of 2017-2018 U.S. influenza vaccines. The absence of antigenic drift suggests that vaccination with Northern Hemisphere influenza vaccines should offer protection similar to what has been seen during other seasons when reference vaccine viruses and most circulating viruses were similar.



\* This map indicates geographic spread & does not measure the severity of influenza activity

Proportion of Respiratory Illness Emergency Department Visits by Week, LAC, 2013-2018



### When to report

With flu activity widespread and increasing across Los Angeles County, it's important to know when influenza should be [reported](#).

**Individual cases** are reportable when caused by a [novel strain of influenza](#). Novel strains include [Avian flu](#) (H5N1 or H7N9) or [Swine flu](#) (H3N2v, H1N1v, H1N2v).

**Influenza-associated deaths** of any age are [reportable](#). Influenza-associated deaths must have had 1) confirmed influenza by laboratory testing, 2) a clinical syndrome consistent with influenza or complications of influenza, and 3) a clear progression from onset of illness to death. Influenza deaths are underreported nationwide.

**Outbreaks** of influenza or unknown respiratory disease are reportable. The definition of what constitutes an outbreak changes by setting:

- Within **healthcare associated institutions** such as hospitals and [skilled nursing facilities](#), an outbreak is either a sudden increase of acute febrile respiratory illness cases over the normal background rate OR at least one case of lab confirmed influenza and one or more additional cases of influenza like illness (ILI) within a 72 hour period.
- Within **non-healthcare associated institutions** like prisons, jails, university dormitories, and overnight camps, an outbreak is defined as at least 2 cases of ILI within a 48-72 hour period, OR at least one case of ILI with laboratory confirmation and at least one additional case of ILI.
- Within **congregate settings** such as schools and day camps, an outbreak is defined as a period of three days with 10% of average daily attendance absent, OR 20% of an epidemiologically linked group (such as a sports team or after school group) ill with similar symptoms with at least 5 people ill, over a 3 day period.

To report a case or outbreak, please call (888) 397-3993. More information can be found here:

<http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/acd/procs/b73/DiseaseChapters/B73Influenza.pdf>