



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



**Report #18  
Flu Surveillance Weeks 20 & 21 (2/12/2023 to 2/25/2023)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR Weeks 7 & 8**

**Summit County Surveillance Data:**

In **Weeks 20 & 21** of influenza surveillance, influenza-related activity was Moderate<sup>1</sup> in Summit County.

| Table 1: Overall Influenza Activity Indicators in Summit County by week   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | Week 20<br>MMWR 7<br>N (%) <sup>1</sup> | Week 21<br>MMWR 8<br>N (%) <sup>1</sup> | Percent<br>change from<br>previous week | Number of<br>weeks<br>increasing or<br>decreasing |
| <b>Lab Reports: Influenza</b>   |   |   |   |   |
| Test Performed  | 893                                     | 871                                     | -2.5%                                   | ↓1  |
| Positive Tests (Number and %)   | 4 (0.4)                                 | 6 (0.7)                                 | 53.8%                                   | ↑1  |
| Influenza A (Number and %)  | 4 (0.4)                                 | 4 (0.5)                                 | 2.5%                                    | ↑1  |
| Influenza B (Number and %)  | 0 (0.0)                                 | 2 (0.23)                                | -                                       | ↑1  |
| <b>Acute care hospitalizations for Influenza:</b>   | 0                                       | 2                                       | -                                       | ↑1  |
| <b>Schools absenteeism<sup>2</sup></b>  | 9.3                                     | 9.7                                     | 3.8%                                    | ↑1  |
| <b>Deaths (occurred in Summit County)</b>   |   |   |   |   |
| Pneumonia associated  | 5                                       | 9                                       | 80.0%                                   | ↑1  |
| Influenza associated  | 0                                       | 0                                       | -                                       | 3   |
| COVID-19 associated   | 4                                       | 4                                       | 0.0%                                    | 1   |
| <b>Emergency room visits (EpiCenter)<sup>3</sup> (Figure 3)**</b>   |   |   |   |   |
| Total ED Visits   | -                                       | -                                       | -                                       | -   |
| Constitutional Complaints   | -                                       | -                                       | -                                       | -   |
| Fever and ILI   | -                                       | -                                       | -                                       | -   |
| 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)<br>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><br><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 |   |   |   |   |

**Lab reports:** During week 20 and 21 of influenza surveillance, reporting Summit County facilities performed 1,764 flu tests, of which 10 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 2 reported admissions during week 21, this increased from the previous week. **Figure 2** displays hospitalizations in Summit County.

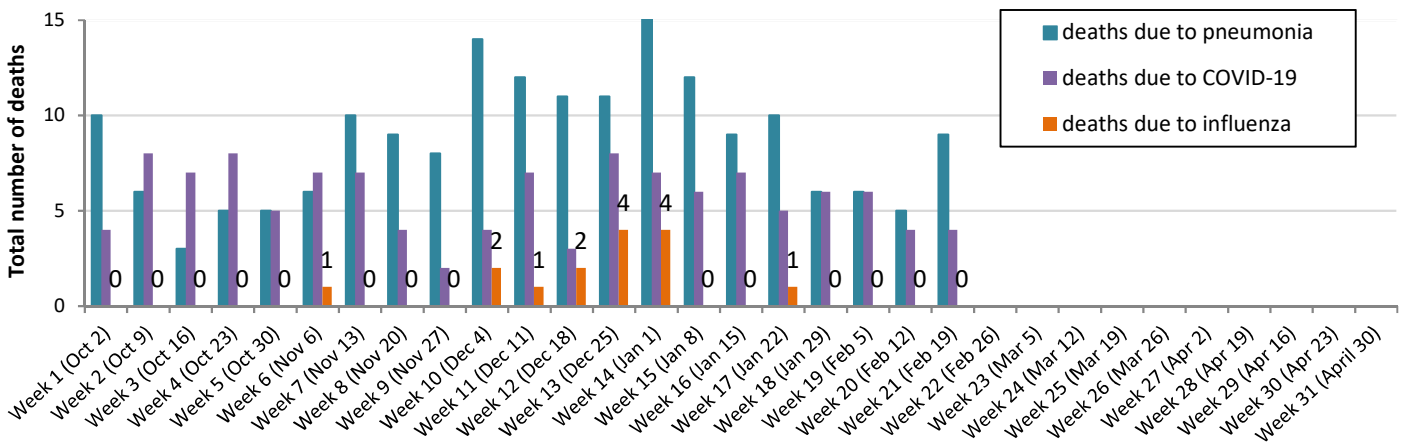
**School absenteeism** includes absences regardless of reasoning. There was a 3.8% increase in school absences from week 20 to 21.

0 deaths related to influenza, 14 COVID-19 related deaths and 8 pneumonia related death occurred in Summit County during week 20 & 21. The number of pneumonia associated deaths increased and COVID-19 associated deaths stayed the same from week 20 to 21.

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

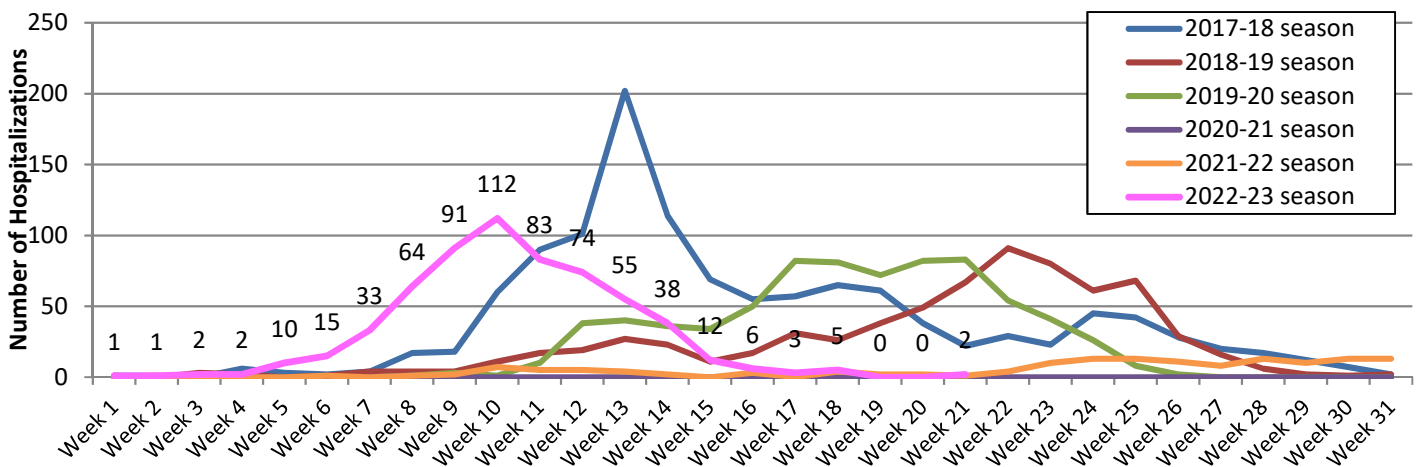
<sup>1</sup>The measure of 'influenza-related activity in Summit County' will be determined based on week to week comparison of table 1 indicators. The scale is as follows: 1/5 indicators increase (very low), 2/5 indicators increase (low), 3/5 indicators increase (moderate), 4/5 indicators increase (high),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

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



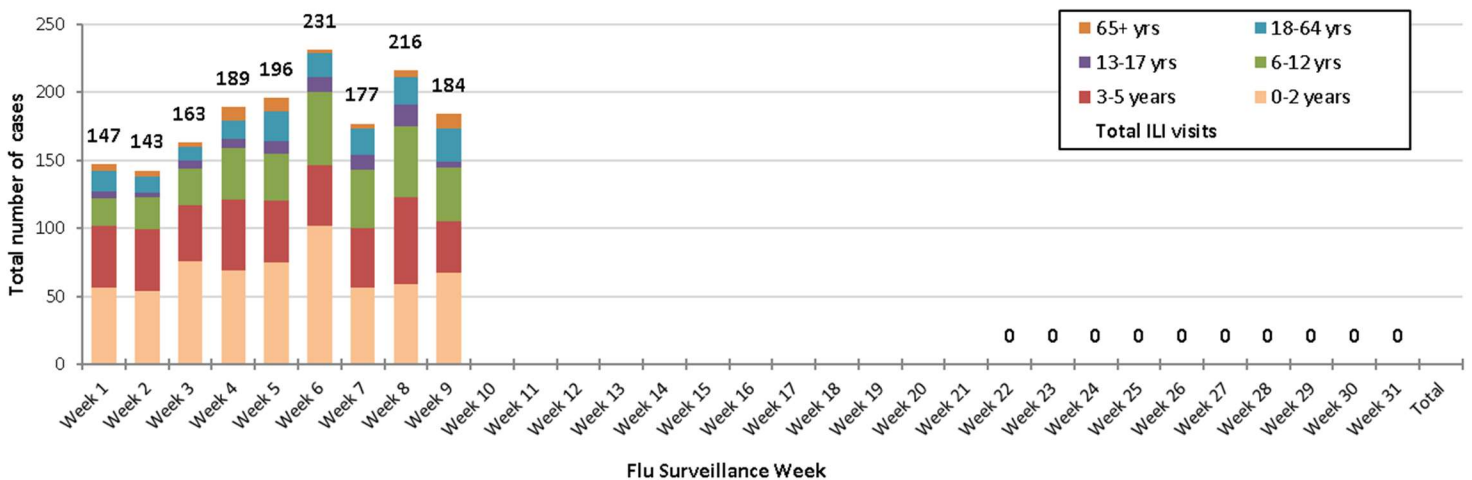
**Hospitalizations:** In Week 20, Summit County hospitals reported 0 influenza-associated hospitalizations. In Week 21 there were 2 new influenza-associated hospitalizations. **Figure 2** displays weekly confirmed hospitalization counts for Summit

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

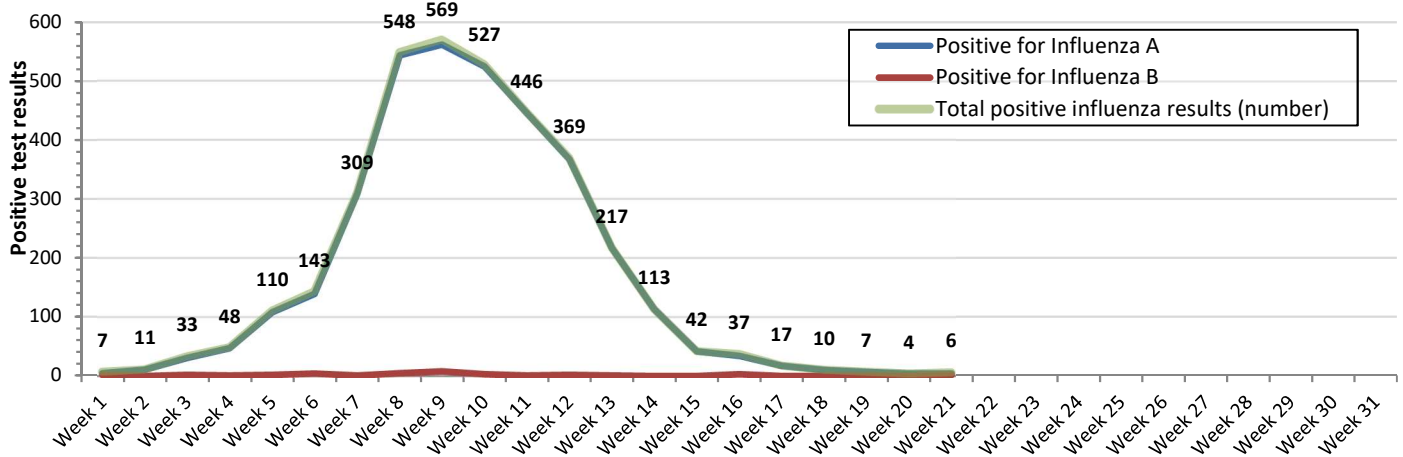


**EpiCenter** collects and analyzes health related data in real time to provide information about the health of the community. This system tracks ER visits related to constitutional complaints and fever and ILI. **Figures 3** displays the weekly number of ER visits related to ILI and flu symptoms in 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 10-21.

**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 8, 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 increased. There were 63 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported during MMWR Week 8.

**Ohio Department of Health Seasonal Influenza Activity Summary February 19<sup>th</sup> – February 25<sup>th</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)  | 2.68%              | 12.61%                                     | ↑ 3                     |                          |
| Thermometer Sales (National Retail Data Monitor) <sup>4</sup>                   | 0.47%              | -4.08%                                     | ↓ 2                     |                          |
| Fever and ILI Specified ED Visits (EpiCenter)                                   | 1.75%              | 6.06%                                      | ↑ 5                     |                          |
| Constitutional ED Visits (EpiCenter)  | 10.16%             | 2.63%                                      | ↑ 4                     |                          |
| Confirmed Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (Ohio Disease Reporting System) | 63                 | 14.55%                                     | ↑ 1                     |                          |

<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.

Source <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/seasonal-influenza/activity-reports-2022-2023/seasonal-influenza-week-08-20222023>

## 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 135,755 tests for influenza performed at participating facilities; of these, 1,060 tested positive for influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 1,245 for influenza A(H3N2), 21,437 for influenza A (subtyping not performed), and 142 for influenza B (through 02/25/2023).
- Five influenza-associated pediatric mortalities have been reported so far during the 2022-2023 influenza season (through 02/25/2023).
- No novel influenza A virus infections have been reported so far during the 2022-2023 influenza season (through 02/25/2023).
- Incidence of confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations in 2022-2023 season = 8,829 (through 02/25/2023).

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

### National Outpatient Illness Surveillance:

Nationwide during week 8, 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 (change of  $\leq 0.1$  percentage point) for the last 6 weeks and remains above the national baseline of 2.5%. Six of the 10 HHS regions are below their respective baselines, regions 2 and 9 are above their respective baselines, and regions 3 and 8 are at their respective baselines. 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.**

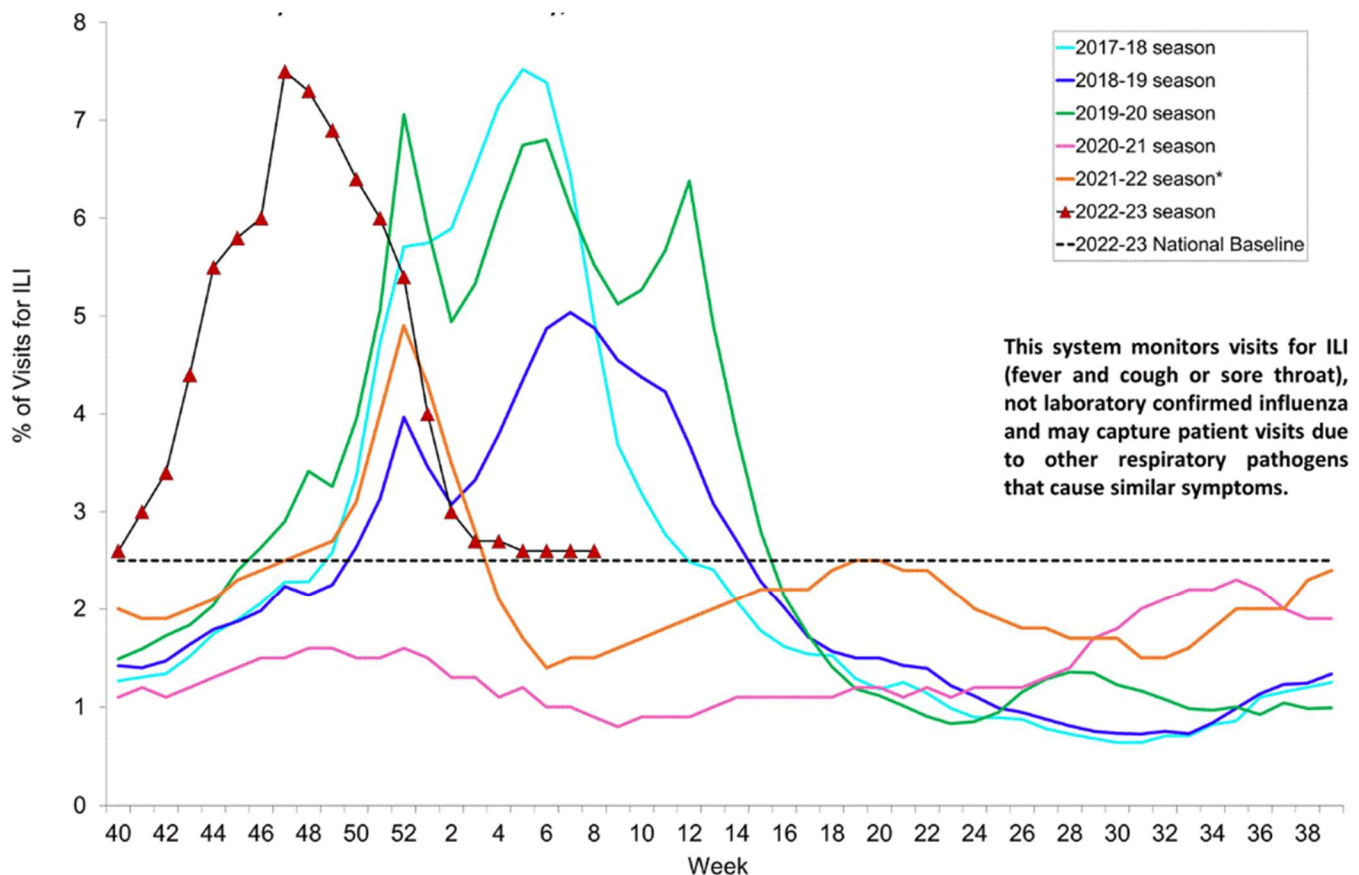
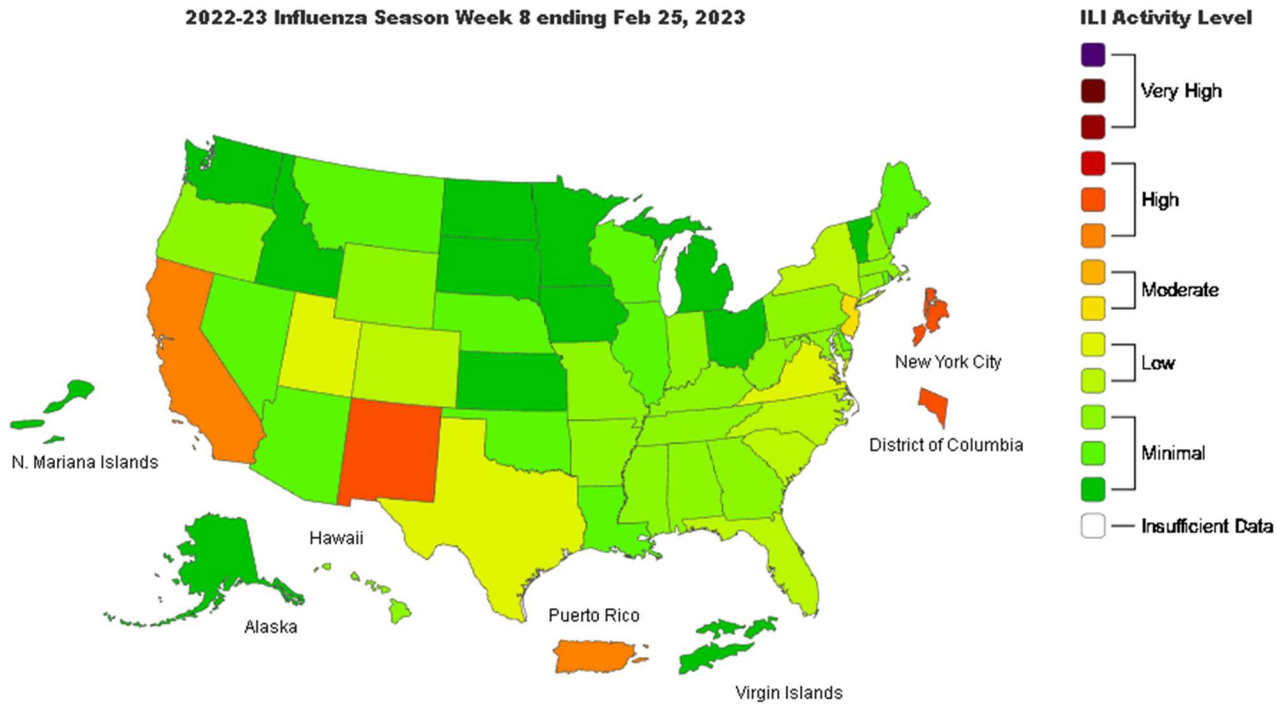


Figure 6. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity level indicator determined by data reported to ILINet



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

## Global Surveillance:

Influenza Update N° 439 20 February 2023, based on data up to 05 February 2023

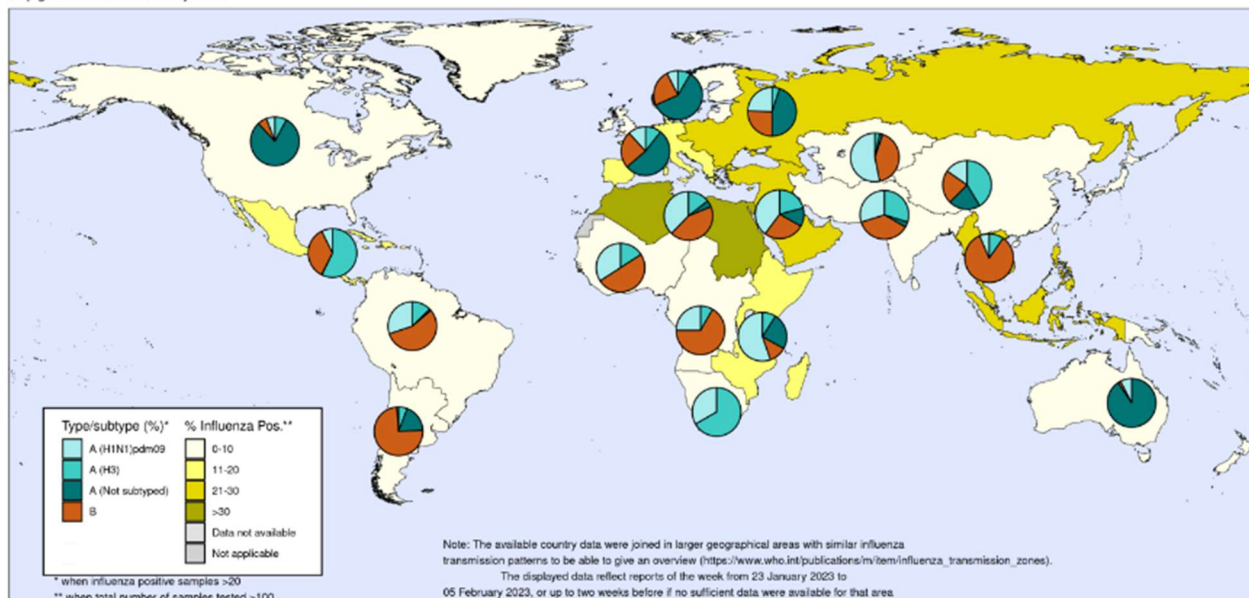
### Summary

- 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.
- Globally, influenza activity was decreased compared to the peak in late 2022. Influenza A viruses predominated with a slightly larger proportion of A(H1N1)pdm09 viruses detected among the subtyped influenza A viruses. The proportion of influenza B virus detections increased during this reporting period.
- In the countries of North America, most indicators of influenza activity decreased to levels similar or below levels typically observed towards the end of the season. Influenza A viruses predominated and influenza A(H3N2) accounted for the majority of subtyped influenza A viruses in the United States of America (USA), whereas A(H1N1)pdm09 accounted for the majority of subtyped influenza A viruses in Canada.
- In Europe, overall influenza detections remained stable and influenza positivity from sentinel sites increased slightly and remained above the epidemic threshold at the regional level. Half of the countries reported high or moderate intensity, and most reported widespread activity. Overall, influenza A viruses predominated with A(H1N1)pdm09 accounting for the majority of subtyped influenza viruses from primary care sentinel sites but with regional differences. The proportion of influenza B viruses increased in recent weeks. Other indicators of influenza activity decreased in most countries while a few countries reported increases.
- In Central Asia, influenza activity decreased overall.

- In Northern Africa, activity remained elevated with continued detections of all seasonal influenza subtypes reported in Morocco and Tunisia.
- In Western Asia, influenza activity decreased overall with all seasonal influenza subtypes detected, although increased activity continued to be reported in some countries.
- In East Asia, influenza activity remained low overall although detections of all seasonal influenza subtypes increased in Mongolia in recent weeks.
- In the Caribbean and Central American countries, influenza activity of influenza A(H3N2) and B viruses continued to decrease due to decreased detections reported by Mexico.
- In the tropical countries of South America, influenza remained low with all seasonal subtypes co-circulating.
- 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 remained low with all seasonal influenza subtypes detected.
- In South-East Asia, detections of predominantly influenza B viruses remained elevated due to continued detections reported in Malaysia.
- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels.
- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 124 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 23 January 2023 to 05 February 2023\* (data as of 2023-02-17 08:06:54 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 435 112 specimens during that time period. 27 978 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 19 219 (68.7%) were typed as influenza A and 8759 (31.3%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 3040 (57.9%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 2211 (42.1%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses (900), 100% belonged to the B/Victoria lineage.

Percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza  
By influenza transmission zone

Map generated on 17 February 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 (https://www.who.int/initiatives/global-influenza-surveillance-and-response-system)  
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Source: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/influenza-update-n-439>

**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.***

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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](mailto:cdu@schd.org)). This report was issued on March 3, 2023.