



Chicago Flu Update



Lori E. Lightfoot, Mayor

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News & Updates

Vaccination is the best way to protect against influenza infection and all Chicagoans six months and older are encouraged to get vaccinated. Chicagoans should ask their healthcare provider or pharmacist about vaccine availability. For those without a healthcare provider or whose healthcare providers do not have the influenza vaccine, a schedule of [City of Chicago influenza vaccination clinics](#)¹ is available on the city website and by calling 311. To locate the closest City of Chicago clinic or retail pharmacy, go to www.chicagoflushots.org.

What is the risk?

Currently, the risk of influenza infection is low.

Are severe cases of influenza occurring?

For the week of November 10-16, 2019, one influenza-associated ICU hospitalization was reported.

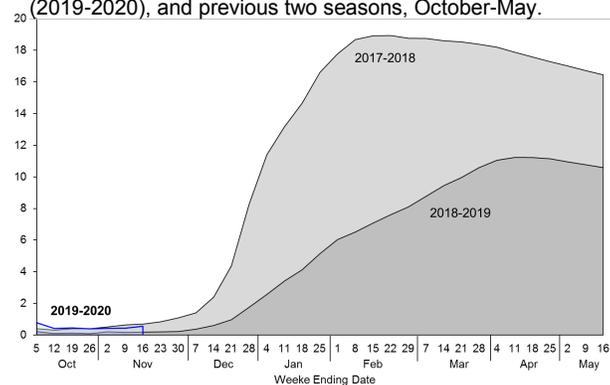
Since September 29, 2019, five influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations have been reported; all were positive for influenza A (2 H3N2, 2 H1N1pdm09, 1 unknown subtype [subtyping not performed or not all subtypes tested]) (Figure 1).

Which influenza strains are circulating?

Data on influenza virus test results are reported by Chicago laboratories performing influenza RT-PCR. For the week of November 10-16, 2019, 10 of the 759 (1.3%) specimens tested for influenza were positive; 4 typed as influenza A (2 H3N2, 1 H1N1pdm09, and 1 unknown subtype [subtyping not performed or not all subtypes tested]) and 6 typed as influenza B (Figure 2).

Since September 29, 2019, 30 of 5,388 (<1%) specimens tested for influenza have been positive; 14 typed as influenza A (8 H3N2, 2 H1N1pdm09, and 4 unknown subtype [subtyping not performed or not all subtypes tested]) and 16 typed as influenza B. The cumulative percent of specimens testing positive for influenza is similar to previous seasons during the same time period (Figure 3)

Figure 3. Cumulative percent of specimens testing positive (by RT-PCR) for influenza as reported by local laboratories serving Chicago hospitals, for the current season (2019-2020), and previous two seasons, October-May.



Illinois Influenza Geographic Spread

Figure 1. Number of influenza-associated ICU hospitalizations reported for Chicago residents, for the current season (2019-2020) and previous season (2018-2019), October-May.

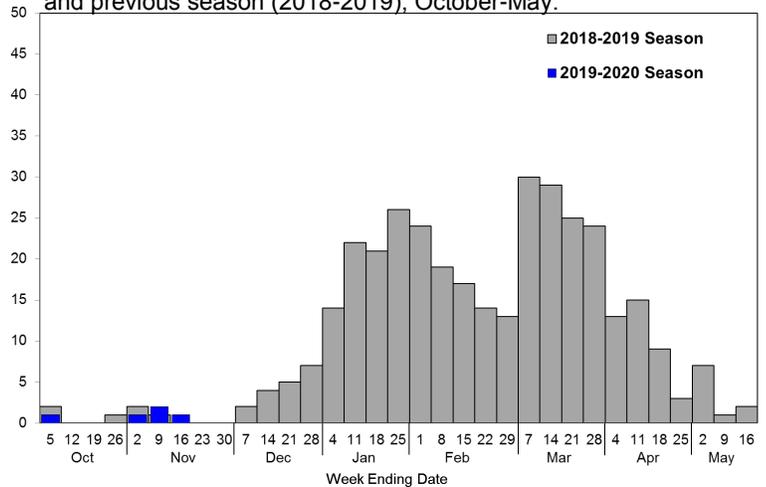
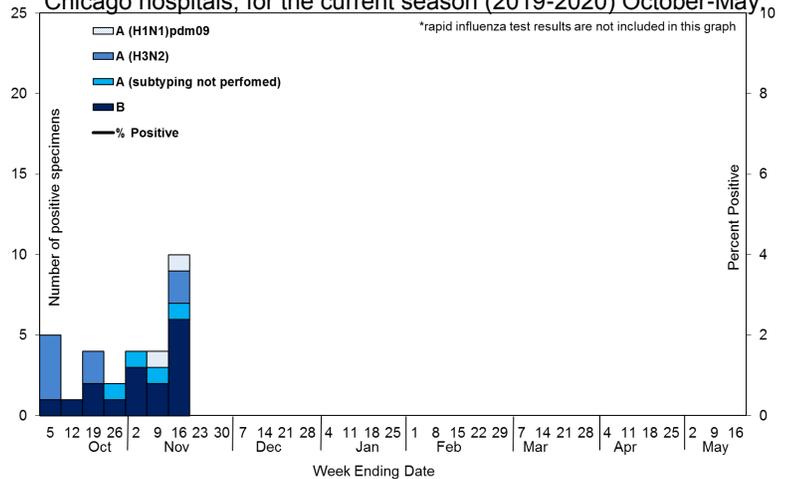


Figure 2. Percent of specimens testing positive (by RT-PCR) for influenza by subtype as reported by local laboratories serving Chicago hospitals, for the current season (2019-2020) October-May.



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All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

¹ https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdp/h/supp_info/health-protection/flu-clinics-in-the-city-of-chicago.html

