

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05/26/2016

TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers

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2015-2016 Influenza Season Has Ended

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has announced the end of the 2015-2016 influenza season. Influenza activity in the state is low and numbers of reported cases in Grant County have returned to pre-epidemic levels. During this season, the Grant County Health District (GCHD) received notification of **396 positive influenza lab reports and no influenza related deaths in Grant County.**

In most circumstances healthcare providers are not mandated to report influenza test results. In order to monitor influenza activity in Grant County, GCHD partnered with eleven healthcare facilities (including one out of Washington State) who have agreed to report positive influenza results. GCHD staff appreciates the cooperation of Columbia Basin Hospital, Columbia Basin Family Medicine, Confluence Health (Moses Lake Clinic- Walk-In, Family Medicine and Pediatrics), Mattawa Community Medical Clinic, Moses Lake Community Health Center, Quincy Community Health Center, Quincy Valley Medical Center, Wahluke Family Health Center, and Columbia Basin Health Association-Othello. These reports assisted GCHD with monitoring influenza activity in the county and facilitated timely notification to the healthcare community and the public when influenza was increasing.

It is not uncommon for the influenza season (above-epidemic levels of influenza activity) to last into May or June. **GCHD has only received one positive influenza cases since mid- May. Therefore, with low influenza activity, the 2015-2016 influenza epidemic is likely over.** Additional cases or clusters may still occur and continue surveillance for influenza is appropriate. Healthcare workers are encouraged to continue practicing proper respiratory etiquette and use PPE's. Recommend masking of patients as appropriate when providing care to patients with respiratory illness, especially in those with cough.

Every February, the World Health Organization (WHO) consults with experts from WHO Collaborating Centers, Essential Regulatory Laboratories, and other partners to review data generated by the worldwide network of influenza laboratories. Afterward, WHO makes recommendations for the next seasonal influenza vaccine for the Northern Hemisphere. It is recommended that trivalent (3 strain) influenza vaccines for use in the 2016-2017 influenza season (northern hemisphere winter) contain the following:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus

It is recommended that quadrivalent vaccines containing two influenza B viruses contain the above three viruses and a B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus.

Healthcare facilities are encouraged to start offering the vaccine as soon as it made available.



2015-2016 Antigen Characterization

- Antigenic characterization has been conducted by CDC on a subset of influenza specimens collected in Washington during the 2015-2016 season.
- Fourteen influenza A (H3N2) specimens were characterized as A/Switzerland/9715293/2013-like, the influenza A (H3N2) component of the 2015-2016 vaccine.
- Sixteen influenza A (2009 H1N1) specimen was characterized as A/California/07/2009-like, the influenza A (H1N1) component of the 2015-2016 vaccine.
- Twenty two influenza B specimens was characterized as B/Phuket/3073/2013-like, the B Yamagata lineage component of the 2015-2016 trivalent and quadrivalent vaccines.
- Ten influenza B specimens were characterized as B/Brisbane/60/2008-like, the B Victoria lineage component of the 2015-2016 quadrivalent influenza vaccine.

Washington State Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza-Associated Deaths

Sixty-four laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported since week 30 of 2015, including one pediatric death. Forty-one deaths were attributable to influenza A, twenty-two to influenza B and one to co-infection of influenza A and B.

Additional Resources

WA DOH Influenza Surveillance Data:

www.doh.wa.gov/DataandStatisticalReports/DiseasesandChronicConditions/CommunicableDiseaseSurveillanceData/InfluenzaSurveillanceData

WA DOH Influenza Information for Public Health and Healthcare Providers:

www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/InfluenzaFluInformation#recommendation

International Influenza Data: www.who.int/topics/influenza/en

National Influenza Surveillance Report: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

Consultation

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