

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05/2/2017**

TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

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## **End of the 2016-2017 Influenza Season**

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has announced the end of the 2016-2017 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, Grant County Health District (GCHD) received notification of 401 positive influenza lab reports and 5 influenza related deaths in Grant County including one child.

In most circumstances healthcare providers are not mandated to report influenza test results. To monitor influenza activity in Grant County, GCHD partners with healthcare facilities, who have agreed to report positive influenza results. GCHD staff appreciates the cooperation and partnership among healthcare facilities. Influenza cases reported 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 14 cases in April, a significant downward trend of the 146 cases reported in February. Therefore, with low influenza activity, the 2016-2017 influenza epidemic is likely ending. 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. GCHD recommends masking of patients with respiratory illness as appropriate, especially in those with cough.

**Healthcare facilities are encouraged to start offering the vaccine as soon as it made available late summer/early fall.**

### **2016-2017 Antigen Characterization**

- Antigenic characterization has been conducted by CDC on a subset of influenza specimens collected in Washington during the 2016-2017 season.
- Nineteen influenza A (H3N2) specimens were characterized as A/Hong Kong/4801/2014-like, the influenza A (H3N2) component of the 2016-2017 vaccine.
- Two influenza B specimens were characterized as B/Brisbane/60/2008-like, the B Victoria lineage component of the 2016-2017 trivalent and quadrivalent influenza vaccines.
- Eight influenza B specimens were characterized as B/Phuket/3073/2013-like, the B Yamagata lineage component of the 2016-2017 quadrivalent influenza vaccine.

### **Washington State Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza-Associated Deaths**



Two hundred seventy-two laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported since week 30 of 2016, 256 influenza A and 16 influenza B. Most deaths have occurred in people with underlying health conditions, or in people with no pre-existing conditions but who were elderly. Five deaths have occurred in children. Note that these counts reflect only deaths officially reported to the Washington State Department of Health.

**Table 3: Count and rate of reported laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated deaths by age group, Washington, 2016-2017 season to date**

Age Group (in years)	Count of Deaths	Death Rate (per 100,000 population)
0-4	2	0.46
5-24	4	0.22
25-49	5	0.22
50-64	22	1.58
65+	239	25.51
Total	272	3.95

#### **Additional Resources**

[WA DOH Influenza Surveillance Data](#) | WA-DOH

[WA DOH Influenza Information for Public Health and Healthcare Providers](#) | WA-DOH

[International Influenza Data](#) | World Health Organization (WHO)

[National Influenza Surveillance Report](#) | Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

#### **Consultation**

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