

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
04/17/2018

 TO: Grant County Healthcare Providers,
 School Nurses, Superintendents & Media

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

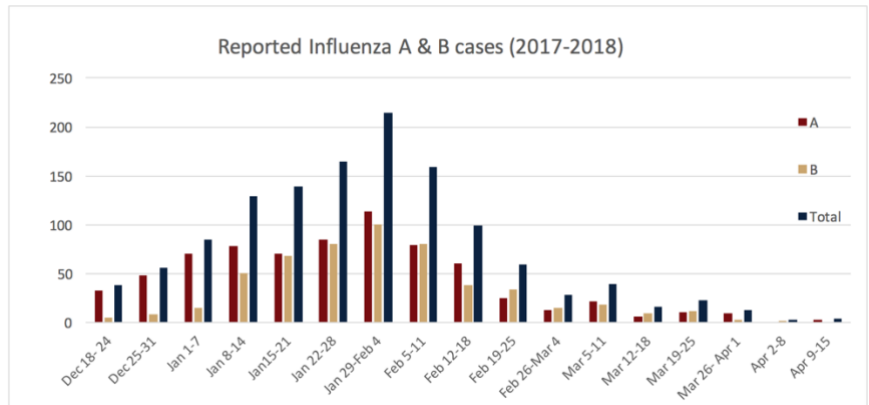
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Grant County 2017-2018 Flu season has ended (sporadic cases continuing to be reported)

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has announced the end of the epidemic phase of the 2017-2018 influenza season. Influenza activity in the North Central Washington region is slowly returning to pre-epidemic levels, and numbers of reported cases in Grant County have been in the single digits during last several weeks. Healthcare facilities may deactivate their influenza epidemic policies and resume routine surveillance and precautions. **During the 2017-2018 influenza season, Grant County Health District (GCHD) received 1,294 positive influenza lab reports and 3 influenza related death reports.**

It is not uncommon for the influenza season (above-epidemic levels of influenza activity) to last into May or June. With our low influenza activity, the 2017-2018 Grant County influenza epidemic is likely over. Additional cases or clusters may still occur and continue surveillance for influenza will continue. Those providing care to people with a respiratory illness, such as a cough, should still wear a surgical face mask as a precaution, regardless of vaccination status.



In most circumstances healthcare providers are not mandated to report influenza test results. To monitor influenza activity in Grant County, GCHD has partnered with 9 healthcare facilities who have agreed to report positive influenza results. GCHD staff appreciates the cooperation of Columbia Basin Hospital, Columbia Basin Family Medicine, Confluence Health (Ephrata & Moses Lake clinics), Moses Lake Community Health Center, Quincy Community Health Center, Quincy Valley Medical Center, and Samaritan Healthcare – hospital and clinic. These reports assisted GCHD with monitoring influenza activity in the county and assisted with timely notification to the healthcare community and the public when influenza was increasing.

Residents are encouraged to get their 2018-2019 flu shot as soon as they become available through your healthcare provider or pharmacy.

Consultation

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