

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03/28/2019

TO: Grant County healthcare providers, infection control staff, supervisory nursing staff, clinic management, school nurses.

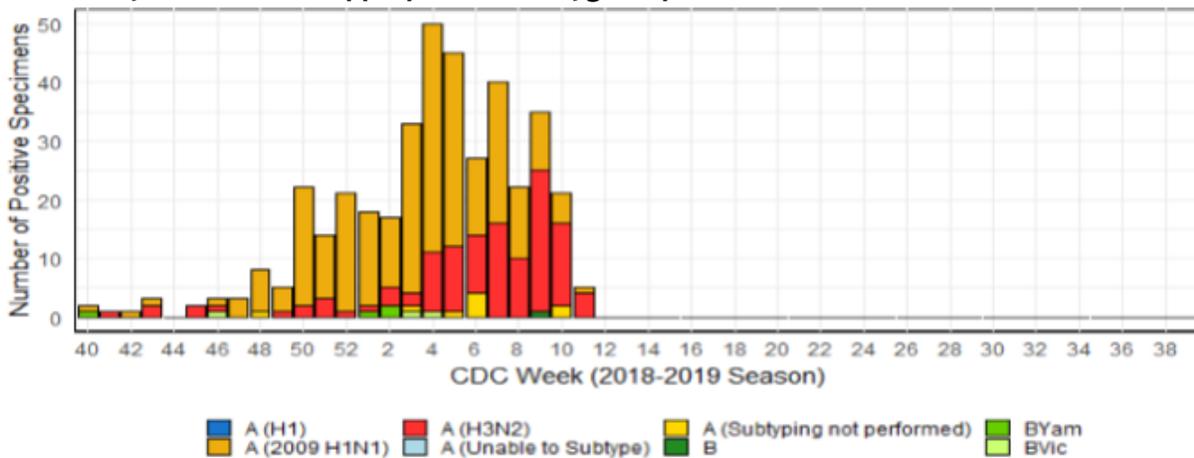
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT

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2018-2019 Influenza Season Update.

Influenza activity recently up locally and statewide. Numbers remain above epidemic threshold. Majority of Grant County reports are in the school age population.

The Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has issued the following alert to update the Grant County healthcare community on the 2018-2019 influenza season. There has been an increase in influenza activity in Grant County during the last several weeks. Majority of reports show influenza A occurring in school age children. WA DOH has identified the H3N2 virus as the predominant virus circulating at this time. With the continued influenza presence, the “flu season” is **ongoing**. **Please maintain an increased level of vigilance and continue to follow your healthcare facilities influenza season policies. Continue to use face masks liberally and adhere to appropriate hand hygiene practices.**



Grant County Statistics for 2018-2019 Influenza season:

As a disclaimer, influenza reporting is not mandated at this time and our numbers are generated from several healthcare entities.

- 2 lab-confirmed influenza deaths (A).
- 593 Influenza A cases reported to date for the season with **trends recently increasing, especially in the pediatric population.**
- 5 Influenza B cases reported to date. This is the time of year that we typically start seeing an increase in “B”.
- 1 long term care facility outbreak (currently ongoing).

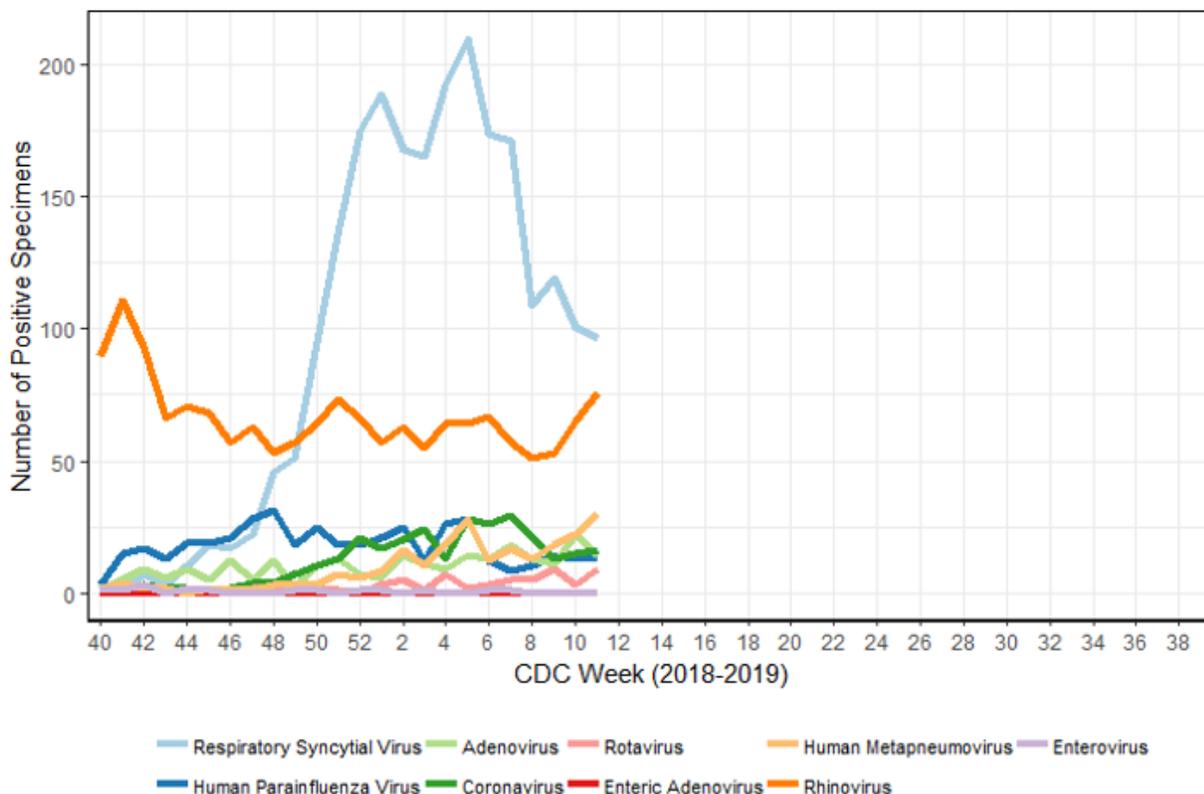


Washington State Influenza update:

- 114 lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.
- 68 influenza-like illness outbreaks in LTC facilities have been reported to date.

If it is not influenza, what is it?

Please consider the current circulating diseases in your differential diagnosis if your influenza testing is negative. Refer to the following website for the most current information: [Washington State Influenza Update](#)



Please continue to enforce influenza vaccination policies/masking among healthcare workers and encourage vaccination to patients that have not received one this season. Report any influenza related death or influenza amongst long term care residents to GCHD.

Thank you for the services that you provide to our community! Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Resources:

[Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities](#) | CDC

Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/>

Antiviral treatment: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm>

Consultation

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