FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  01/23/2018
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.
GCHD continues to receive reports of lab confirmed influenza with one known influenza-associated death.

GRANT COUNTY: 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. Although reports of influenza are currently below epidemic threshold, we ask that all healthcare providers remain vigilant with testing and treatment of all persons presenting with influenza like illness (ILI), as well as continue to promote influenza vaccine. Influenza data is typically underreported so actual numbers are most likely to be higher.

Grant County Statistics for 2017-2018 Influenza Season:
As a disclaimer, influenza reporting is not mandated unless associated with a death. GCHD has reporting agreements several healthcare entities to monitor influenza activity across Grant County. Thus far in Grant County we have had:

- 1 lab-confirmed influenza death (A).
- 342 Influenza A cases reported to date for the season with trends recently flattening or decreasing.
- 3 Influenza B cases reported to date. This is the time of year that we usually start seeing an increase in “B”.

Washington State Influenza update (Week 02: January 6, 2019-January 12, 2019):
- 17 lab-confirmed influenza deaths have been reported for the 2018-2019 season to date.
- 12 influenza-like illness outbreaks in LTC facilities have been reported to date.
- Influenza A and influenza B were reported during week 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Count of Deaths as of Week 2 of Season</th>
<th>Count of Deaths Reported for the Entire Season (week 40 to week 39)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019, to date</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 graph and website for the most current information:

![Figure 10: Respiratory and Enteric Viruses, Washington, 2017-2018 Season to Date](image)

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

Please continue to enforce influenza vaccination policies/masking among healthcare workers and encourage vaccination among patients who have not received a flu shot 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:
Weekly WA DOH Influenza update: [Washington State Influenza Update](https://www.doh.wa.gov/HealthDiseases/Influenza/)
Interim Guidance for Influenza Outbreak Management in Long-Term Care Facilities, I CDC
Testing: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/diagnosis/)
Antiviral treatment: [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/index.htm)

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