

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
**04/30/2019**

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

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT**

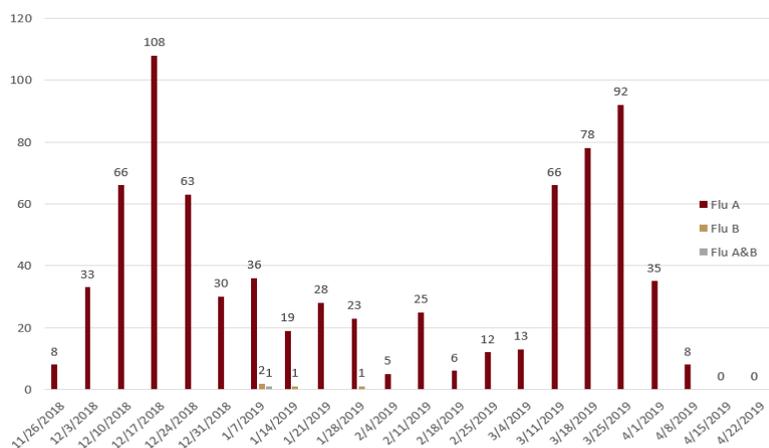
 Cassandra Kelly, Public Information Officer  
 Phone: 509-766-7960 ext. 31

 Kari Hitzroth RN, Community Public Health Nurse  
 Phone: 509-766-7960 ext. 13

## Grant County 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 influenza season. Numbers of reported cases in Grant County have been in the single digits during the last several weeks. Healthcare facilities may deactivate their influenza epidemic policies and resume routine surveillance and precautions. **During the 2018-2019 influenza season, Grant County Health District (GCHD) received 759 positive influenza lab reports, 2 influenza related death reports and responded to 2 long-term care outbreaks.**

Reported Influenza A &amp; B cases (2018-2019)



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 2018-2019 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 10 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), Coulee Medical Center, 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 2019-2020 flu shot as soon as they become available through your healthcare provider or pharmacy.**

**Consultation**

Kari Hitzroth, RN, Public Health Nurse; 509-766-7960 ext. 13

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