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 TO: Grant Co. Media & Grant Co.
 Healthcare Community

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Grant Co. Health Officer Announces the End of the 2022-2023 Influenza Season

Grant County flu rates have decreased, COVID-19 cases remain steady.

GRANT COUNTY, WA – Grant County Health Officer, Dr. Alexander Brzezny, has announced the end of the epidemic phase of the 2022-2023 flu 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 (flu) epidemic policies and resume routine surveillance and precautions. Although influenza cases have recently maintained a steady plateau, respiratory viruses are unpredictable, and the situation could change. **During the 2022-2023 influenza season, Grant County Health District (GCHD) received 1406 positive influenza lab reports from November 2022-March 2023, three influenza related death reports, and responded to three long-term care outbreaks.**

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.

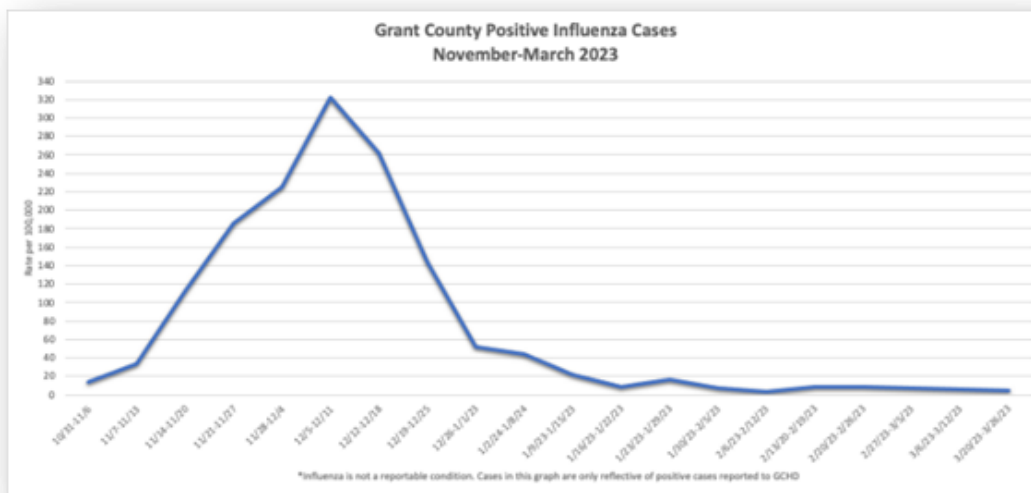
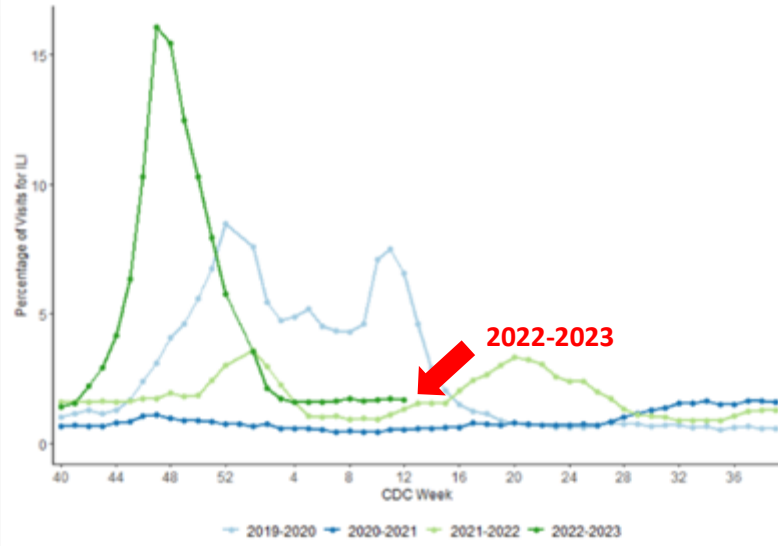


Figure 4: Syndromic Surveillance, Percentage of Hospital Visits for a Chief Complaint of ILI, or Discharge Diagnosis of Influenza, by CDC Week, Washington, 2019-2023



Mask Guidance – With the potential for sporadic cases or clusters of flu activity, GCHD will continue flu surveillance and monitoring. It is the continued EXPECTATION that, whenever safe and possible, all patients or staff with respiratory symptoms wear a mask (a surgical mask or a respirator, such as a KN-95) when presenting to a healthcare facility with any respiratory symptoms, symptoms of COVID-19, or with a recently positive test for COVID-19 or any other respiratory pathogen.

L&I expectations and requirements for the use of PPE in healthcare, including masks and respirators, are included here: <https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety->

[health/safety-topics/topics/standard-precautions-in-healthcare-settings](https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-topics/topics/standard-precautions-in-healthcare-settings)

COVID-19 – Grant County is currently among the handful of counties in Washington consistently reporting substantial to high COVID rates. When faced with a possible COVID-19 outbreak, healthcare facilities should use the COVID-19 outbreak definition as proposed by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) here: <https://preparedness.cste.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/HC-Outbreak-Definition.pdf>



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