

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2021
To: Participating Health Care Providers
From: Influenza Surveillance Coordinators:
Liliana E. Wilbert, MPH, Epidemiologist lwilbert@washoecounty.us
Christabell Sotelo, MPH, Epidemiologist csotelo@washoecounty.us
Division of Epidemiology & Public Health Preparedness (EPHP)
775-328-2447

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity

Influenza-like illness (ILI) is defined as fever ($\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ [37.8°C]) and cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza. All twelve participating providers in Washoe County reported a total of 90 patients with ILI for the week ending January 16, 2021 (week 02). The percentage of persons seen with ILI by the 11 providers who reported during this period was 1.7% (90/5419) which is below the regional baseline of 2.4%. By age group, ILI activity was highest among 0-4 years (2.8%) and lowest among the 25-49 years of age (1.1%). During week 01, the percentage of patient visits to Nevada sentinel providers due to ILI was 0.7%. Nationwide during week 01, the percentage of visits to sentinel providers due to ILI was 1.6% which is below the national baseline of 2.6%. For Region 9, which includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada, the percentage of visits for ILI was 2.0% which is below the regional baseline of 2.4%.

Figure 1. ILI Activity Reported by Sentinel Providers by Age Group, Washoe County Influenza Surveillance, 2020-2021

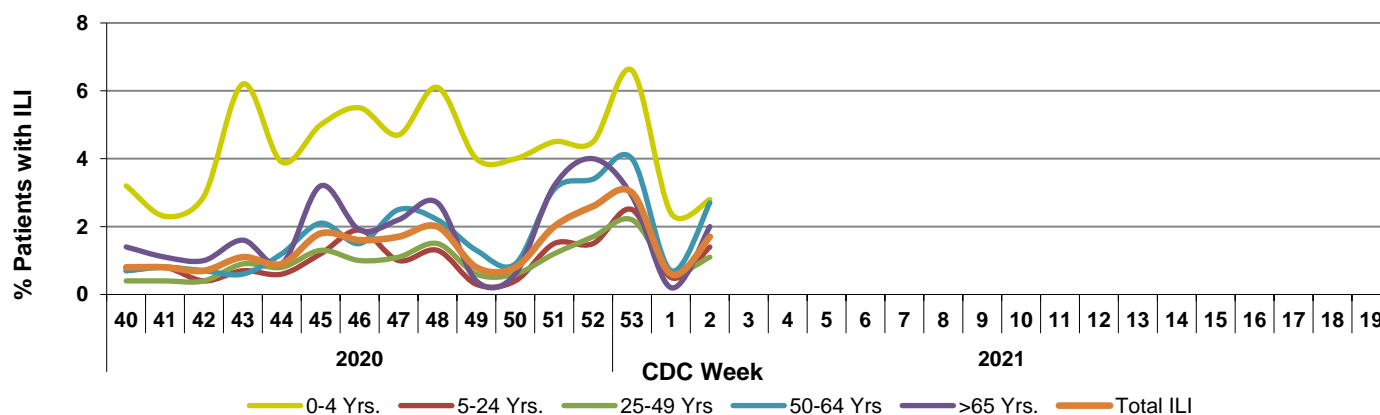
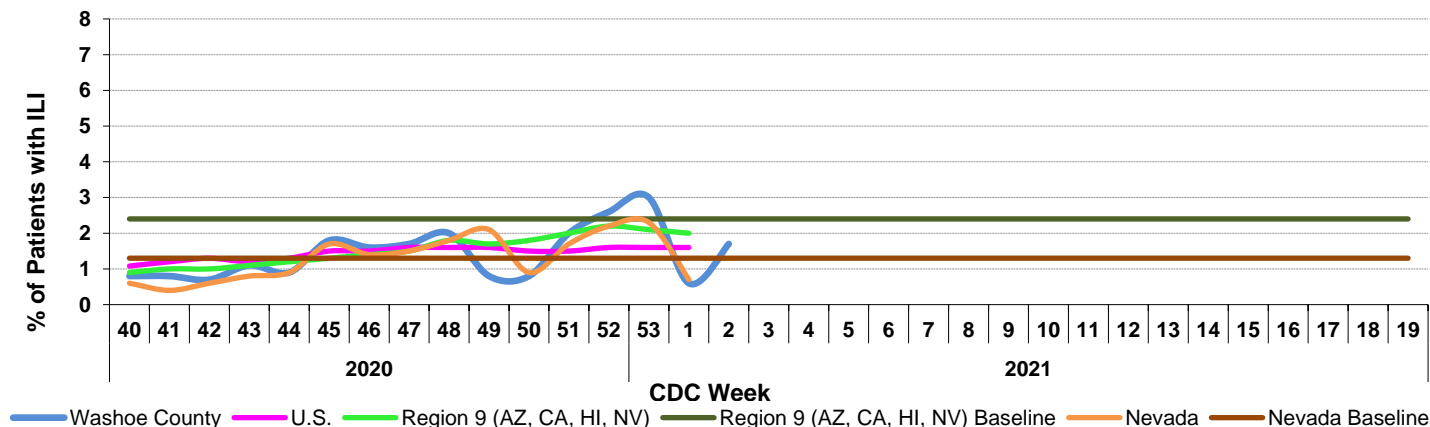
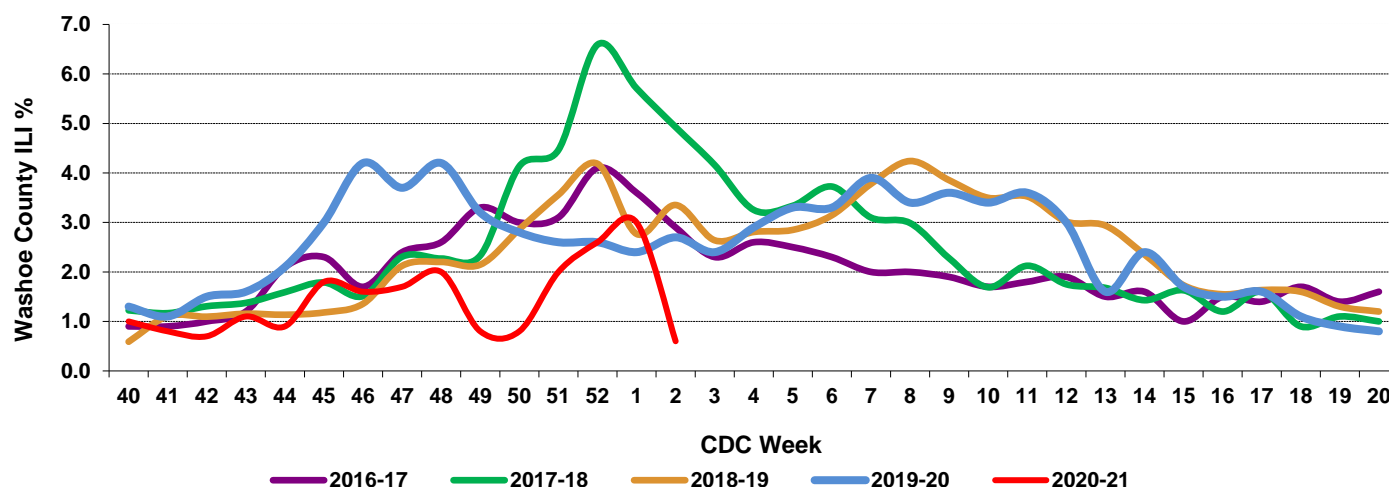


Figure 2. Comparison of ILI Activity at the Local, State, Regional, and National Level, Washoe County Influenza Surveillance, 2020-2021



Data source for U.S., Region 9, and Nevada ILI activity and baselines: CDC Flu View Interactive, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluviewinteractive.htm>
Week 02 data is unavailable for US, Nevada, and Region at time of report.

Figure 3. Washoe County ILI Activity Reported by Sentinel Providers, 2016-2021 Seasons



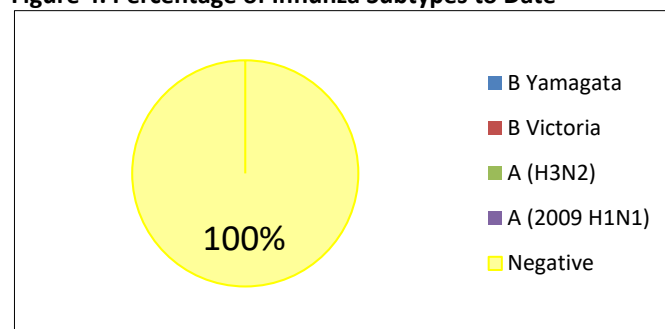
Nevada State Public Health Laboratory (NSPHL) Test Results

The NSPHL performs influenza subtyping. Specimens are primarily submitted to the NSPHL from sentinel provider sites.

Table 1. Specimens Submitted to NSPHL for Subtyping to Date

Influenza Subtype	# of Specimens	% of Total Specimens
A (H3)	0	0
A (2009 H1N1)	0	0
B (Yamagata)	0	0
B (Victoria)	0	0
Negative	2	100%
Total (All Subtypes)	2	100%

Figure 4. Percentage of Influenza Subtypes to Date



Hospitalizations

Medical records are reviewed to the extent possible for all cases hospitalized for ≥ 24 hours. Information on the number of hospitalized cases, the number of hospitalized cases that were vaccinated ≥ 2 weeks prior to symptom onset, number of intensive care unit (ICU) admissions, and number of deaths among hospitalized cases are reported below in Table 2. A cumulative hospitalization rate per 100,000 is presented in Figure 5.

Table 2. Number of Hospitalized Cases, ICU Cases and Fatalities with Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza, Washoe County Influenza Surveillance, 2020-2021

#DIV/0! Denominator is zero formula unable to calculate	Current Week (Week 02)								Cumulative for 2020-2021 Influenza Season							
	January 10, 2021 – January 16, 2021								September 27, 2020 - May 22, 2021							
	Hospitalized		Vax [§]		ICU		Death		Hospitalized		Vax [§]		ICU		Death	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total # of cases reported	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	100	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Influenza A (2009 H1N1)	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
Influenza A (seasonal H3)	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
Influenza A (not subtyped)	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
Influenza A (RIDT*)	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	7	77.8	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
Influenza B (RIDT*)	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	2	22.2	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
Influenza B (non-RIDT**)	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!
Influenza (unknown type, RIDT*)	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!	0	#DIV/0!

*RIDT: *Rapid Influenza Diagnostic Test

**Confirmatory tests other than RIDT may include culture, PCR, immunofluorescence, DFA/IFRA antibody staining, or rapid molecular assay.

§Vaccination status determined among hospitalized cases only. Patient is considered vaccinated if they received a flu vaccine ≥ 2 weeks prior to illness onset.

Figure 5. Washoe County Influenza Hospitalization Rate per 100,000 Population, 2016-2021 Seasons

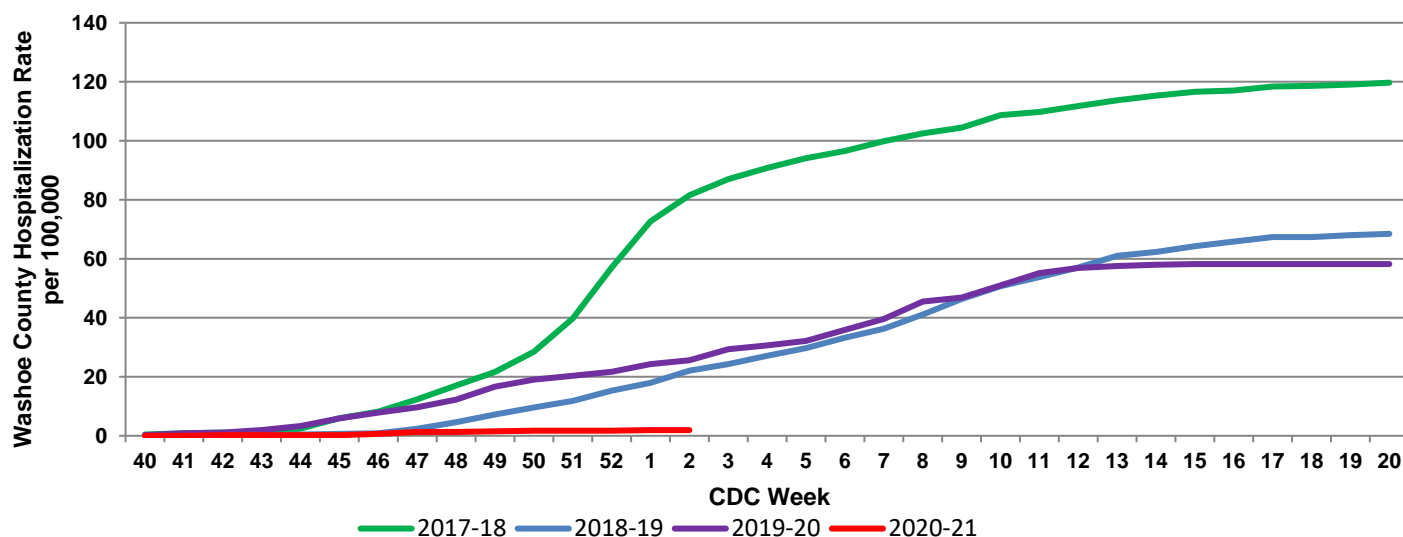
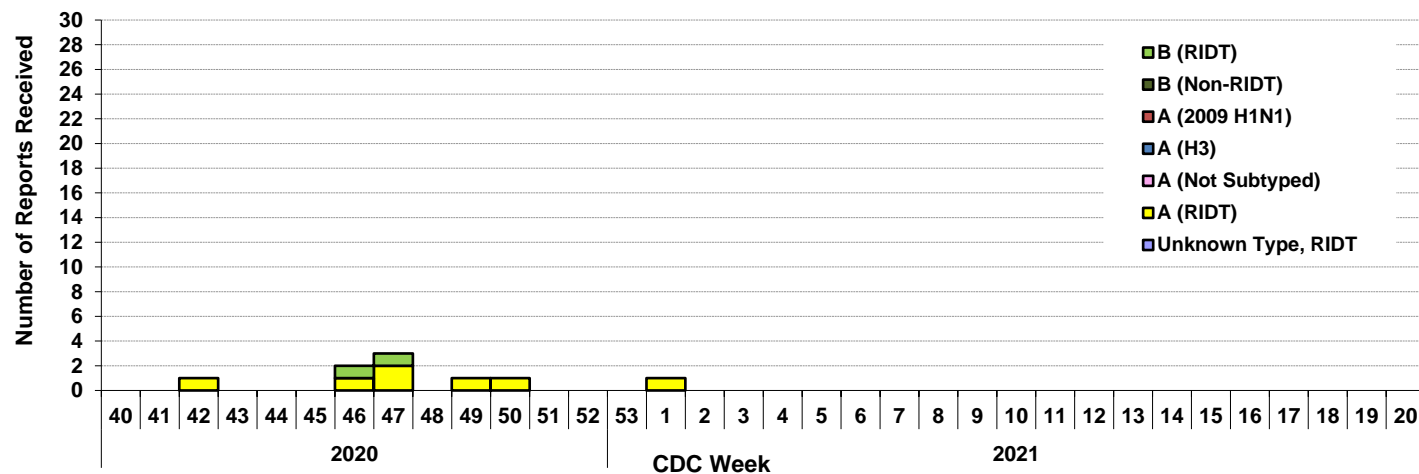


Figure 6. Influenza Positive Tests Among Hospitalized Cases by Week of Report, Washoe County Influenza Surveillance, 2020-2021



Deaths

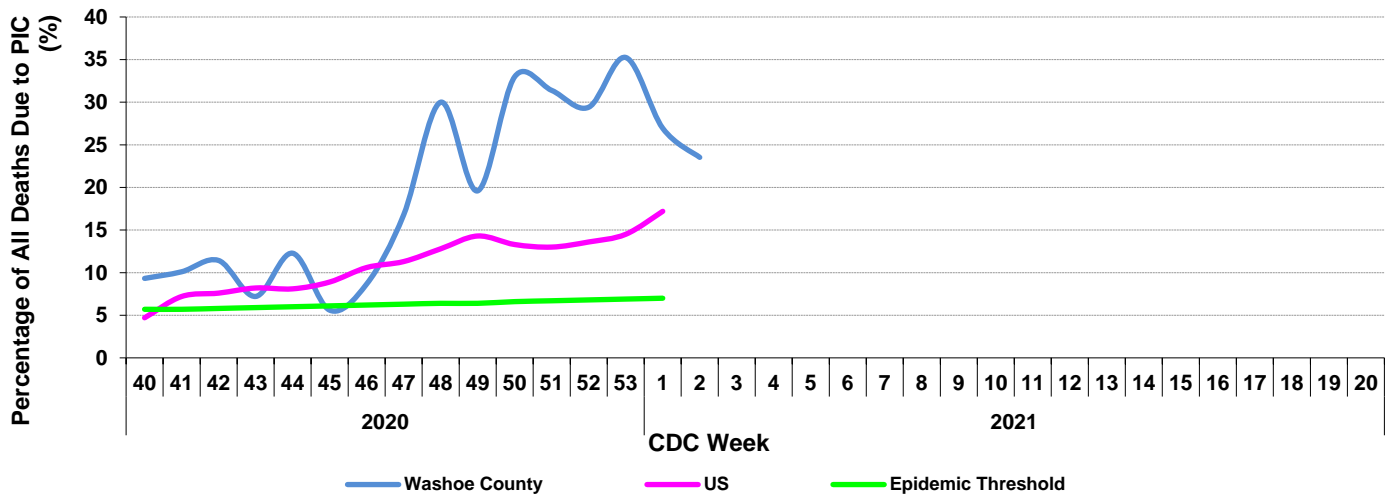
The Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (NDPBH) defines an influenza-associated death as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness that was confirmed to be influenza by an appropriate laboratory or rapid diagnostic test with no period of complete recovery between the illness and death. In previous seasons, the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) counted a death as attributable to influenza only if influenza was listed as a cause of death on the death certificate. However, WCHD adopted the NDPBH definition to improve surveillance across Nevada jurisdictions. Note, since hospitalization is not required to be considered an influenza-associated death, influenza-associated death counts provided below may be higher than those hospitalized cases in Table 2.

To date, zero influenza-associated deaths have been reported.

Pneumonia, Influenza and COVID-19 (PIC) Mortality

A total of 40 death certificates were received for week 02 listing pneumonia (P) or influenza (I) or COVID-19 (C) as a factor contributing to the cause of death. The total number of deaths submitted for week 02 was 170. This reflects a PIC ratio of 23.5% (40/170). The total PIC deaths registered to date in Washoe County for the 2020-2021 influenza surveillance season is 446. This reflects an overall PIC ratio of 20.4% (446/2186). These numbers reflect all deaths reported in Washoe County listing PIC as a factor contributing to the cause of death. Nationally, 17.2% of the deaths occurring during week 01 were due to PIC, which is above the epidemic threshold of 7.0% for week 01. National data for week 02 is unavailable.

Figure 7. Pneumonia, Influenza and COVID-19 Mortality, Washoe County Influenza Surveillance, 2020 – 2021

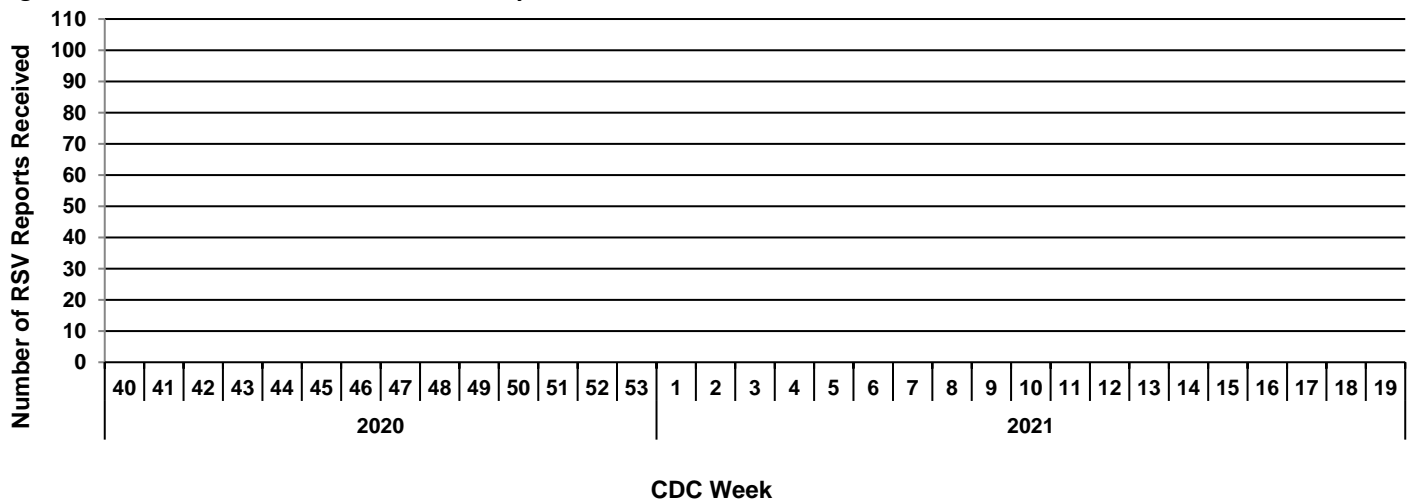


Data sources: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Mortality Surveillance available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/#S2> and Nevada Vital Records.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Surveillance

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common respiratory virus that can present with flu-like signs and symptoms (e.g., fever, coughing, runny nose). RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults, and is most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children younger than 1 year of age. RSV is a reportable condition in Nevada. The Washoe County Health District did not receive any reports of RSV during Week 02.

Figure 8. Number of RSV Cases, Washoe County Communicable Disease Surveillance, 2020-2021

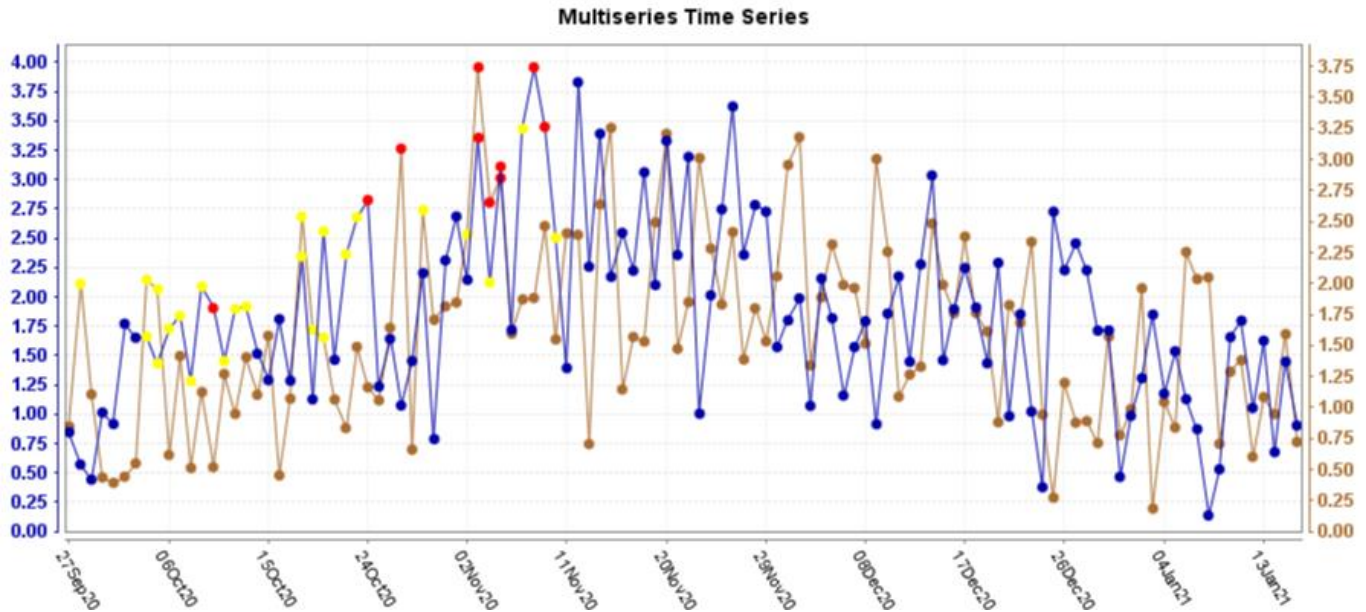


Syndromic Surveillance

Emergency Department (ED) Visits and Renown Urgent Care (UC) Visits

Percentage of patients seen for an Influenza-like Illness (ILI) and COVID-19-like (CLI) in ED and UC is presented in Figure 9. ILI is defined as influenza or fever and a cough and/or a sore throat. CLI is defined as fever and cough or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing or presence of a coronavirus diagnosis code. The overlay below depicts CLI syndrome in brown and the ILI syndrome in blue. Alerts appear as yellow and/or red dots, they indicate an unusually high percentage of ILI and/or CLI visits according to ESSENCE algorithms.

Figure 9. Percentage of ED and UC Visits for ILI and CLI, Washoe County for Weeks 40-02, 2020-2021

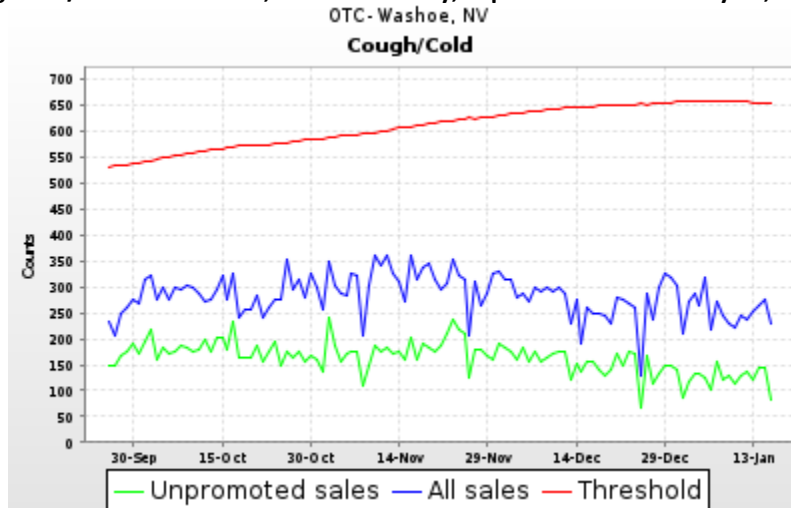


Data source: ESSENCE

Over-the-Counter (OTC) sales for cough and/or cold remedies.

This includes: Cold Relief Adult/Pediatric Liquid/Tablet (plain cold liquids or tablets, antihistamines, decongestants, night-time liquid cold relief products, and allergy relief products); Cough Syrup Adult Liquid/Tablet (any cough whip products, cough syrups, cough tablets, capsules, squares for relief of cough in adults); Cough Syrup Pediatric Liquid (any cough whip products, cough syrups for relief of cough in children).

Figure 10. OTC sales for cough and/or cold remedies, Washoe County, September 27 – January 16, 2020

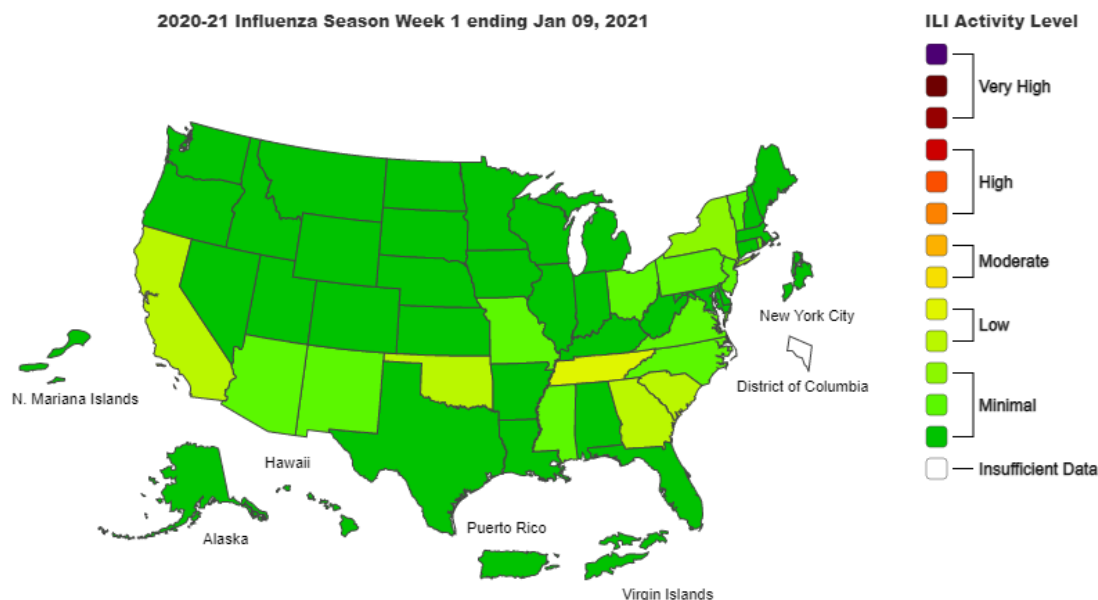


Data source: National Retail Data Monitor Data coverage in Washoe County: ~40%

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Activity Level Indicator Determined by Data Reported to ILINet

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on ILI surveillance, reporting for the geographic spread of influenza as assessed by state and territorial epidemiologists was suspended for the 2020-21 influenza season. Therefore, the WCHD will report the geographic spread of ILI *activity* during the 2020-21 flu season. It is important to note the map uses the proportion of outpatient visits to healthcare providers for influenza-like illness to measure the ILI activity level within a state. It does not measure the extent of geographic spread of influenza within a state. Data for week 02 is unavailable.

Figure 11. Geographic Spread of ILI Activity Level for Week 01, 2020-21

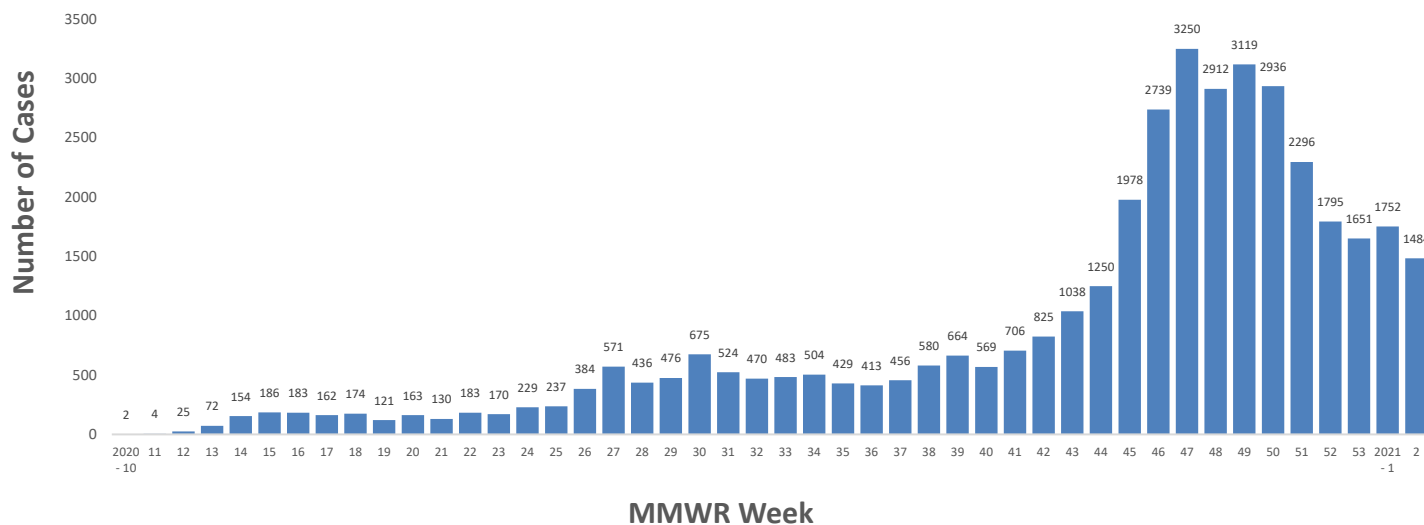


Data Source <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm#ILIActivityMap>

COVID-19 in Washoe County

The Washoe County Health District (WCHD) reported the first case of COVID-19 on March 5, 2020 during MMWR Week 10. As of January 16, 2021, a total of 39,560 cases have been reported, which corresponds to a cumulative incidence rate of 8,276.2 per 100,000. Incidence rate for MMWR Week 02 was 310.5 per 100,000 population. The highest number of new COVID19 cases was recorded during MMWR Week 47, 2020 in Washoe County (n=3,250). Weekly totals may reflect slightly different counts for previous weeks, which may be due to out of jurisdiction reporting and continuous data quality assurance.

Figure 12. Total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases by Week Reported in Washoe County, 2020-2021

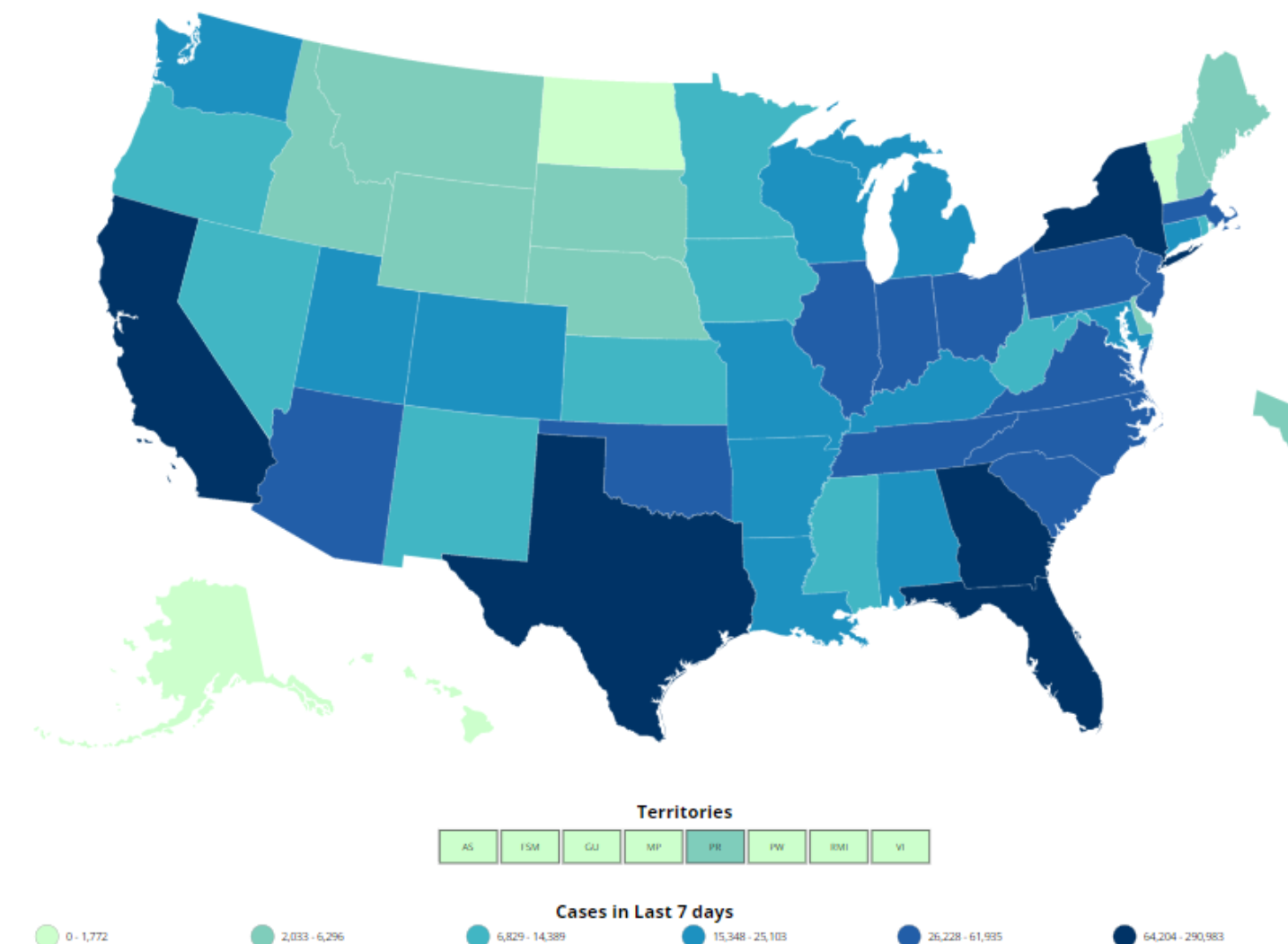


Data Source: WCHD

Geographic Spread of COVID-19 Cases

Figure 13 illustrates the range in the number of COVID-19 cases reported by state and territorial jurisdictions to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from January 09, 2021 to January 16, 2021. There were 1,596,830 new cases reported during this period of time, which contributes to the total count of 23,440,774 COVID-19 cases in the United States as of January 16, 2021.

Figure 13. Number of COVID-19 cases in the US Reported to the CDC in the last 7 Days, by State/Territory



Data source: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesinlast7days

Washoe County Influenza Resources

Weekly Washoe County influenza surveillance reports are available at <http://tinyurl.com/FluWashoe>. These weekly reports are also emailed to physicians, public health practitioners, infection preventionists, daycare operators, and others in our community. If you would like to be added to the email list serve, please email the following information to epicenter@washoecounty.us: your name (first and last), title, organization, and email address.