











# ***INFLUENZA WATCH***

Influenza and Related Disease Updates for Los Angeles County

Updated: 22NOV2019

MMWR week: 46

Ending on: 11/16/2019

Season: 2019-2020

## Deaths

Deaths associated with influenza infection are reportable in all ages in Los Angeles county. A death is confirmed as being influenza-associated when there is a laboratory confirmed influenza infection, the cause of death is clinically compatible with influenza or influenza complications, and there was no return to baseline health between infection and death. Clinically compatible complications can include pneumonia and cardiovascular problems like heart attacks. Influenza can also exacerbate long-term medical conditions (such as COPD, heart failure, or diabetes) which can lead to death.

	2019-20		2018-19		2017-18		2016-17		2015-16		2014-15	
<b>Confirmed deaths</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>125</b>		<b>285</b>		<b>86</b>		<b>77</b>		<b>55</b>	
Mean age (STD)	52.5 (13.4)		67.0 (18.9)		75.4 (16.3)		77.0 (17.7)		61.3 (23.3)		70.2 (26.6)	
Range (Low-High)			1 - 104		9 - 105		4 - 102		1 - 103		1 - 101	
Median age (Q1, Q3)			68 (56 ,81)		79 (66 ,87)		82.5 (66 ,89)		61 (47 ,80)		81 (55 ,90)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Age</b>												
0-5 years	0	--	2 (1.6)		0	--	1 (1.2)		2 (2.6)		1 (1.8)	
6 - 17 years	0	--	0	--	2 (.7)		0	--	1 (1.3)		2 (3.6)	
18-64 years	2 (100.0)		46 (36.8)		62 (21.8)		20 (23.3)		39 (50.6)		14 (25.5)	
65+ years	0	--	77 (61.6)		221 (77.5)		65 (75.6)		35 (45.5)		38 (69.1)	

The number of influenza-associated deaths reported to LAC DPH does not represent the true mortality associated with influenza in Los Angeles County. Public health authorities recognize that current surveillance methods substantially undercount influenza-associated deaths. Most people who get influenza do not seek care. Most people who seek care are not tested for influenza. Severe complications of influenza may occur after the virus is no longer detectable in the body. Testing practices may vary across seasons. For these reasons, between season comparison of reported influenza-associated deaths may not be reliable.

## Outbreaks

Outbreaks of any disease are reportable in Los Angeles County. Respiratory outbreak definitions vary by setting; in general, the occurrence of a cluster of influenza-like illness (Fever>100 F with cough and/or sore throat) is cause for investigation. Suspect outbreaks are currently under investigation.

		Season to date		Previous seasons				
		Confirmed	Suspect	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
<b>Health Facilities</b>	<b>Influenza</b>	0	0	18	70	29	11	24
	<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Unknown</b>	0	0	4	12	2	5	7
<b>Community</b>	<b>Influenza</b>	0	0	7	37	6	10	18
	<b>Other</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Unknown</b>	0	1	19	35	27	20	27
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>76</b>