

2017–2018 Influenza Season (10/01/2017 – 9/29/2018)

Synopsis:

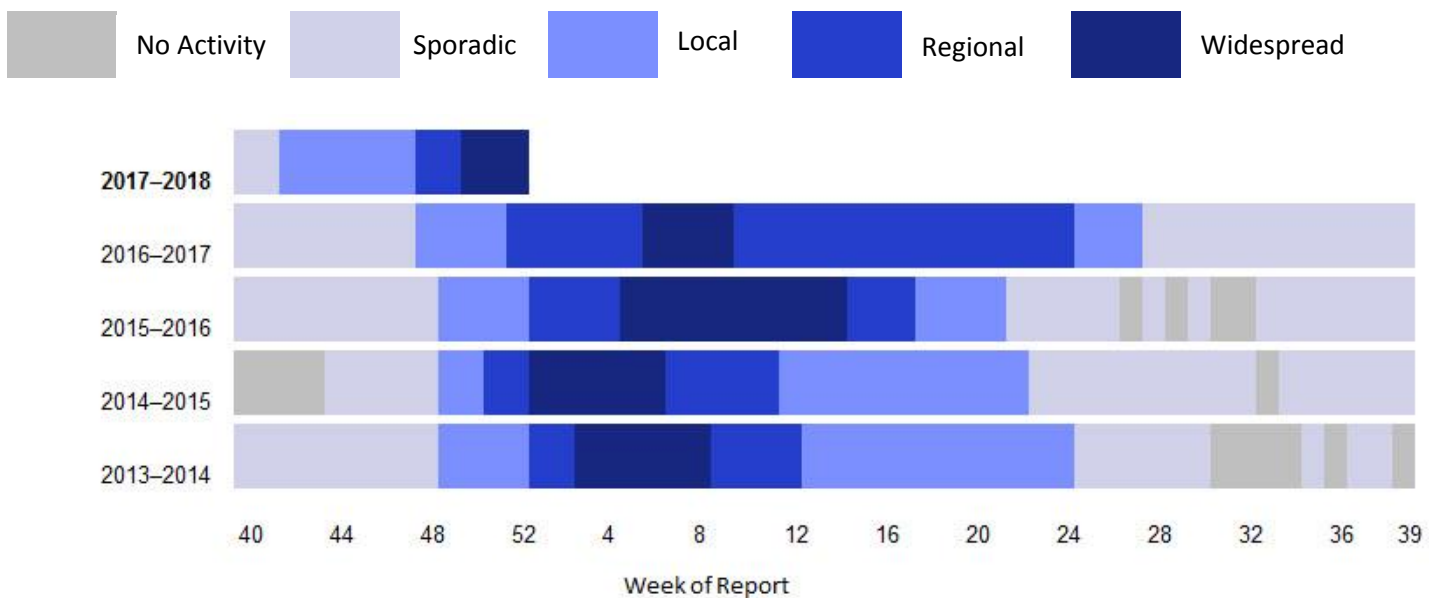
Influenza activity is increasing. Arizona reported Widespread Activity for week 52.

Influenza activity highlights:

- **The numbers in this report are based on processed cases. There are a large number of reports that are still being processed.**
- 2,453 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported in the past week, from 14 counties. 7,978 cases have been reported this season, with laboratory-confirmed cases identified in 15 counties.
- 7,311 (92%) reports this season are influenza A, 567 (7%) are influenza B, and 100 (1%) are of unknown type.
- In the past week, 191 (96%) of 198 specimens tested positive for influenza at ASPHL: 4 influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 viruses, 173 influenza A (H3) viruses, 2 influenza B/Victoria viruses and 12 influenza B/Yamagata viruses.
- One influenza-associated pediatric death has been reported for the 2017–2018 season in a Maricopa County resident. This case was PCR positive for influenza A (H3).
- The cases included in this report represent a small proportion of the true number of cases of influenza. Many people do not visit the doctor when ill and doctors should not be expected to run tests on all patients exhibiting influenza-like symptoms.
- Subscribe to the *Flu & RSV* report at azhealth.gov/email.

Arizona Influenza Activity Levels (see definitions at the end of this report)

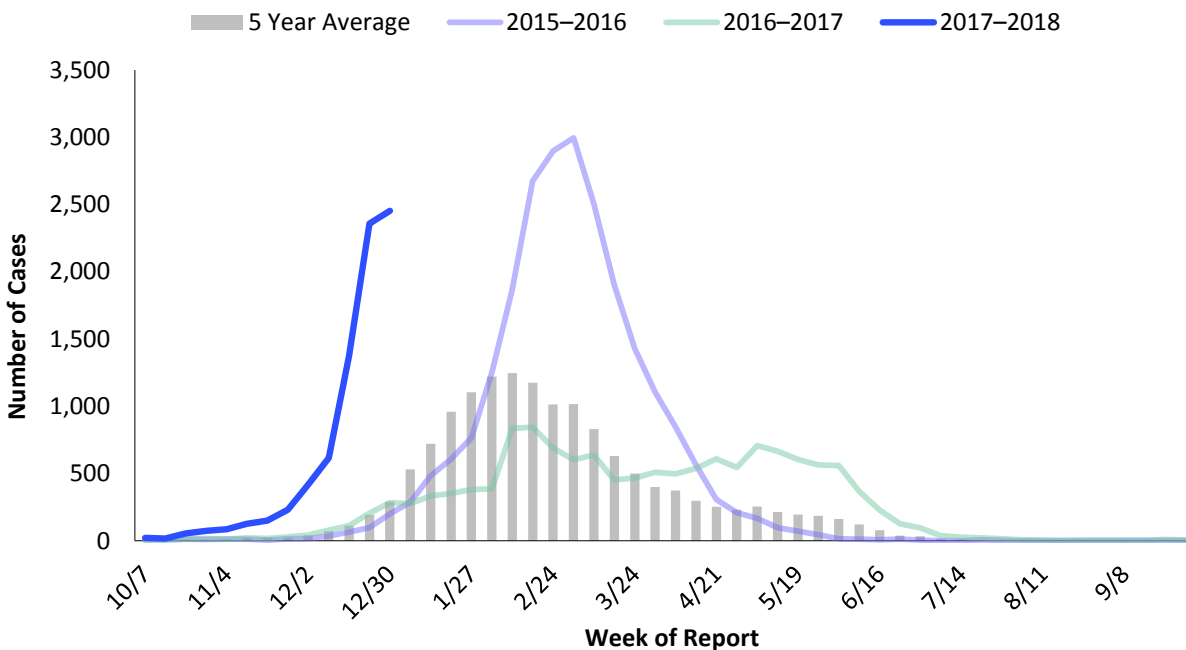
Arizona reported **Widespread** activity for week 52.



Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Activity by Season

Positive influenza tests are reported to ADHS. Many types of tests are included in the numbers below: rapid antigen tests, direct fluorescent antigen tests, viral culture, and molecular testing.

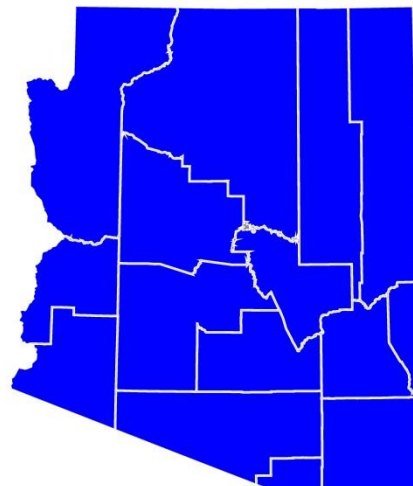
This past week there were **2,453 laboratory confirmed cases**, nearly 2,200 more cases compared to last season.



Number of Lab-Confirmed Influenza Cases Reported, by Week of Report: 2012–2018

See [Table 2](#) in the appendix for additional information

15 counties had a Laboratory-Confirmed Case in the past three weeks.
(Includes ALL reported lab-confirmed influenza reports, regardless of subtype)

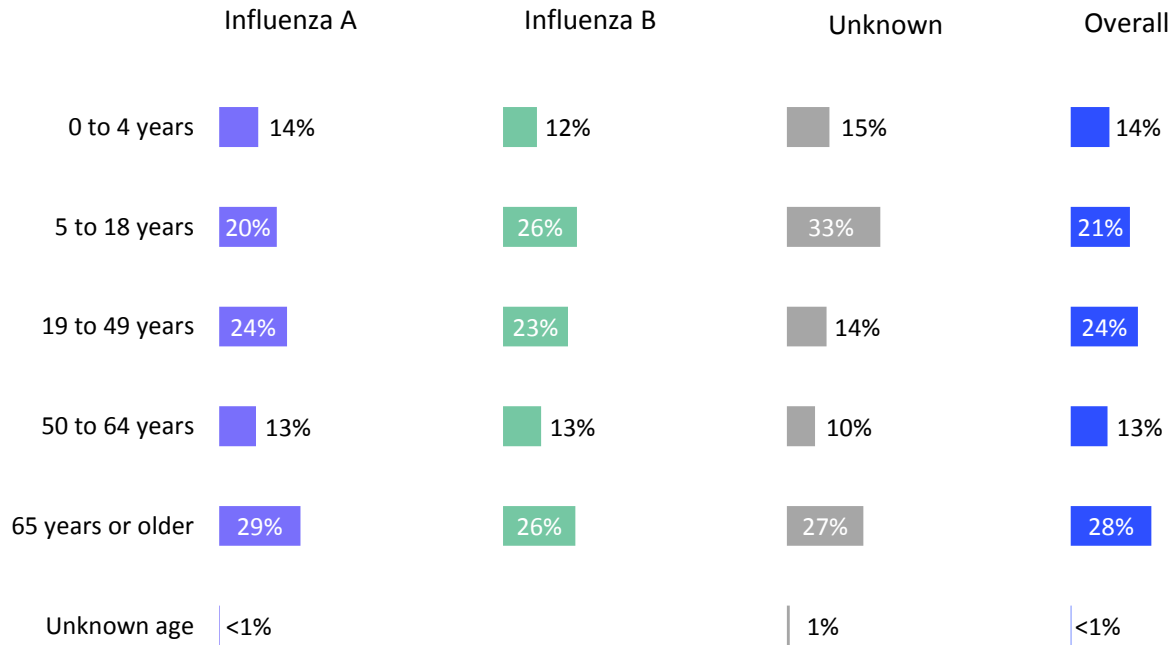


See [Table 3](#) in the appendix for additional information

Age of Reported Influenza Cases

The age groups most affected by influenza vary somewhat season-to-season, depending in part on the circulating influenza types and subtypes and any existing immunity in the community. Variations in age groups of reported influenza cases can also be caused by differences in laboratory testing and reporting practices year-to-year.

A larger proportion of **influenza A** cases were in those 65 years or older.

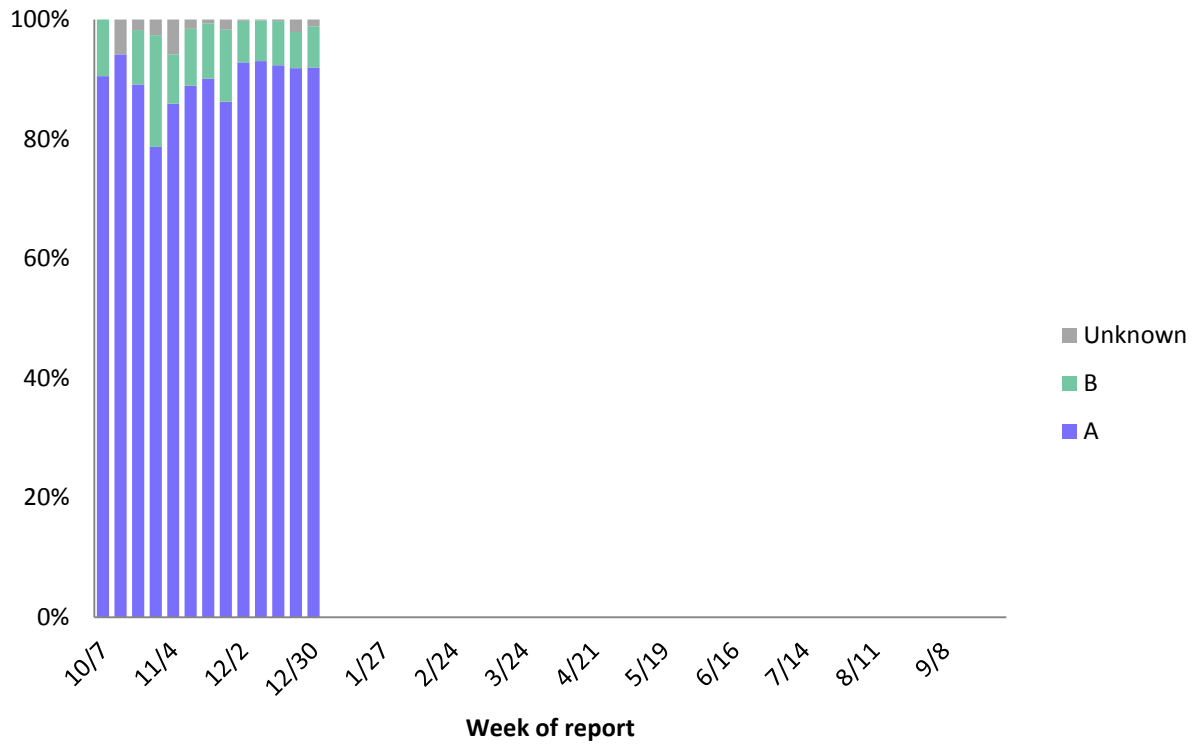


See [Tables 4 & 5](#) in the appendix for additional information

Influenza Types and Subtypes

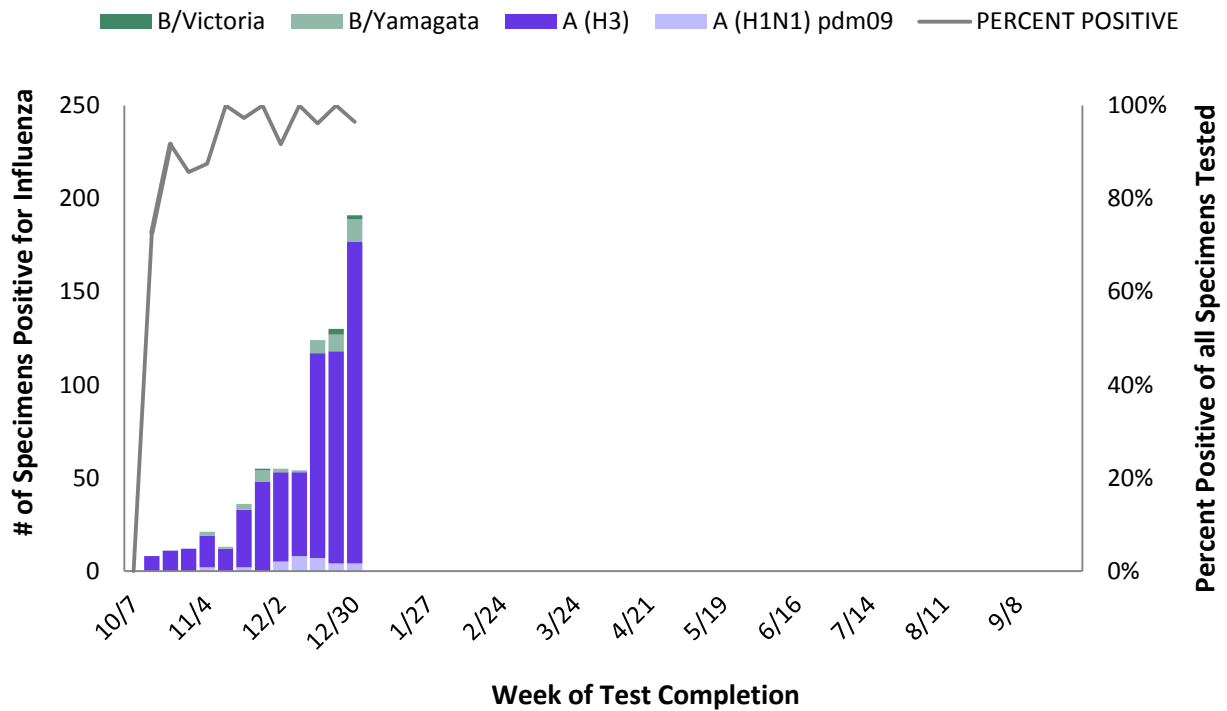
There are two main types of influenza – Type A and Type B – that cause illness in people. Influenza A viruses can be further divided into subtypes such as A (H1), or A (H3). While most tests can distinguish between influenza A and B, only specialized testing such as that done at the State Public Health Laboratory and a few other labs around the state can differentiate subtypes. Viral culture or molecular testing (reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction or RT-PCR) are the methods used to identify subtypes; knowing the type and subtype of the influenza viruses circulating can help health professionals make the best treatment and vaccination decisions.

Last week, 92% of influenza cases were type A and 7% were type B.



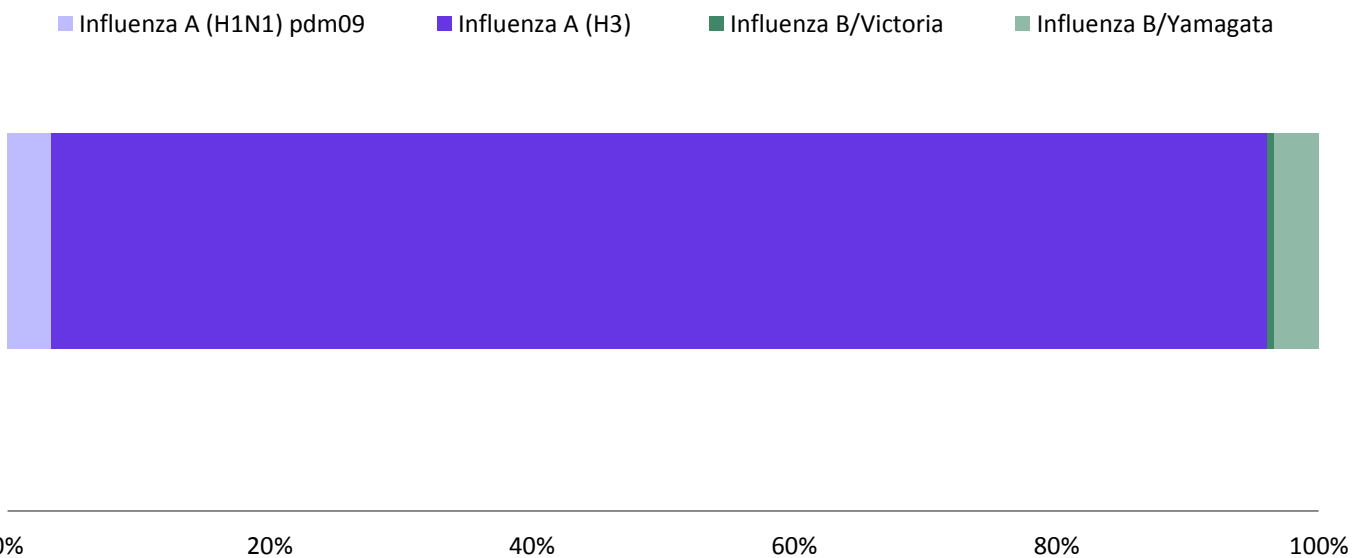
See [Table 6](#) in the appendix for additional information

96% of influenza tests at the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory were positive in the past week.



Culture/PCR Testing Conducted at the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory, 2017–2018

93% of subtyped cases this season were **influenza A (H3)**.

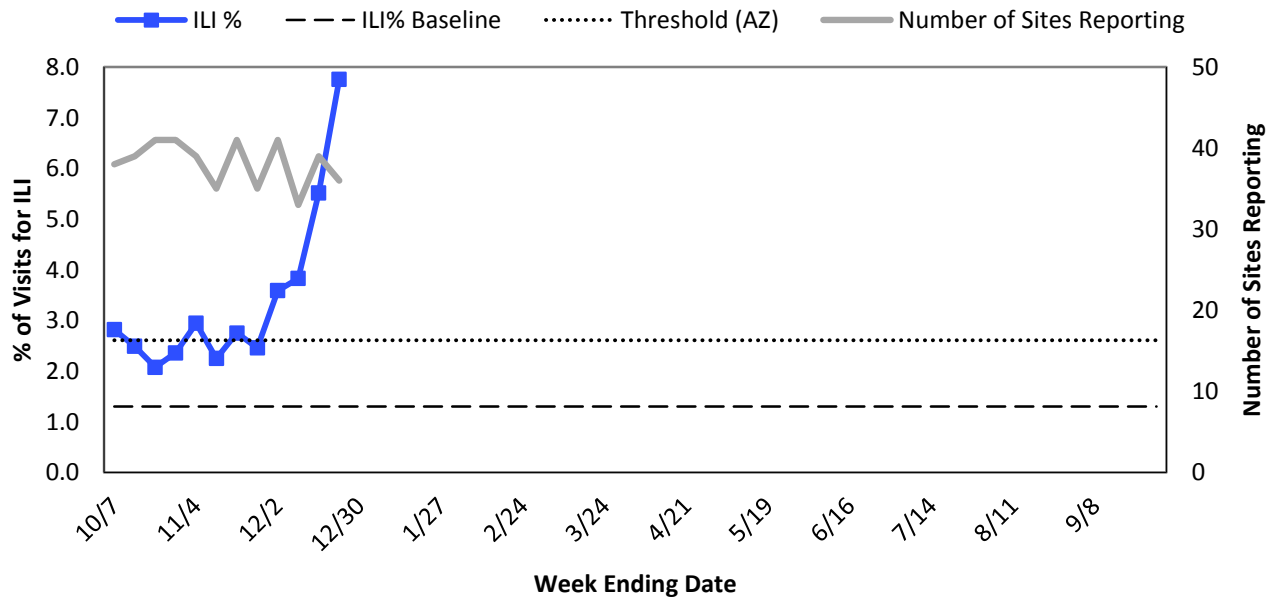


See [Tables 7 & 8](#) in the appendix for additional information

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance from Sentinel Outpatient Providers

ILI is defined as a fever of at least 100°F plus either a cough or a sore throat. In weeks when a relatively low number of enrolled facilities report data, the ILI proportion may not be as representative of Arizona activity as for other weeks. The state ILI baseline is 1.3% and the epidemic threshold is 2.6%*.

ILI percent was above threshold at **7.8%** in week 51.



Percentage of Visits for ILI at Sentinel Providers, 2016-2017, Arizona

*Note: The baseline is defined as the mean of the state ILI% in weeks in the 2014–2017 influenza seasons in which two or more consecutive weeks each accounted for less than 2% of the season’s total number of specimens testing positive for influenza at the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory. The epidemic threshold is defined as the mean plus two standard deviations.

See [Table 10](#) in the appendix for additional information

Appendix

Table 1: Influenza Activity

	2017–2018	2016–2017	2015–2016	2014–2015	2013–2014
Date First Case Confirmed, no travel	Oct. 16, 2017	Oct. 13, 2016	Oct. 4, 2015	Nov. 3, 2014	Oct. 4, 2013
Weeks with Widespread Activity	Weeks 50–52	Weeks 6–9	Weeks 5–14	Weeks 1–6	Weeks 3–8

Back to Report: [Arizona Influenza Activity Levels](#)

Table 2: Reported Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Cases Compared to Past Weeks and Seasons

	Cumulative Season Total	Current Week Total
2017–2018	7,978	2,453
2016–2017	834	282
5 season average	808	290
% increase, compared to 2016–2017 season	857%	770%
% increase, compared to a typical flu season	888%	747%
% increase, compared to last week	44%	4%

Back to Report: [Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Activity by Season](#)

Table 3: Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Cases Reported, by County, 2017–2018 Influenza Season

(Includes ALL reported lab-confirmed influenza reports, regardless of subtype)

County	2017–2018 Season	Past Three Weeks	Last Week
Apache	76	59	20
Cochise	148	118	41
Coconino	164	107	56
Gila	195	175	99
Graham	96	91	61
Greenlee	32	30	29
La Paz	59	45	0
Maricopa	4,084	3,170	1,326
Mohave	184	138	24
Navajo	163	131	80
Pima	967	712	245
Pinal	647	519	135
Santa Cruz	127	108	20
Yavapai	575	455	211
Yuma	461	323	106
Total	7,978	6,181	2,453

Back to Report: [Counties with a Laboratory-Confirmed Case in the Past Three Weeks](#)

Table 4: Age Group of Reported Influenza Cases, 2014–2015 through 2017–2018 Seasons

Age Group	2017–2018 Season (N=7,978)	2016–2017 Season (N=13,588)	2015–2016 Season (N=23,657)	2014–2015 Season (N=12,594)
0 to 4 years	1,092 (14%)	1,859 (14%)	4,093 (17%)	2,152 (17%)
5 to 18 years	1,670 (21%)	3,510 (26%)	5,098 (22%)	3,366 (27%)
19 to 49 years	1,895 (24%)	3,447 (25%)	7,343 (31%)	3,044 (24%)
50 to 64 years	1,035 (13%)	1,685 (12%)	3,159 (13%)	1,222 (10%)
65 years or older	2,265 (28%)	2,998 (22%)	3,879 (16%)	2,669 (21%)
Unknown age	21 (<1%)	89 (1%)	85 (1%)	141 (1%)

Back to Report: [Age of Reported Influenza Cases](#)

Table 5: Age Group by Type, 2017–2018 Influenza Season

Age Group	All Confirmed Cases (N=7,978)	Influenza A (N=7,311)	Influenza B (N=567)	Unknown Type (N=100)
0 to 4 years	1,092 (14%)	1,009 (14%)	68 (12%)	15 (15%)
5 to 18 years	1,670 (21%)	1,489 (20%)	148 (26%)	33 (33%)
19 to 49 years	1,895 (24%)	1,751 (24%)	130 (23%)	14 (14%)
50 to 64 years	1,035 (13%)	949 (13%)	76 (13%)	10 (10%)
65 years or older	2,265 (28%)	2,093 (29%)	145 (26%)	27 (27%)
Unknown age	21 (<1%)	20 (<1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)

Back to Report: [Age of Reported Influenza Cases](#)

Table 6: Influenza Type, by Season

	2017–2018 Number	2017–2018 Percent	2016–2017 Number (Percent)	2015–2016 Number (Percent)	2014–2015 Number (Percent)
Total	7,978	100%	13,850 (100%)	23,657 (100%)	12,594 (100%)
Influenza A	7,311	92%	8,397 (61%)	17,179 (73%)	11,013 (87%)
Influenza B	567	7%	5,238 (38%)	6,207 (26%)	1,428 (11%)
Unknown	100	1%	215 (1%)	271 (1%)	153 (2%)

Back to Report: [Influenza Types](#)

Table 7: Influenza subtyping of culture or RT-PCR results, by season

	2017–2018 Number	2017–2018 Percent	2016–2017 Number (Percent)	2015–2016 Number (Percent)	2014–2015 Number (Percent)
Influenza Subtypes	1,150	100%	2,844 (100%)	2,757 (100%)	2,202 (100%)
Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09	38	3%	74 (2%)	1,321 (48%)	5 (0.1%)
Influenza A (H3)	1,067	93%	1,987 (70%)	999 (36%)	2,127 (97%)
Influenza B/Victoria	6	1%	222 (8%)	54 (2%)	20 (1%)
Influenza B/Yamagata	39	3%	561 (20%)	383 (14%)	50 (2%)

Back to Report: [Influenza Subtypes](#)

Table 8: Influenza subtyping of culture or RT-PCR results, by region

Region*	Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09	Influenza A (H3)	Influenza B/Victoria	Influenza B/Yamagata	Total
Arizona	38 (3%)	1,067 (93%)	6 (1%)	39 (3%)	1,150 (100%)
Central	26 (4%)	603 (92%)	6 (<1%)	24 (4%)	659 (100%)
Northern	2 (2%)	89 (90%)	0 (0%)	8 (8%)	99 (100%)
Southern	10 (6%)	141 (91%)	0 (0%)	4 (3%)	155 (100%)
Western	0 (0%)	234 (99%)	0 (0%)	3 (1%)	237 (100%)

Back to Report: [Influenza Subtypes](#)

Table 9: Influenza subtyping results of pediatric deaths, by season

	2017–2018 Number (Percent)	2016–2017 Number (Percent)	2015–2016 Number (Percent)
Influenza A (H3)	1 (100%)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (75%)
Influenza A (subtype unknown)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (25%)
Influenza B/Victoria	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Influenza B/Yamagata	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Influenza B (lineage unknown)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	1 (100%)	2 (100%)	4 (100%)

Table 10: Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance

	Week 51	Week 50
Proportion of patient visits to sentinel providers for ILI	7.8%	5.5%
Comparison to epidemic threshold*	Above threshold	Above threshold
Intensity level (<i>see definitions at the end of report</i>)	High	High

Back to Report: [Influenza-Like Illness \(ILI\) Surveillance from Sentinel Outpatient Providers](#)

Glossary of Key Terms:

2017–2018 Influenza Season – The season is defined by surveillance weeks. The first day of the 2017–2018 influenza season was October 1st, 2017, or week 40 and the 2017–2018 surveillance season will continue through September 29th, 2018, or week 39.

Regions – Regions in Arizona are defined by county: Central (Gila, Maricopa, Pinal); Northern (Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai); Southern (Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Santa Cruz); Western (La Paz, Mohave, Yuma).

Activity Levels: Indicator of the geographic spread of influenza activity, reported to CDC by all states each week.

Widespread: Increased influenza-like illness from sentinel providers (ILI) in three or more regions and large numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in those regions.

Regional: Increased ILI in two regions and elevated numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in those regions.

Local: Increased ILI in one region and elevated numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases in that region.

Sporadic: No increase in ILI activity and only isolated laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.

No Activity: No increase in ILI activity and no laboratory-confirmed influenza cases.

Intensity Levels: Intensity levels are based on the percent of outpatient visits in a state due to ILI and are compared to the average percent of ILI visits that occur during spring and fall weeks with little or no influenza virus circulation. Intensity levels range from minimal, corresponding to ILI activity from outpatient clinics being below the average, to intense, which would correspond to ILI activity from outpatient clinics being much higher than average.