



**Summit County Public Health
Influenza Surveillance Report
2021 – 2022 Season
Report #1**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Flu Surveillance Weeks 1 & 2 (10/3/2021 to 10/16/2021)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention MMWR Weeks 40 & 41**

Summit County Surveillance Data:

In **Weeks 1 & 2** of influenza surveillance, influenza-related activity was minimal in Summit County, but COVID-19 activity is elevated.

Table 1: Overall Influenza Activity Indicators in Summit County by week				
	Week 1 MMWR 40 N (%)¹	Week 2 MMWR 41 N (%)¹	Percent change from previous week	Number of weeks increasing or decreasing
Lab Reports: Influenza				
Test Performed	844	777	- 7.9%	↓1
Positive Tests (Number and %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
Influenza A (Number and %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
Influenza B (Number and %)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
Lab Reports: COVID-19				
Test Performed	3816	3390	- 11.2%	↓1
Positive Tests (Number and %)	399 (10.5)	294 (8.7)	- 17.1%	↓1
Acute care hospitalizations for Influenza:	0	1	+ 100%	↑1
Acute care hospitalizations for COVID-19:	123	108	+ 12.2%	↓1
Pharmacy Prescriptions				
Zanamivir (Relenza)	0	0	--	--
Oseltamivir (Tamiflu)	0	0	--	--
Baloxavir marboxil (Xofluza)	0	0	--	--
Peramivir (Rapivab)	0	0	--	--
<i>Total</i>	0	0	--	--
Schools absenteeism²	8.5	8.9	+ 4.7%	↑1
Deaths (occurred in Summit County)				
Total deaths certified	148	140	- 5.4%	↓1
Pneumonia associated	14 (9.5)	16 (11.4)	+ 20.8%	↑1
Influenza associated	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	--	--
COVID-19 associated	19 (12.8)	16 (11.4)	- 11.0%	↓1
Emergency room visits (EpiCenter)³ (Figure 3)				
Total ED Visits	7009	6777	- 3.3%	↓1
Constitutional Complaints	752 (10.7)	681 (10.0)	- 6.3%	↓1
Fever and ILI	159 (2.3)	141 (2.1)	- 8.3%	↓1
1) N and % are reported when available				
2) Absence is for any reason. Percent is from total number of students enrolled. Data was collected from 12 schools or school districts throughout Summit County (n = approx. 32,000 students)				
3) Percent is from total number of emergency room interactions				
Note: Data is provisional and may be updated as more information is received. Percentages should be interpreted with caution. Small changes in number can result in large changes in percent. When a percentage, or prevalence, is available in this table, the percent change will be calculated from those values				

Lab reports: During the first 2 weeks of influenza surveillance, reporting Summit County facilities performed 1,621 flu tests, of which none had positive results. 7,206 COVID-19 tests were completed by reporting partners, with a positivity rate of 10.5% in Week 1 and 8.7% in Week 2 (a 17% decrease) (**Figure 4**) **Note: Influenza and COVID-19 testing data are collected from selected reporting partners and do not represent positivity rates for the entire county.**

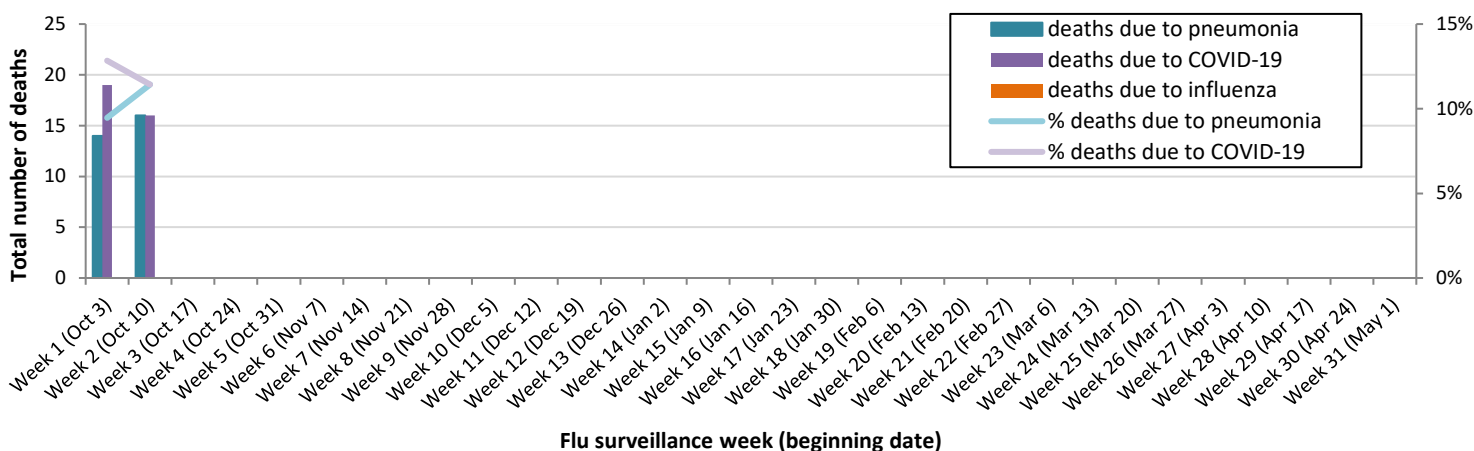
Acute Care Hospitalizations: There was one reported influenza and 231 COVID-19 admissions during Weeks 1 and 2. **Figure 2** displays hospitalizations in Summit County.

Pharmacies: Zero prescriptions for CDC- approved antiviral medications were reported during Weeks 1 and 2.

School absenteeism includes absences regardless of reason. In Week 1, the absence rate was 8.5% and in Week 2 the rate increased by nearly 5% to 8.9%.

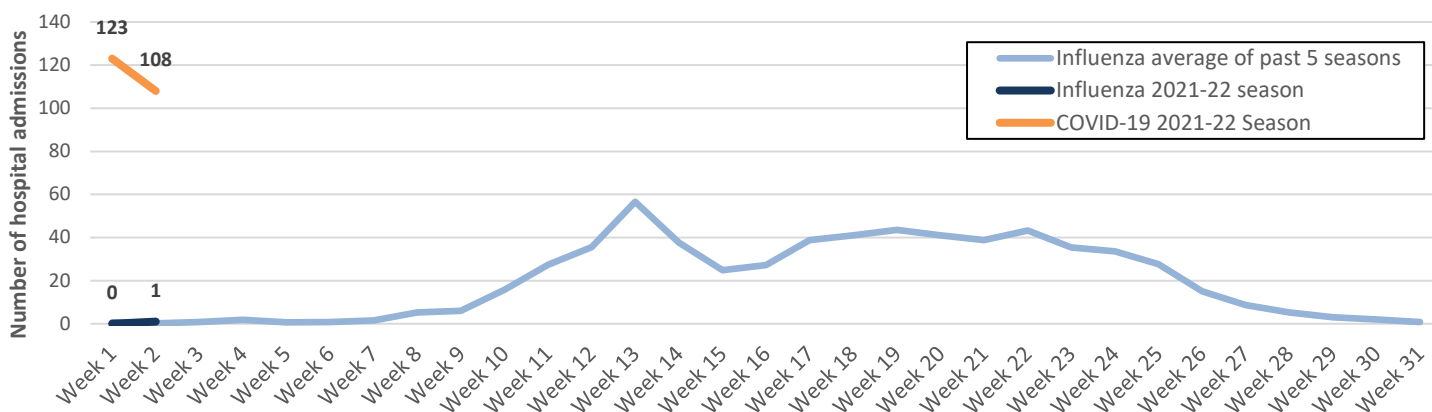
Zero deaths related to influenza, 30 COVID-19 deaths and 35 pneumonia related deaths were reported during Weeks 1 & 2. The rates of pneumonia associated deaths increased and COVID-19 associated deaths decreased in Wk 2. **Figure 1** displays weekly counts of deaths occurring in Summit County associated with pneumonia, COVID-19 and influenza.

Figure 1. Weekly Summit County death counts associated with pneumonia and influenza during 2021-2022 season



Hospitalizations: In Week 1, Summit County hospitals reported no influenza-associated hospitalizations and 123 COVID-19 admissions. In Week 2 there was one influenza admission and 108 COVID-19 hospitalizations. **Figure 2** displays weekly confirmed hospitalization counts for Summit County (**influenza cumulative count to date = 1**).

Figure 2. Summit County influenza and COVID-19 associated hospitalizations by week , 2021-2022 season



EpiCenter collects and analyzes health related data in real time to provide information about the health of the community. This system tracks ER visits related to constitutional complaints and fever and ILI. **Figures 3** displays the weekly number of ER visits related to ILI and flu symptoms in Summit County. There were 141 ILI-related visits reported during Week 2, which was 2.1% of total ED visits (n = 6777). This rate was 8.3% lower than the ILI rate during Week 1.

Figure 3. Weekly ED visits in Summit County related to Fever + ILI stratified by age groups, 2021 to 2022 season

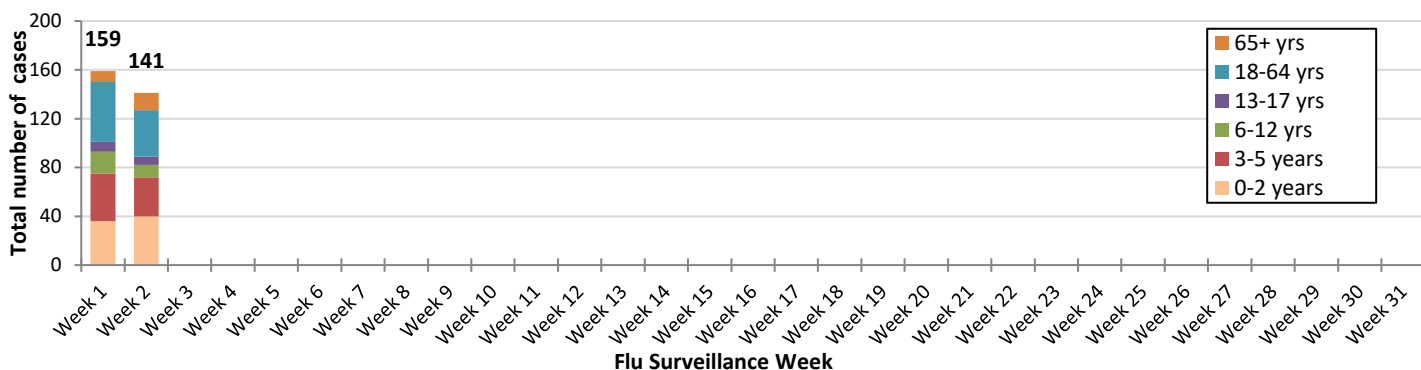
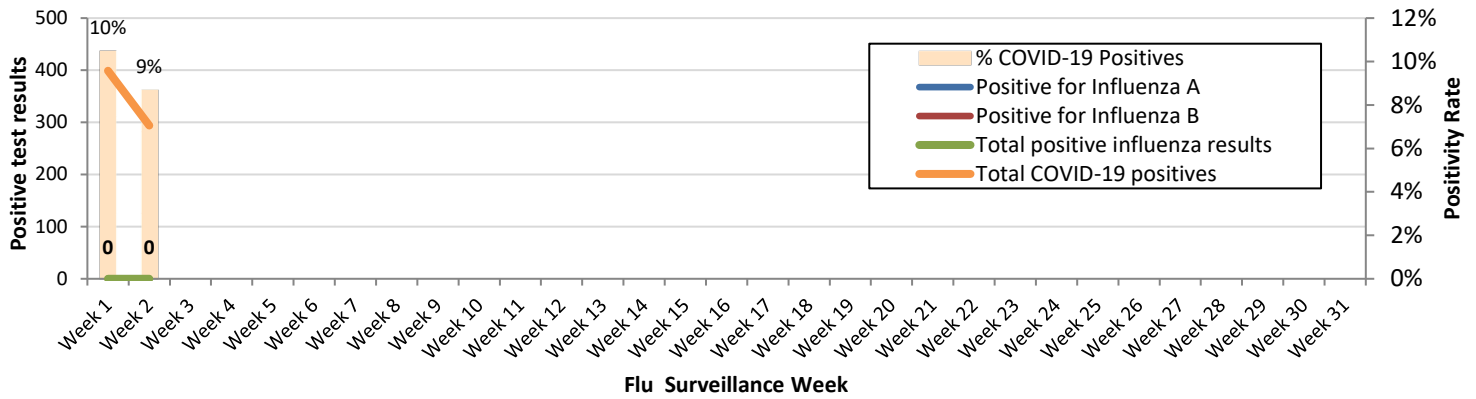


Figure 4. Influenza diagnostic tests with positive results completed by Summit County health facilities, 2021 - 2022 season



Ohio Influenza Activity: from the Ohio Department of Health:

Current Ohio Activity Level (Geographic Spread) – Minimal

During MMWR Week 41, public health surveillance data sources indicate minimal intensity for influenza-like illness (ILI) in outpatient settings reported by Ohio’s sentinel ILINet providers. The percentage of emergency department visits with patients exhibiting constitutional symptoms and Fever/ILI specified ED visits are above baseline levels statewide. Reported cases of influenza-associated hospitalizations are below the seasonal threshold*. There were 0 influenza-associated hospitalizations reported during MMWR Week 41.

Ohio Influenza Activity Summary Dashboard (October 10 – 16, 2021):

Data Source	Current week value	Percent Change from last week ¹	# of weeks ²	Trend Chart ³
Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Outpatient Data (ILINet Sentinel Provider Visits)	1.52%	-13.14%	↓ 1	
Thermometer Sales (National Retail Data Monitor) ⁴	0.74%	-10.84%	↓ 1	
Fever and ILI Specified ED Visits (EpiCenter)	2.35%	-2.08%	↓ 1	
Constitutional ED Visits (EpiCenter)	10.50%	-2.33%	↓ 1	
Confirmed Influenza-associated Hospitalizations (Ohio Disease Reporting System)	0	-100.00%	↓ 1	

¹Interpret percent changes with caution. Large variability may be exhibited in data sources with low weekly values.

²Number of weeks that the % change is increasing or decreasing.

³Black lines represent current week's data; red lines represent baseline averages. The 2020-2021 influenza season has been omitted from the five-year baseline averages due to abnormal counts reported during the COVID-19 pandemic. A five-year average, which includes data from the 2015-2016 season through the 2019-2020 season, is displayed.

⁴Due to abnormally high thermometer sales during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 season data has been omitted. A 4-year average, which includes data from the 2015-2016 season through the 2018-2019 season, is shown.

Source: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov/seasflu/Ohio%20Flu%20Activity.aspx>

Ohio Surveillance Data:

- The **Ohio Department of Health Laboratory** has tested five specimens for influenza during the 2021-2022 influenza season; of these, **1 tested positive for influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 1 for influenza A(H3N2), 0 for influenza B, and 1 for swine variant influenza A(H3N2v)** (through 10/16/2021).
- The **National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)** and **U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Laboratories** reported **789** tests for influenza performed at participating facilities; of these, **2 tested positive for influenza A(H1N1pdm09), 0 for influenza A(H3N2), 0 for influenza A (subtyping not performed), and 0 for influenza B (as of 10/16/2021).**
- No **pediatric influenza-associated mortalities** have been reported so far during the 2021-2022 influenza season (through 10/16/2021).
- One **novel influenza A virus infections** has been reported so far during the 2021-2022 influenza season (through 10/16/2021).
- Incidence of confirmed **influenza-associated hospitalizations** in 2021-2022 season = 6 (through 10/16/2021).

National Surveillance: from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

Seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains low.

National Outpatient Illness Surveillance:

Nationwide during week 41, 1.8% of patient visits reported through ILINet were due to ILI. This percentage is below the national baseline of 2.5%. One region (Region 7) is at their region-specific baseline while the remaining regions are below their baselines. Overall, influenza virus circulation remains low; therefore, increases in ILI activity are likely due to increased circulation of other respiratory viruses.

Figure 5. Percentage of visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, 2021-2022 and selected previous seasons

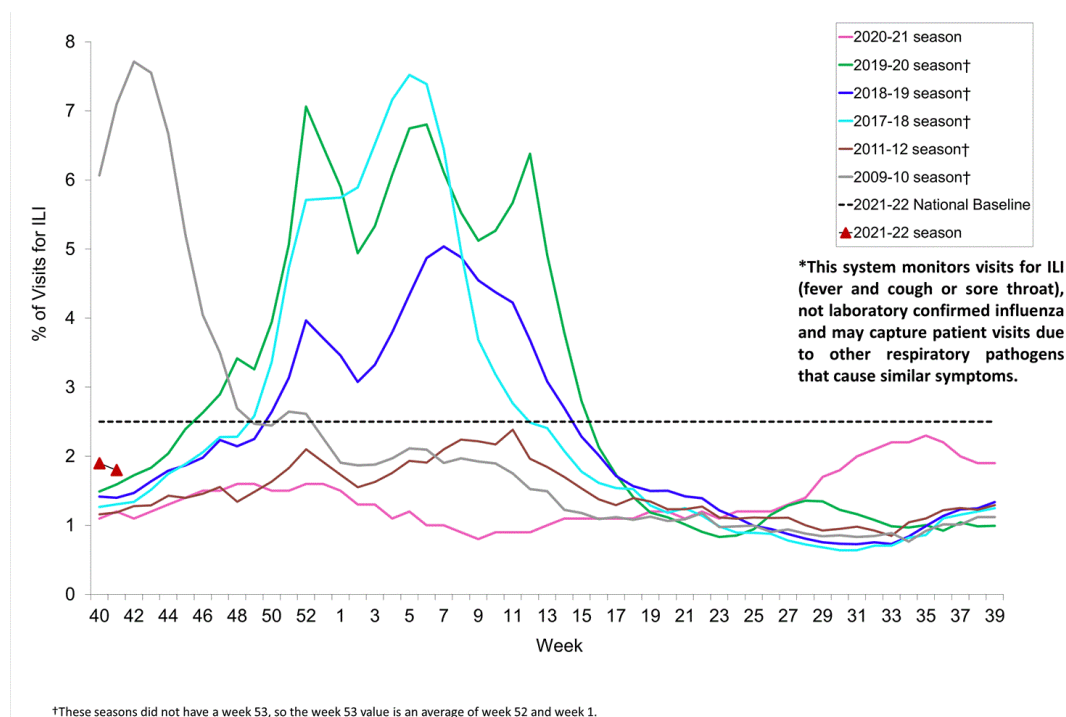
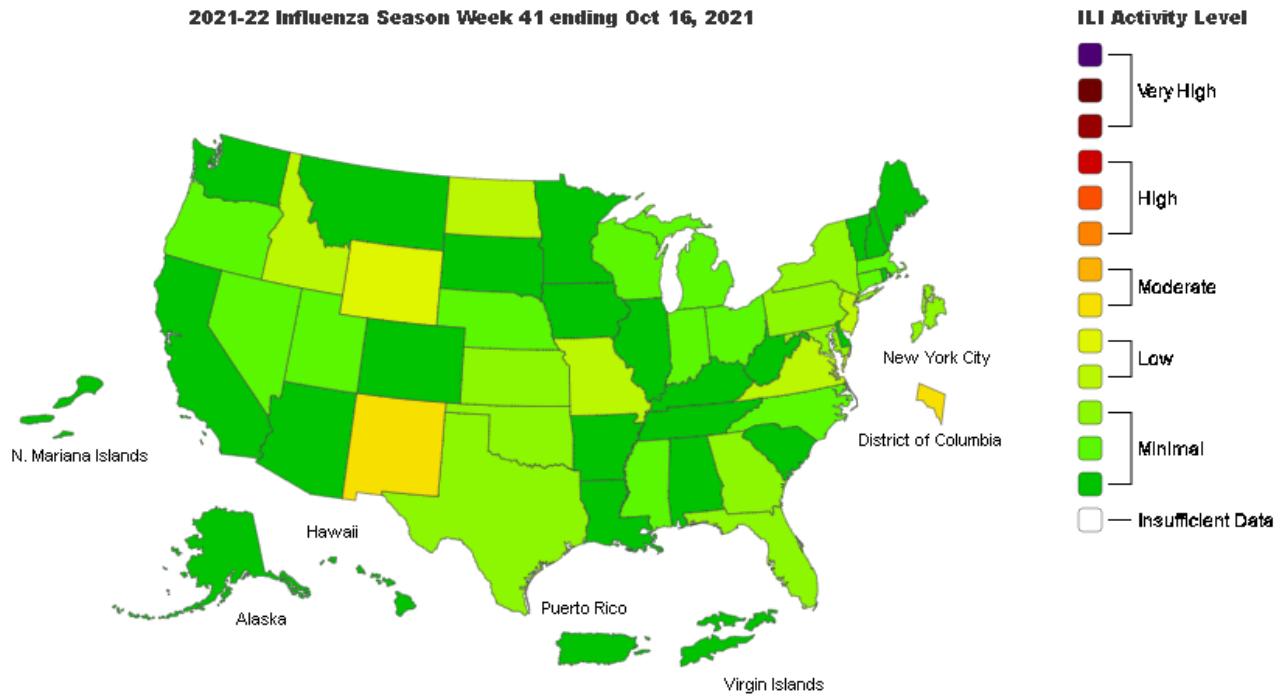


Figure 6. Influenza-like illness (ILI) activity level indicator determined by data reported to ILINet



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Global Surveillance:

Influenza Update N° 404, World Health Organization (WHO), published 10/11/2021, based on data up to 9/26/2021. The Update is published every two weeks.

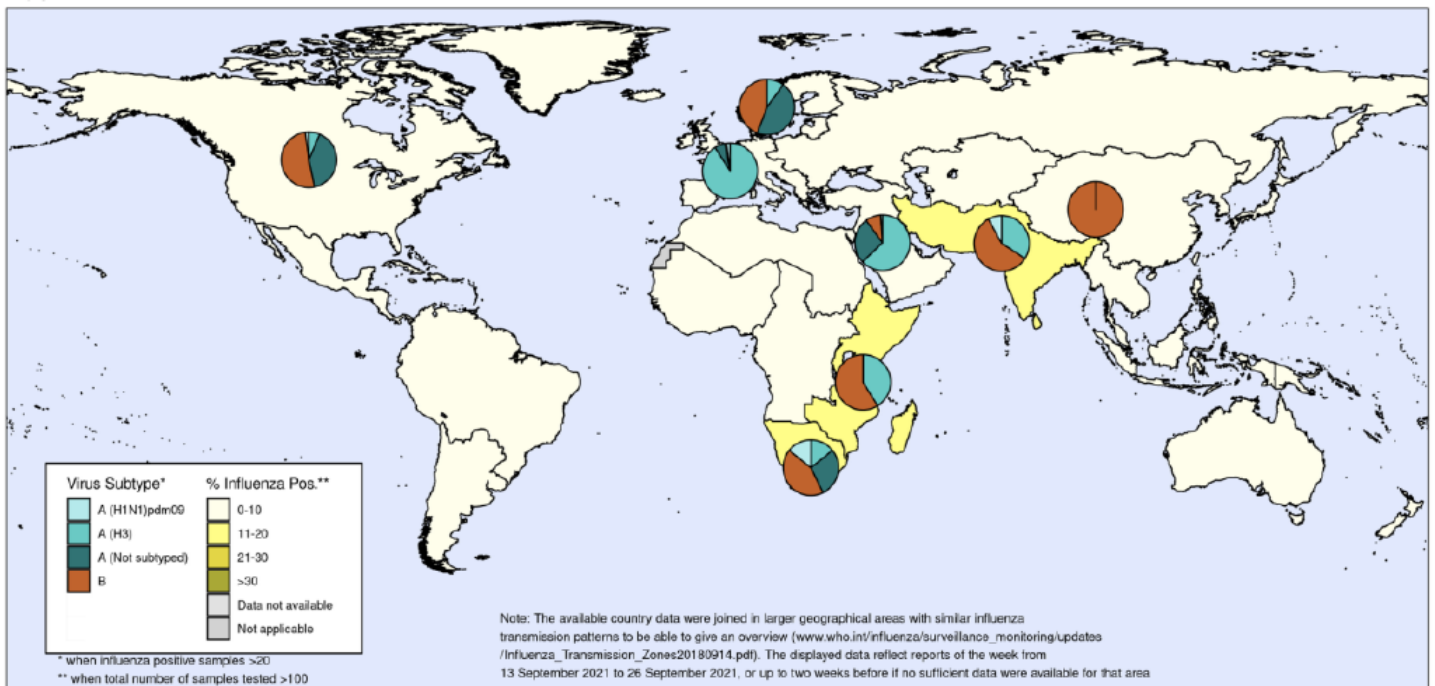
Summary

The current influenza surveillance data should be interpreted with caution as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has influenced to varying extents health seeking behaviours, staffing/routines in sentinel sites, as well as testing priorities and capacities in Member States. The various hygiene and physical distancing measures implemented by Member States to reduce SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission have likely played a role in reducing influenza virus transmission.

- **Globally**, despite continued or even increased testing for influenza in some countries, influenza activity remained at lower levels than expected for this time of the year.
- In the **temperate zones of the southern hemisphere**, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels, although a slight increase in influenza A and B detections was reported from South Africa.
- In the **temperate zones of the northern hemisphere**, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels. Influenza B predominated among detections and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) was increased and higher than in previous years in some countries.
- In the **Caribbean and Central American countries**, sporadic influenza B virus detections and RSV activity were reported in some countries
- In **tropical South America**, no influenza detections were reported, however RSV activity remained elevated in some countries.
- In **tropical Africa**, a few influenza detections of predominately influenza A were reported in some countries in Western, Middle and Eastern Africa.
- In **Southern Asia**, influenza detections of predominately influenza B continued to be reported across reporting countries. In **South East Asia**, sporadic influenza B detections were reported in the Philippines.
- **Worldwide**, influenza B (Victoria) viruses predominated.

- National Influenza Centres (NICs) and other national influenza laboratories from 88 countries, areas or territories reported data to FluNet for the time period from 13 September 2021 to 26 September 2021 (data as of 2021-10-08 06:58:25 UTC). The WHO GISRS laboratories tested more than 242316 specimens for influenza during that time period. 2022 were positive for influenza viruses, of which 640 (31.7%) were typed as influenza A and 1382 (68.3%) as influenza B. Of the sub-typed influenza A viruses, 88 (15.8%) were influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 and 470 (84.2%) were influenza A(H3N2). Of the characterized B viruses, 100% (1213) belonged to the B-Victoria lineage.

Figure 7. Percentage of respiratory specimens that tested positive for influenza, by influenza transmission zone. Map generated on 8 October 2021



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.



Data source: Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), FluNet (www.who.int/flu-net)
 Copyright WHO 2021. All rights reserved.

Source: https://www.who.int/influenza/surveillance_monitoring/updates/latest_update_GIP_surveillance/en/

About this report: Reporting agencies include labs, hospitals, long-term care and community-based care providers, physician offices, university clinic, pharmacies, and schools. Agencies are distributed throughout Summit County and report different indicators of flu activity including total lab tests, numbers of positive tests and type, antiviral prescriptions filled, school absences, and influenza like illness (ILI). Hospitalizations are lab confirmed for influenza and are obtained from the Ohio Disease Reporting System. Number of deaths associated with influenza and pneumonia are gathered from the Summit County Office of Vital Records death listings. Emergency room visits for complaints related to influenza are obtained by syndromic surveillance system (Epicenter).

Special thanks to all agencies who report Influenza related data weekly.

Reporting from participants may not be complete each week. Numbers may change as updated reports are received. For questions, please contact Joan Hall at the Summit County Public Health Communicable Disease Unit (330-375-2662 or cdu@schd.org). This report was issued on October 22, 2021.