



# Alabama's Weekly Influenza Report

SEASON: 2017-2018 | MMWR WEEK: 20 (MAY 13-19) | MMWR YEAR: 2018

## WHAT THE FLU IS GOING ON IN ALABAMA?

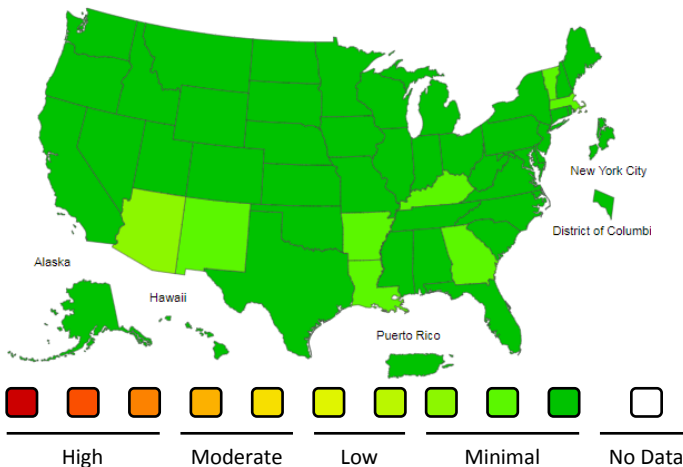
- Activity levels **decreased** across the state (1.1%)
- Geographic spread was reported as **no activity** to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- No **PCR positive specimens** were identified across the state by the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL)
- **0** influenza or influenza-like illness outbreaks were reported in the state



- Districts with significant<sup>1</sup> influenza activity detected
- Districts with lab-confirmed case (s) within last 3 weeks
- Districts with no significant<sup>1</sup> influenza activity reported

<sup>1</sup>Significant influenza activity is based on reported influenza-like illness data or reported influenza outbreaks **AND** positive influenza specimens from the previous 3 weeks.

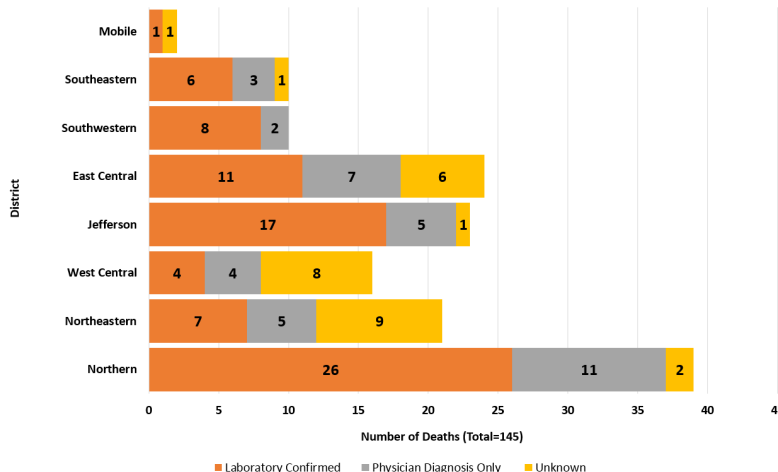
## WHAT THE FLU IS GOING ON IN THE UNITED STATES?



- During Week 19 (May 6-12), influenza activity levels **decreased** in the United States
- Geographic spread was reported as **widespread** in 2 states; Guam, Puerto Rico, and 3 states reported **regional activity**; 9 states reported **local activity**; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 33 states reported **sporadic activity**; and 3 states reported **no activity**
- The percentage of respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in clinical laboratories **decreased**
- The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was **1.2%**, which is below the national baseline of 2.2%

## INFLUENZA-ASSOCIATED DEATHS

Number of Potential Influenza-associated Non-pediatric Deaths Reported to the Alabama Department of Public Health (01/11/2018-05/19/2018)



Number of Reported Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths		
Jurisdiction	Confirmed	Reported As Of
Alabama	2	05/19/2018
United States	168	05/12/2018

## SUMMARY OF SELECT SURVEILLANCE COMPONENTS

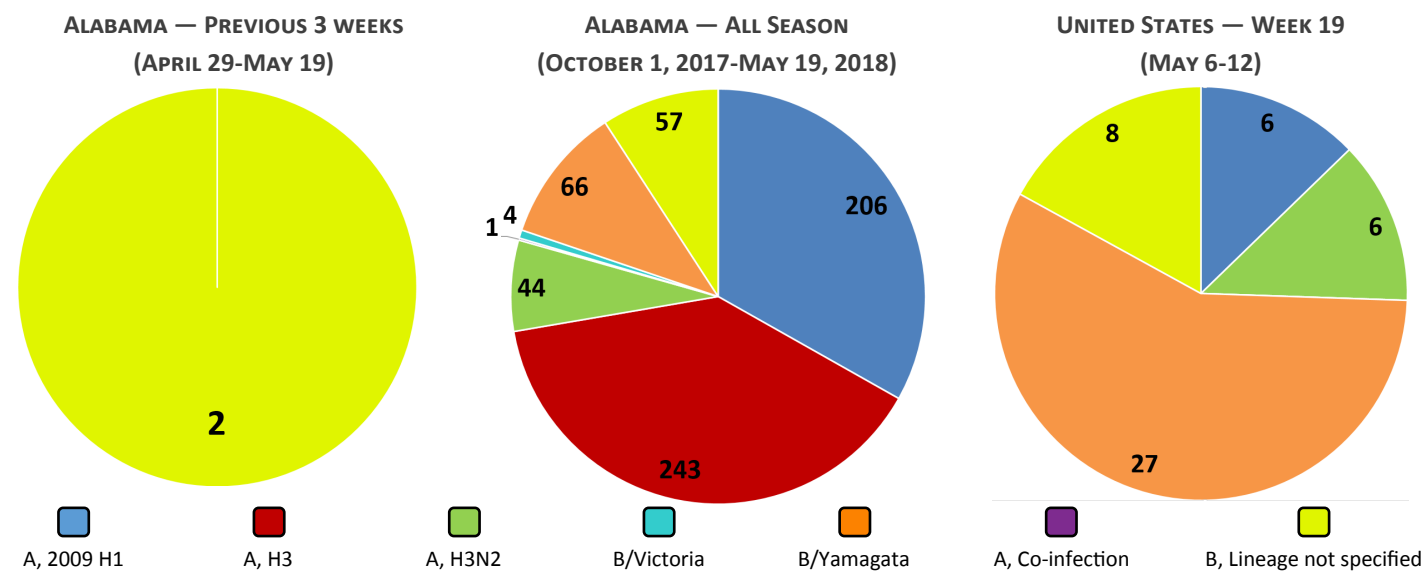
District	Data for Current Week (Week 20)					Data Cumulative since October 1, 2017 (Week 40)
	No. of PCR Positive Specimens	Percent Influenza- like Illness (ILI) *	No. of ILI Patients Seen	No. of Patients Seen <sup>‡</sup>	No. of Participating Providers <sup>§</sup>	No. of PCR Positive Specimens
Northern	0	1.3 %	122	9,615	19	63
Northeastern	0	1.1 %	45	4,280	11	91
West Central	0	1.7 %	54	3,264	7	15
Jefferson	0	0.6 %	42	7,150	7	21
East Central	0	1.1 %	40	3,612	8	137
Southwestern	0	1.1 %	22	2,017	10	24
Southeastern	0	1.2 %	66	5,648	10	44
Mobile	0	0.0 %	0	211	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.1 %</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>35,797</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>400</b>

\*ILI threshold for significance in Alabama (Season 2017-2018): 3.4%

§ Providers who report to the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet)

‡ Number of patients seen at facilities reported by ILINet providers

## INFLUENZA POSITIVE SPECIMENS REPORTED DURING THE 2017-2018 SEASON, BY SUBTYPE



## NATIONAL NEWS

Since October 1, 2017, twenty-two (22) influenza virus samples have tested positive for resistance to neuraminidase inhibitors. Influenza A, 2009 H1N1 virus samples have been found to be resistant to Oseltamivir and Peramivir.

## RESOURCES

ADPH's Influenza Website: <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/influenza>

ADPH's Seasonal Trend Graph: <http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/influenza/assets/ilibclpositives1.pdf>

CDC's Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

## SEASONAL RECAP

- Due to the widespread outbreak of influenza across the State of Alabama, Governor Kay Ivey declared a State Public Health Emergency — effective January 11, 2018 and terminated March 12, 2018
- As a result of the State Public Health Emergency, all influenza-associated deaths became reportable January 11, 2018. It cannot be definitively stated that more deaths occurred this season when compared to previous seasons, because all deaths only just became reportable
- In the U.S. and Alabama, flu activity began to increase in early November and rose sharply from December through early February
- Over 60,000 patients were seen in Alabama emergency departments and other healthcare facilities for influenza or influenza-like illnesses
- Across the United States, there were over 30,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations

## COMPARING 2016-2017 AND 2017-2018 INFLUENZA SEASONS

The chart below represents positive influenza specimens received at the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 influenza seasons. Compared to last season, the 2017-2018 season brought greater variation in the circulating strains and 8 weeks were spent above baseline.

Although 48% more specimens were submitted to the BCL for testing this season, it cannot be definitively stated that this season was worse than the previous. The increase in specimen submission could be due to the nationwide media attention this flu season received, thus resulting in more people seeking medical attention. When compared to 2016-2017, there was a spike of specimen submissions as opposed to last season when specimens were more steadily submitted.

