

Influenza Surveillance Activities as of 5/16/2020

Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

The 2019-2020 influenza surveillance season began on 9/29/19 (disease week 40 and concluded on May16, 2020.

National Update (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>)

- Nationally, ILI activity is low.
- The overall cumulative hospitalizations rate for the season increased to 69.3 per 100,000.
- The percentage of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza is 8.1%, above the epidemic threshold of 6.8%. This heightened level is primarily due to COVID-19, not influenza.
- Total of 174 reported influenza-associated pediatric deaths have occurred during the 2019-2020 season.

California Update (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/pages/immunization/influenza.aspx>)

- Last Report for the season from the State was **Disease Week 12, March 15-March 21, 2020**
- Statewide activity was reported to be **Regional**.
- The flu A(H1)pdm09 viruses are predominating in California.
- There have been 18 pediatric influenza deaths this season.
- To date, 706 influenza-coded deaths have been identified (61.8% being 65+ year old at time of death).
- Sixteen new influenza outbreaks were reported in week 12, bringing the seasonal total to 166.

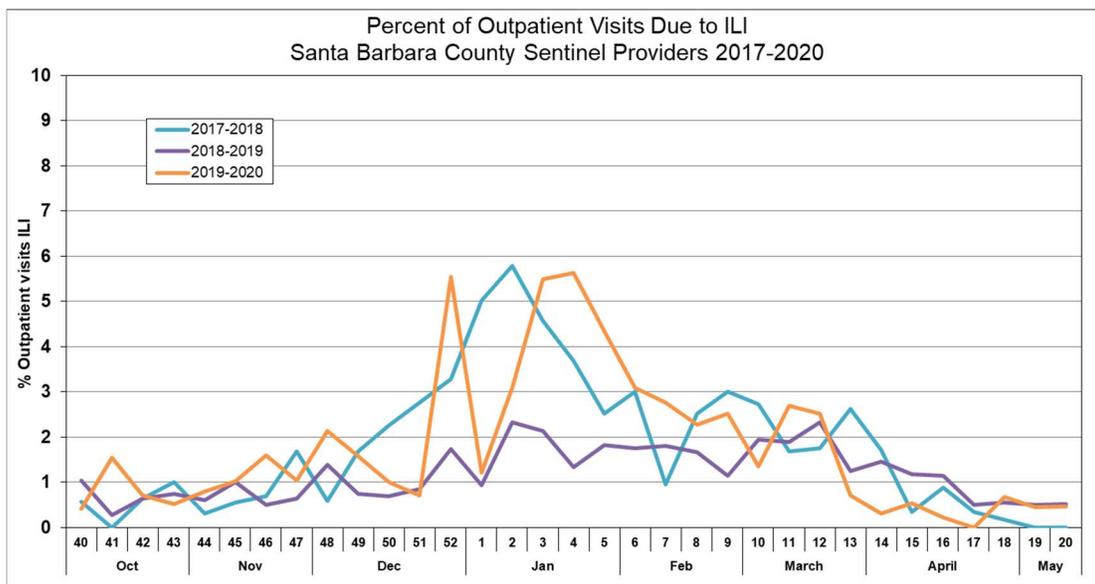
Santa Barbara County Update

- Low flu activity has been seen the last 3 weeks. The seven Sentinel Provider sites reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in 9 of the patients seen in **weeks 18 thru 20 (9/1708; 1.3%)**, (chart 1) which is slightly above expected levels for this time of year.
- In the past three weeks, the Hospital Emergency Departments (ED) that submitted data reported seeing 2790 patients, and 167 (56.0%) were diagnosed with ILI and 29 were admitted. (This trend is *higher* than the percentage of ILI patients seen in the ED at this time in 2019 (4.0% or 309/7231).
- There have been 13 clusters of Upper Respiratory Illness reported in congregate settings.
- **Nine** influenza-associated deaths were documented this season; all were persons over 65 years old.

Of note: On September 18, 2019 the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department issued a [Health Officer Order](#) mandating influenza vaccinations for **all Health Care Workers (HCWs)** by November 1, 2019. HCWs must either have documentation of a flu vaccine or wear a mask until April 30, 2020.

Chart 1: CDC Sentinel Provider Program in Santa Barbara County Influenza-like Illness (ILI)

(In 2018-2019, Lompoc Health Care Center, Santa Barbara Health Care Center, Franklin Health Care Center, Carpinteria Health Care Center, Santa Maria Health Care Center, Santa Barbara City College, UCSB Student Health)

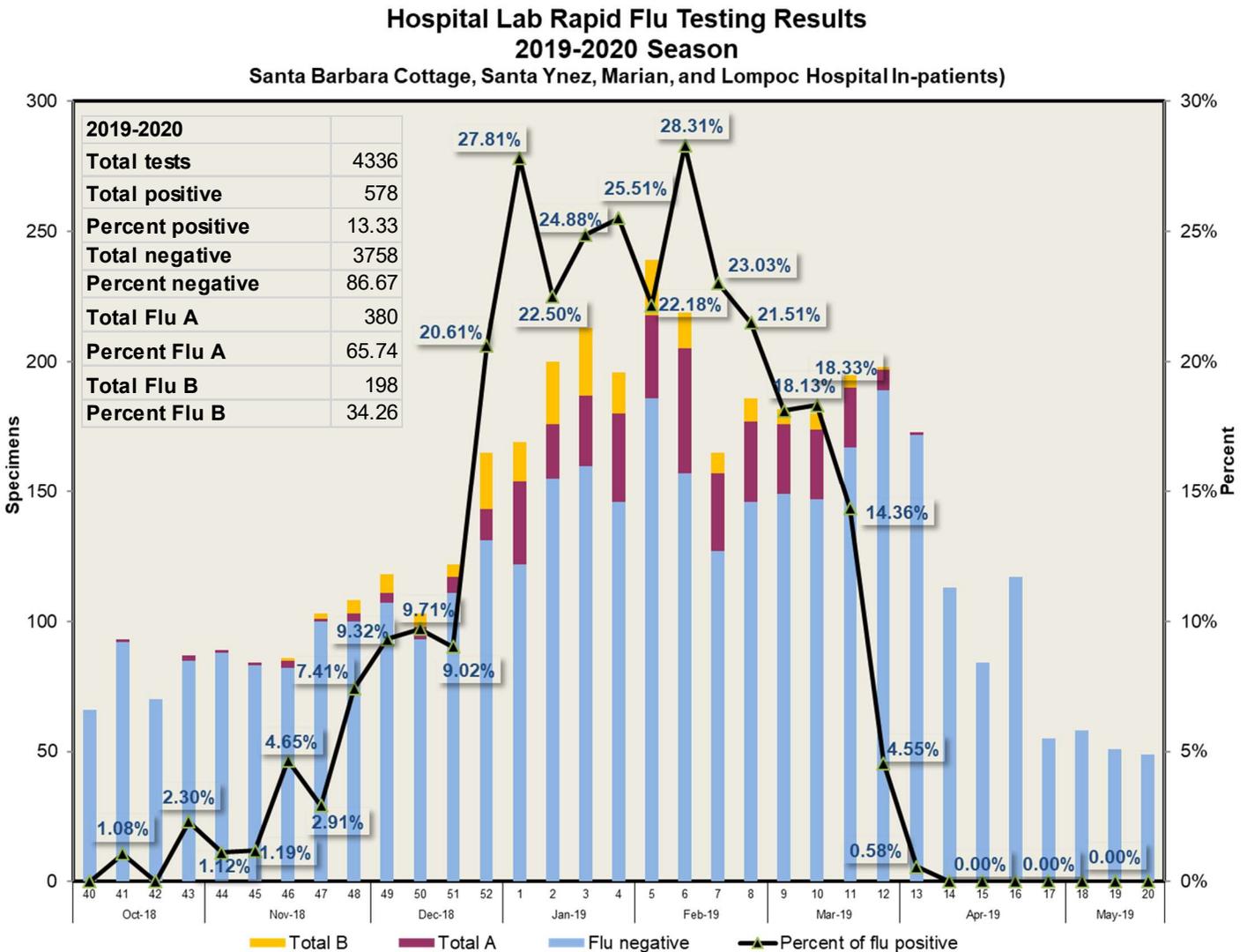


Influenza-like illness (ILI): Fever (≥ 100 deg F [37.8 deg C] oral or equivalent in office or reported) **PLUS** cough and/or sore throat (in absence of other known cause). *Regional: Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in at least two but less than half the regions of the state with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in those regions. Outbreaks of influenza or increases in ILI cases and recent laboratory confirmed influenza in at least half the regions of the county with recent laboratory evidence of influenza in the county.

Laboratory Data: In Disease Week 20 the local hospital labs have reported having tested **49 in-patients with PCR and rapid tests** with **0 testing positive (0.0%, 0 flu A, 0 flu B)** (please see chart 2 below).

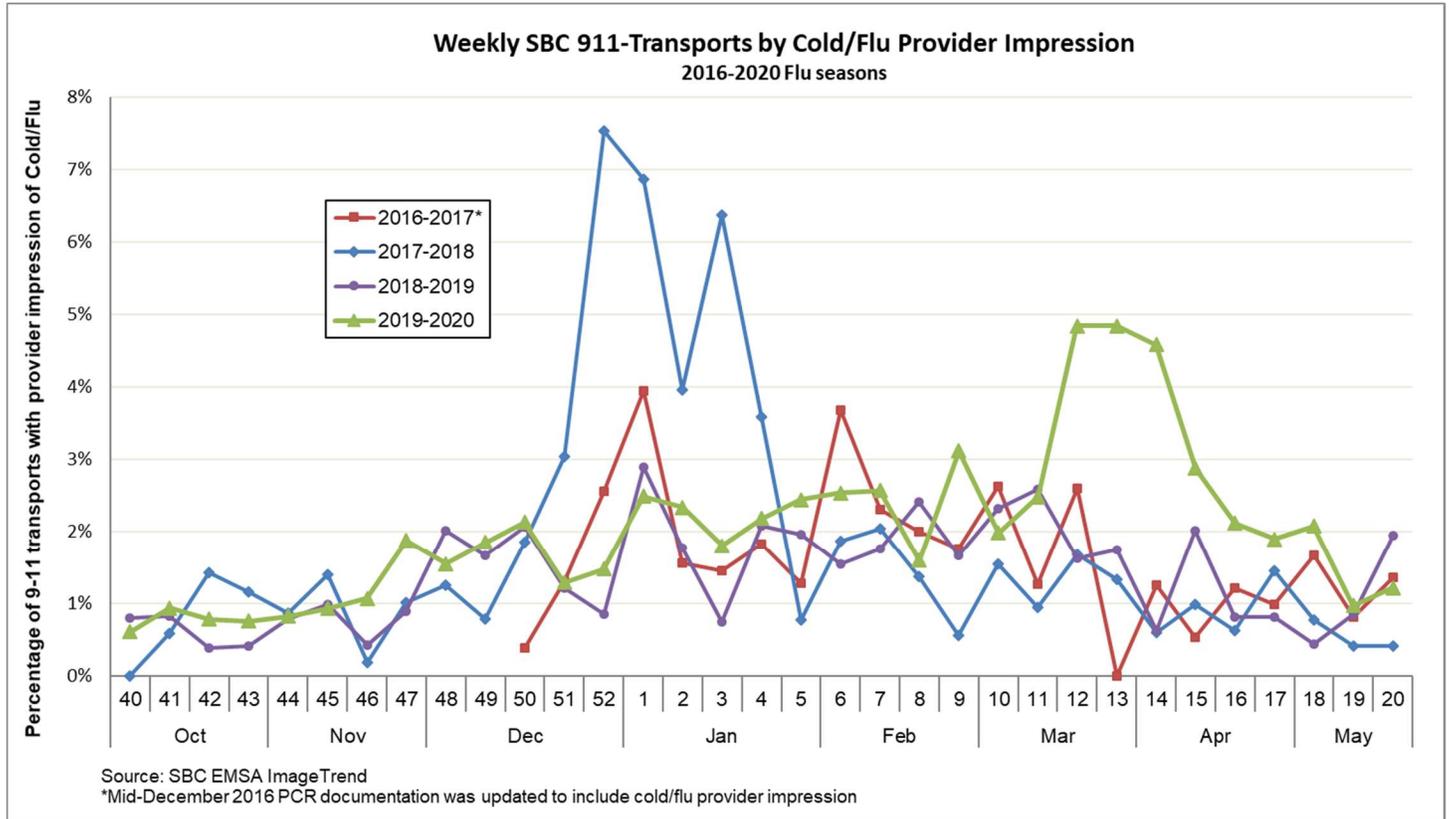
The influenza testing volume for the Public Health Laboratory decreased during the 2019-2020 influenza season. The decrease was influenced by clinical laboratories adopting and utilizing accepted molecular testing methodologies required for patient care. This season, the Public Health Laboratory tested 19 unsubtypeable influenza specimens (8/19 (42%) were positive; **1 A/H3, 2 2009 A/H1, and 5 B lineage** not typed).

Chart 2: Influenza testing results collected from Marian Regional Medical Center, Lompoc Valley Medical Center and PDL (Cottage Health Systems contracted laboratory).



** Of the 49 specimens tested in week 20, 0 was positive for influenza. In other words, 0.0% of the specimens tested in week 20 were positive for influenza.

Chart 3: Each week, using the Santa Barbara County Emergency Medical Services Agency (SBC EMSA) ImageTrend database capturing all pre-hospital transports, the percentage of 911-transports with a provider impression equal to cold/flu was calculated.



Transports to the emergency department where the paramedic determined the patient had cold/flu symptoms slightly increased over week 18 thru 20 (average 1.4% of all transports where patients had cold/flu symptoms), and was slightly higher than what was seen at this time a year ago (~1.0%).