

This report summarizes the influenza surveillance data in Santa Clara county during the 2020-2021 influenza season. For more information, visit the [Santa Clara County Influenza Webpage](#), the [CDPH Influenza Webpage](#), and the [CDC U.S. Influenza Webpage](#).

Key Points

- Influenza activity remained low countywide, statewide, and nationwide.
- Influenza A and Influenza B viruses continued to co-circulate.
- For information on the prevention of influenza spread, see the [Santa Clara County Influenza Webpage](#).

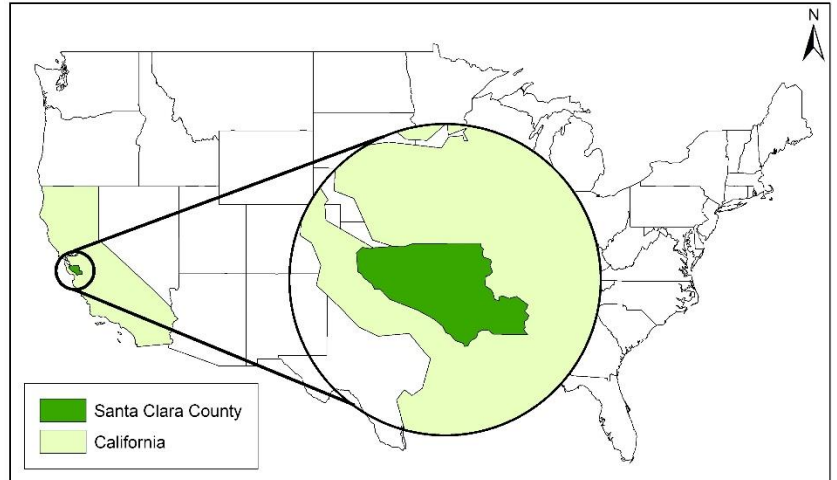


Table 1. Summary of influenza activity during the 2020-21 influenza season

| | | <u>Countywide</u> Santa Clara County | <u>Statewide</u> California | <u>Nationwide</u> United States |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Activity level | | This influenza season remained at a sporadic* and lower than usual level compared to previous seasons. | | |
| Activity | Circulating strains | Influenza A & B | Influenza A & B | Influenza A & B |
| | Predominant strain | Influenza B | Influenza A | Influenza A |
| Laboratory | # (%) positive for influenza | 55 (<0.01%) [^] | -- (0.2%) | -- (0.2%) |
| ICU Cases | Hospitalization Rate | 0 per 100,000p | 0 per 100,000p | 0.8 per 100,000p |
| Deaths | Children (under 18 years) | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| | Adults (under 65 years) | 0 | 47 | 612 |
| Outbreaks | Healthcare/community setting | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Sporadic: Small numbers of laboratory-confirmed influenza cases or a single laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreak had been reported, but there is no increase in cases of ILI.

[^]Laboratory sources include Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and Stanford Health Care.

Figure 1. Weekly percentage of emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) in Santa Clara County, 2017-18 to 2020-21 flu seasons

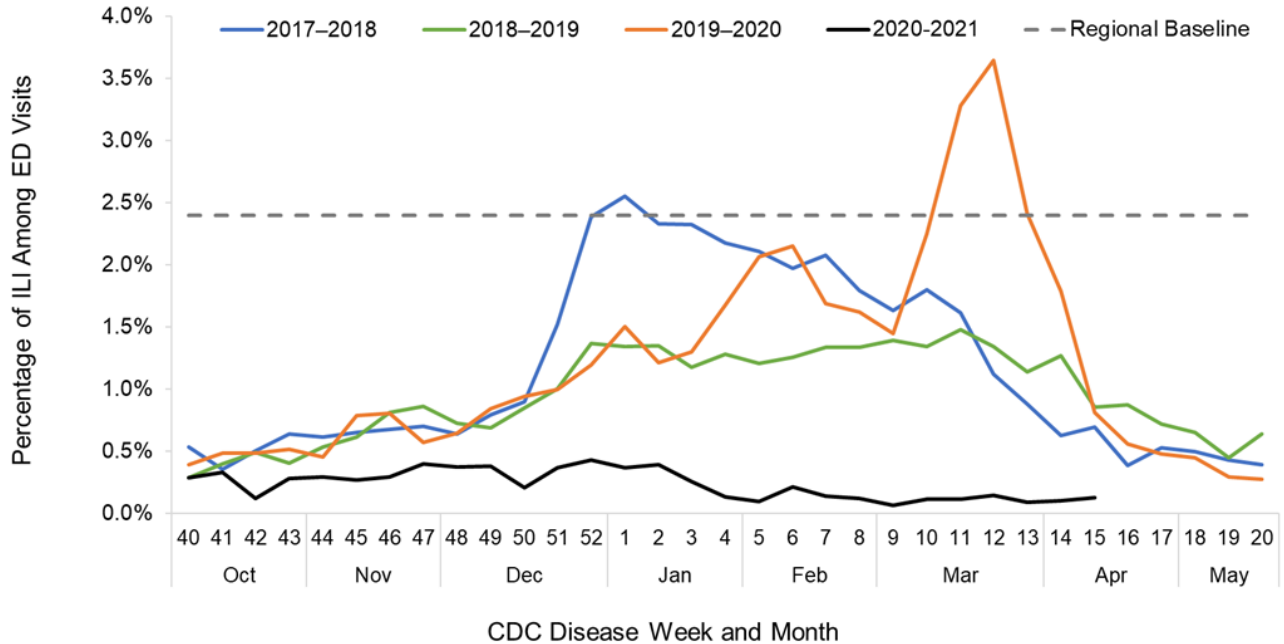
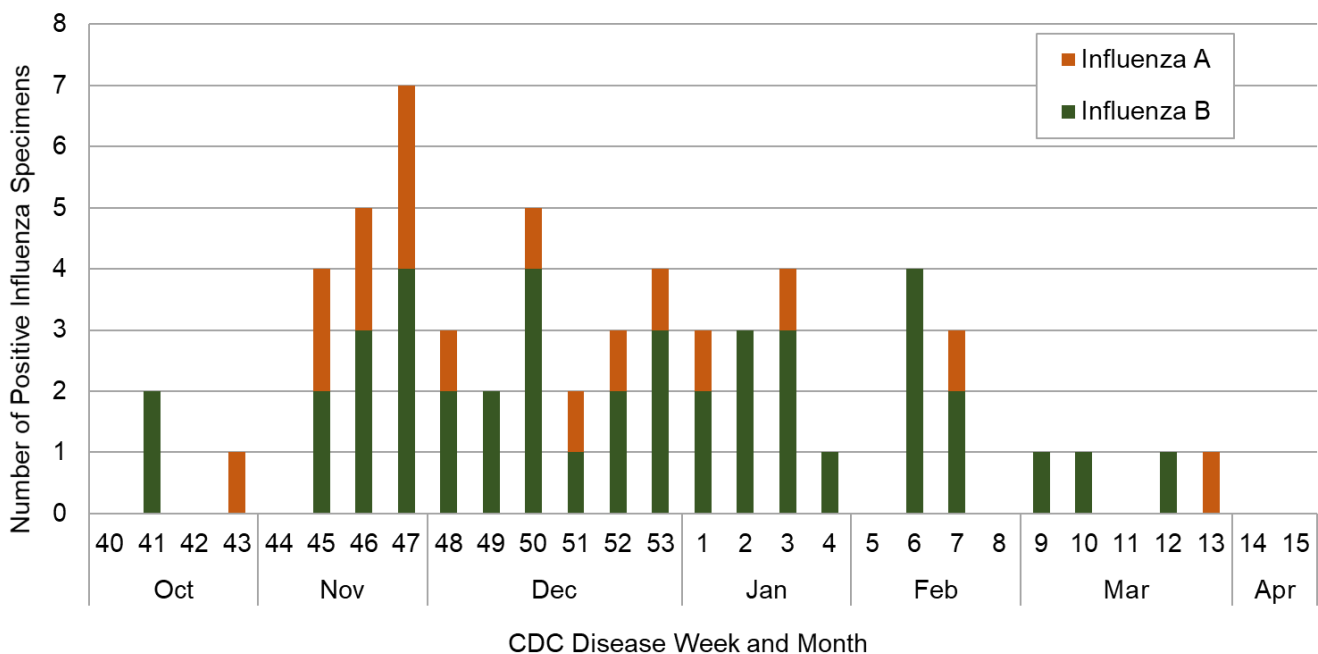


Figure 2*. Respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza at Santa Clara County laboratories by week, 2020-2021**



*Limitations of Figure 2 data include presence of out-of-jurisdiction cases, inability to influenza subtype by certain laboratories, and potential missed influenza cases tested by alternate laboratories in the county.

**Laboratory sources include Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and Stanford Health Care.

About Our Surveillance Systems

In Santa Clara County, we use a broad range of surveillance methods to monitor trends in influenza activity during flu season. We closely monitor emergency department ILI data, laboratory data provided by the Public Health Laboratory, and severe/fatal influenza cases reported to SCCPHD.

Reporting Requirements

| Required by CDPH | Voluntarily Reported in Santa Clara County |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory-confirmed pediatric fatalities (0-17 years) Outbreaks of laboratory-confirmed influenza Novel influenza strains or cases thereof | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory-confirmed fatalities <65 years old Laboratory-confirmed ICU cases <65 years old |

Emergency Department Visits for ILI

Emergency department visits ILI are tracked through ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-Based Epidemics). This real time, automated syndromic surveillance system collects and categorizes chief complaint data from emergency department visits into different syndromes, including ILI (fever, congestion, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose, and cough).

Public Health Laboratory Surveillance

The PHL uses real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) for influenza specimen testing both outpatients and inpatients hospitalized without ICU level. These data do not provide a comprehensive assessment of influenza activity in the county as not all specimen are sent to PHL.

Influenza ICU Cases

Laboratory-confirmed influenza cases requiring ICU level care are reported (not required) to SCCPHD and tracked in California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CaREDIE).

Influenza Deaths

Laboratory-confirmed influenza deaths are reported to SCCPHD and tracked in CaREDIE. Although only laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated pediatric deaths are reportable in California, in Santa Clara County, we also track deaths in county residents aged 18–64 years. The reports are supported by vital records surveillance data.

Outbreak Surveillance

All outbreaks, defined as at least one case of laboratory-confirmed influenza in the setting of a cluster (≥ 2 cases) of ILI within a 72-hour period of ILI are investigated by SCCPHD.