

Influenza Surveillance Report 2021-2022

Week 49 (December 5 – December 11, 2021)

Santa Clara County Public Health Department
 Infectious Disease and Response Branch

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) produces this report to summarize current influenza surveillance data during influenza season (November through the following May).

Weekly surveillance data are preliminary and subject to change.

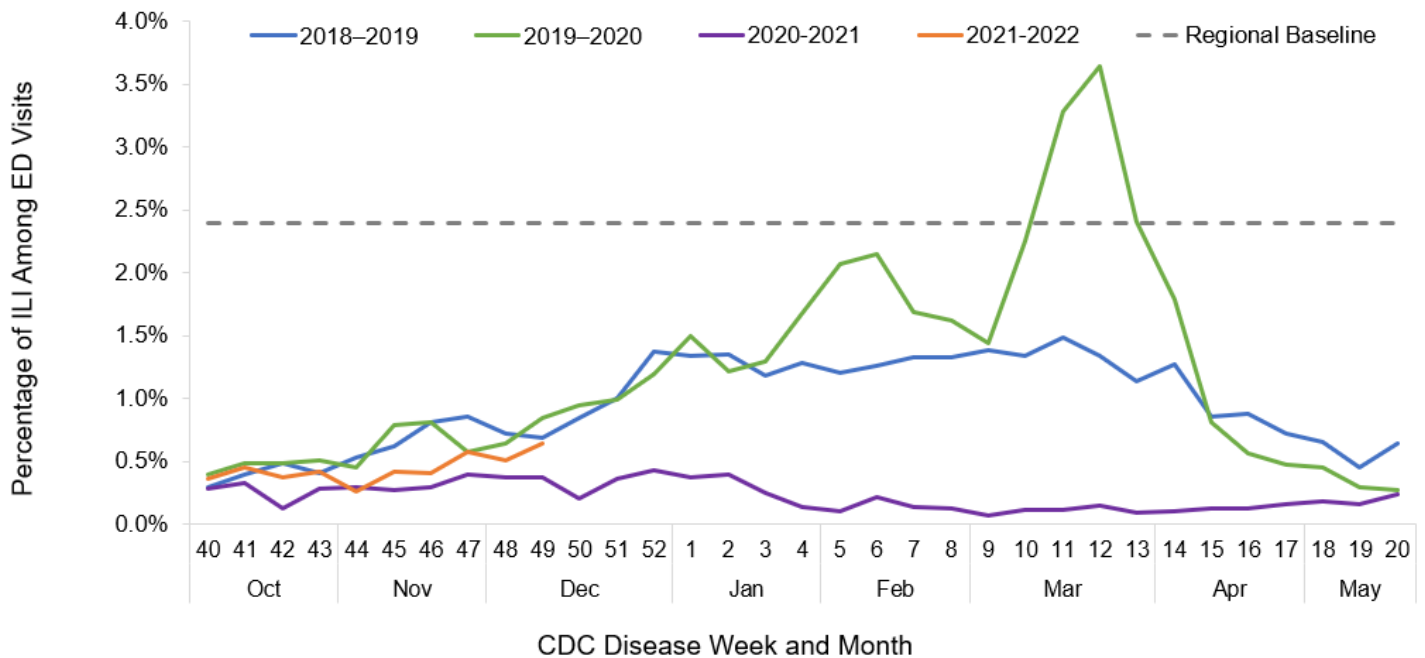
Key Points

- In Santa Clara County, influenza activity is increasing.
- Statewide and nationwide, seasonal influenza activity remains low, but detection of influenza virus and reports of influenza-like illness are trending upwards.
- For information on the prevention of influenza spread, see the [Santa Clara County Flu Webpage](#).

Table 1. Summary of influenza activity during the 2021-22 influenza season

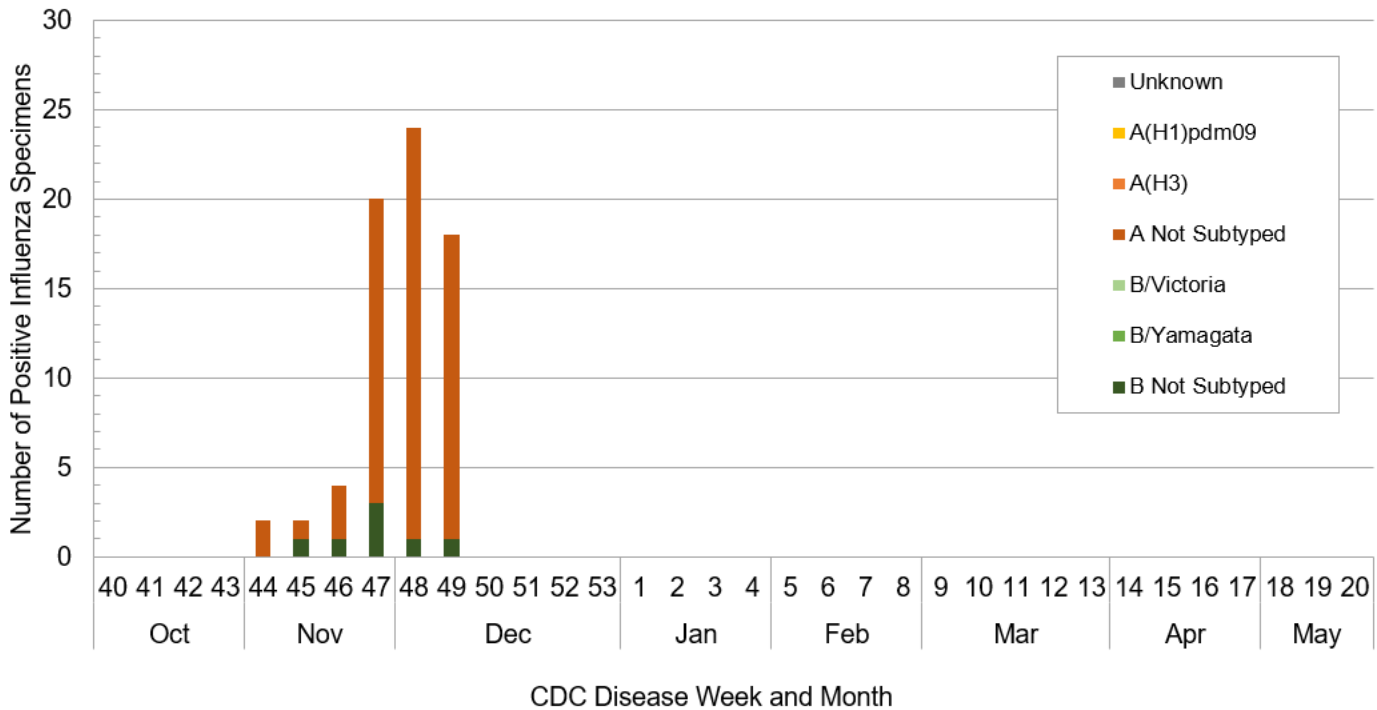
		Week 49	Season-To-Date
Laboratory¹	Total specimen tested:	1263	8602
	# (%) positive for Flu A/B:	18 (1.43%)	70 (0.81%)
ICU cases	Children under 18 years:	0	0
	Adult under 65 years:	0	0
Deaths	Children under 18 years:	0	0
	Adult under 65 years:	0	0
Outbreaks	Healthcare setting:	0	0
	Community setting:	0	0

Figure 1. Weekly percentage of emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) in Santa Clara County, 2018-19 to 2021-22 flu seasons



Influenza Virologic Surveillance

Figure 2¹. Respiratory specimens testing positive for influenza in Santa Clara County by week, October 3, 2021 – December 11, 2021



¹ Laboratory sources include PCR, rapid, and point-of-care tests from Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory, Palo Alto Medical Foundation, and Stanford Health Care. Limitations of Figure 2 data include presence of out-of-jurisdiction cases, inability to subtype influenza by certain laboratories, and potential missed influenza cases tested by alternate laboratories in the county.

Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza ICU Cases, Deaths, and Outbreaks

As of December 13, 2021, no laboratory-confirmed influenza cases requiring ICU level care or influenza-associated deaths among persons under 65 years old were reported in Santa Clara County for the current flu season (Figure 3, Figure 4). Cases aged 65 years and older are not reportable. Additionally, no laboratory-confirmed influenza outbreaks have been reported in a healthcare or community setting for the 2021 – 2022 influenza season (Figure 5).

Figure 3³. Laboratory-confirmed influenza ICU cases and deaths among individuals aged 0-64 years by week of onset in Santa Clara County, October 3, 2021 – December 11, 2021

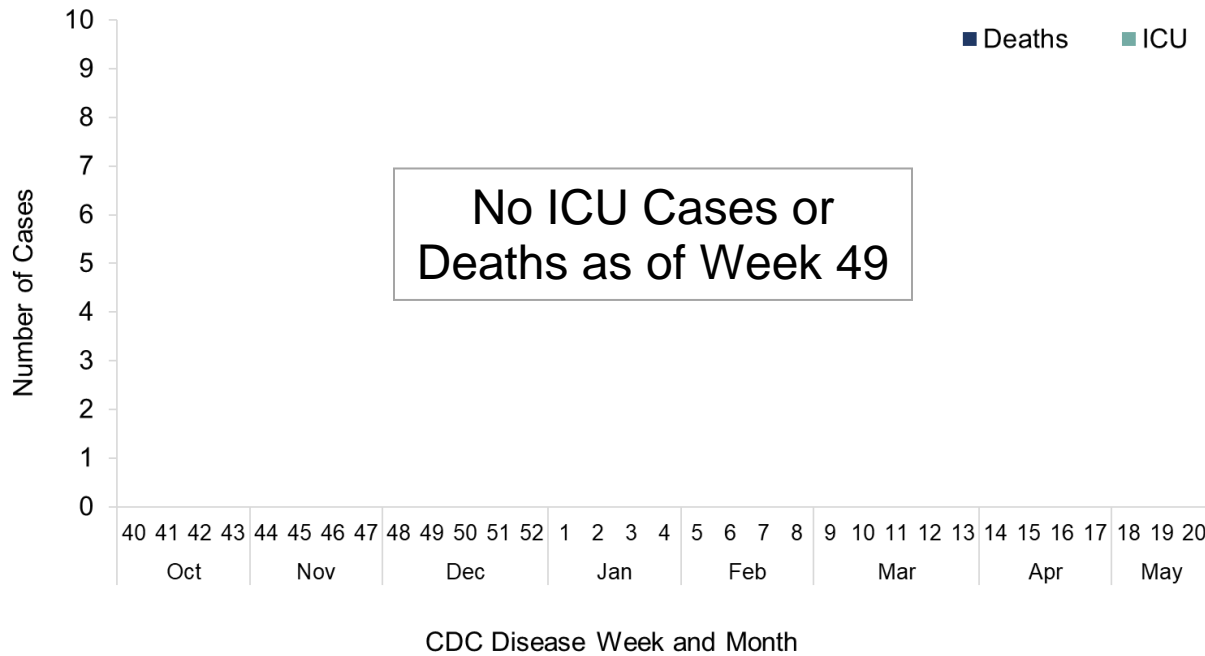


Figure 4³. Laboratory-confirmed influenza ICU cases and deaths by age group in Santa Clara County, October 3, 2021 – December 11, 2021

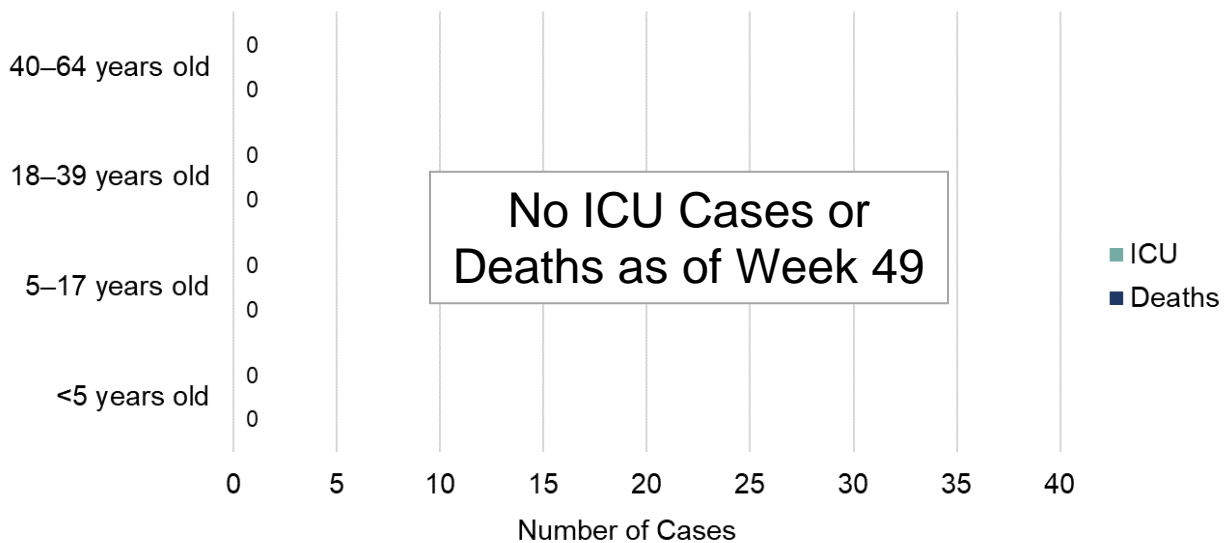
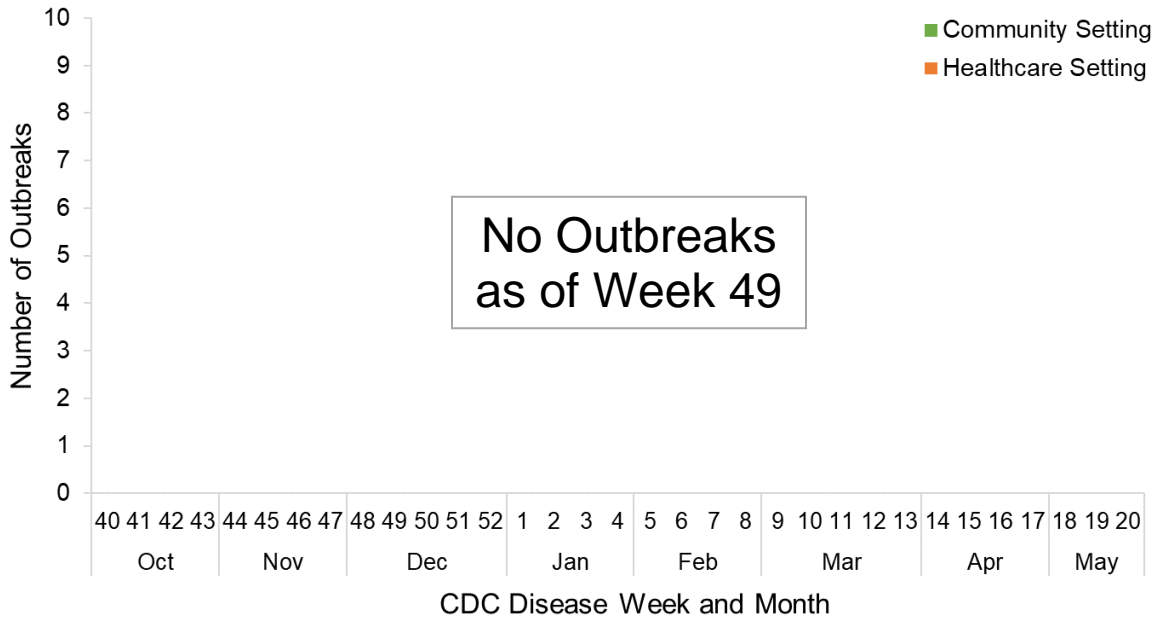


Figure 5². Laboratory-confirmed healthcare and community outbreaks by outbreak onset week in Santa Clara County, October 3, 2021 – December 11, 2021



Statewide and Nationwide Influenza Surveillance

	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Week 48	Season-To-Date	Week 48	Season-To-Date
Season influenza activity	Sporadic; Remains low, but an increasing number of specimens have tested positive.			
Predominant Virus Circulating	Flu A	Flu A	Flu A	Flu A
# of Flu-Coded Deaths	1	3	5	66
# of Flu-Associated Pediatric Deaths	0	0	0	0

For more information, visit the [CDPH Influenza Webpage](#) and the [CDC U.S. Influenza Surveillance Webpage](#).

² The source for Figures 3, 4, and 5 is the California Reportable Diseases Information Exchange (CaREDIE) system. Data are provisional as of 12/13/2021.

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 clinical laboratories, and severe/fatal influenza cases reported to SCCPHD.³

Reporting Requirements

Required by CDPH

- Laboratory-confirmed deaths <18 years old
- Outbreaks of laboratory-confirmed influenza
- Novel influenza strains or cases thereof

Voluntarily Reported in Santa Clara County

- Laboratory-confirmed deaths <65 years old
- Laboratory-confirmed ICU cases <65 years old

Emergency Department Visits for ILI

Emergency department visits for 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 of 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 specimens are sent to the 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 old. 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 are investigated by SCCPH

³ Laboratory sources include PCR, rapid, and point-of-care tests from Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Stanford Health Care.