



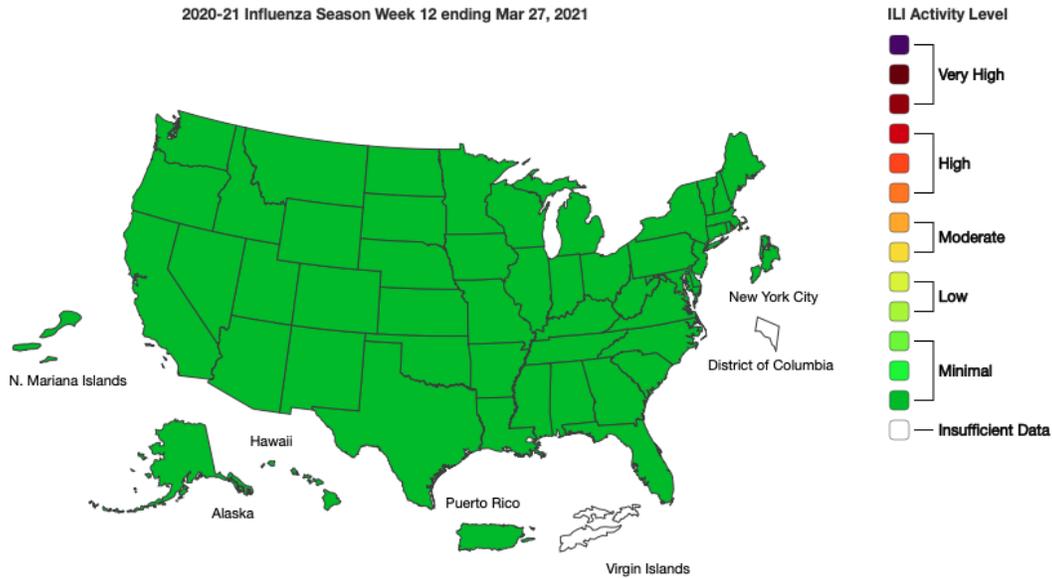
Weekly Flu News

Our Weekly Flu News publication will go on hiatus starting next week, April 12, 2021 and will resume this fall at the beginning of the 2021 - 2022 flu season. In the interim, please stay up-to-date by following us on our social media channels.



CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report - Week 12 ending March 27, 2021; [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

- Seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains lower than usual for this time of year.
- 0.1% of specimens from clinical laboratories tested positive for influenza this week.
- 0.9% of visits to a health care provider were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI remains below the national baseline of 2.6%.
- Current cumulative hospitalization rate is 0.7 per 100,000 population.
- 11.4% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 12. A total of one influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-2021 season has been reported to CDC.



Sharp Decline in Flu and Colds Has Experts Wondering if Masks Will Stick Around After Pandemic Ends; [People](#)

As the COVID-19 pandemic raged in the U.S., masks became key to reducing the virus' spread. But they did more than just prevent people from getting or spreading COVID-19 — they also appear to be the reason why cases of the flu, cold and other respiratory diseases are down significantly in the last year. And as a post-pandemic future becomes more clear with the vaccine rollout well underway, health experts are wondering if masks will stick around in the U.S. after COVID-19 is finally in the rear view. Recent studies and data have shown that respiratory illnesses in children have sharply declined over the last year, when most kids either did virtual learning at home or were required to wear masks at school. A study published in the Journal of Hospital Medicine in March looked at the number of pediatric patients hospitalized for respiratory illnesses in 44 children's hospitals across the U.S., and found that it had declined by 62% this year.



Universal flu vaccine pioneer EnGen Bio announces a registered equity crowdfunding campaign, in partnership with WeFunder; [PRNewswire](#)

EnGen Bio is an early stage biotechnology company developing a new approach to preventing and treating all Type A influenza strains—including all flu pandemics. Seasonal flu causes 50,000–250,000 deaths worldwide annually,

causing the World Health Organization to declare the development of a universal flu vaccine as an urgent need in its Global Influenza Strategy (2019–2030) report. The unique genetic nature of the influenza virus poses a challenge to researchers focused on influenza treatment and vaccination. To address the problem, EnGen Bio is developing universal vaccines for Type A flu prevention in both the \$6B human and \$0.5B veterinary markets, as well as an antibody flu treatment with a potential \$2B market.



Repurposed Heart and Flu Drugs May Help Body Fight Sepsis; [UC San Diego Health](#)

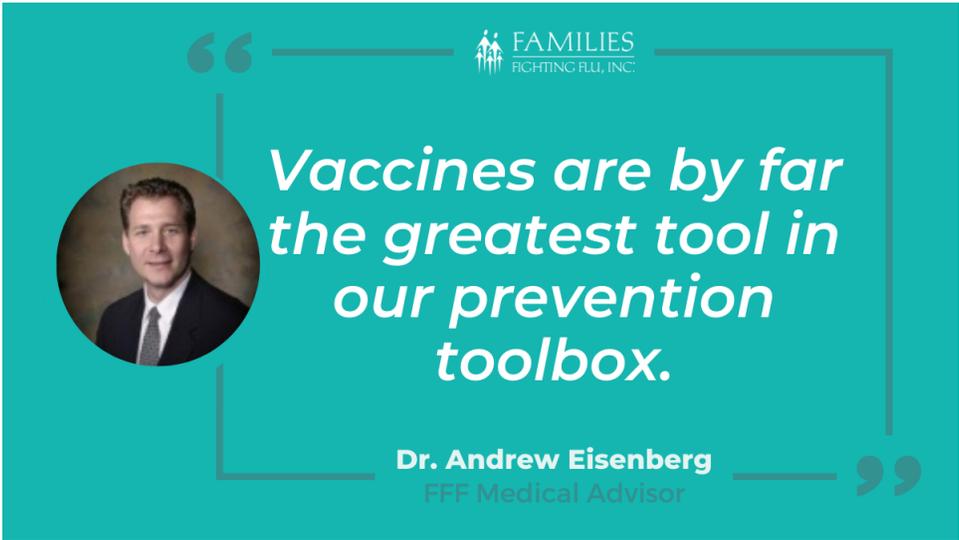
Despite continued improvements in antibiotics and hospital intensive care, staph sepsis — a bloodstream infection caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria — still causes severe illness or death in 20 to 30 percent of patients who contract it. Rather than continue to throw more antibiotics at the problem, University of California San Diego researchers want to boost the other side of the equation: the patient’s own immune system. The team recently discovered a battle that occurs between staph bacteria and platelets — blood cells known better for their role in clotting than in immune defense. In some sepsis cases, they found, the bacteria win out and platelet levels plummet. Patients with fewer platelets were more likely to die of staph sepsis than patients with higher platelet counts.

The researchers also determined that two currently available prescription medications, approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for other uses, protect platelets and improve survival in mouse models of staph sepsis. The two repurposed drugs were ticagrelor (Brilinta), a blood thinner commonly prescribed to prevent heart attack recurrence, and oseltamivir (Tamiflu), prescribed to treat the flu.

Updates & Announcements

New Guest Blog Post from InFLUencer Dr. Eisenberg

In our latest blog post, Families Fighting Flu medical advisor, [Dr. Andrew Eisenberg](#), discusses how vaccines have saved more lives than any other health invention besides clean water.







***Vaccines are by far
the greatest tool in
our prevention
toolbox.***

Dr. Andrew Eisenberg
 FFF Medical Advisor

Looking for Ways to Get Involved?

There are many ways to get involved with the Families Fighting Flu organization. You can promote flu awareness, fundraise, distribute educational materials, and even get your kids involved! Check out some ways to engage [here](#) and consider becoming a [Flu Champion](#) in your community!



Get vaccinated!
**It's the best way
to prevent the flu.**



WWW.FAMILIESFIGHTINGFLU.ORG

Our Contact Information

- *{{Organization Name}}*
- *{{Organization Address}}*
- *{{Organization Phone}}*
- *{{Organization Website}}*

- *{{Unsubscribe}}*



FAMILIESFIGHTINGFLU.ORG

DONATE

Support Families Fighting Flu

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com



 **amazonsmile**