



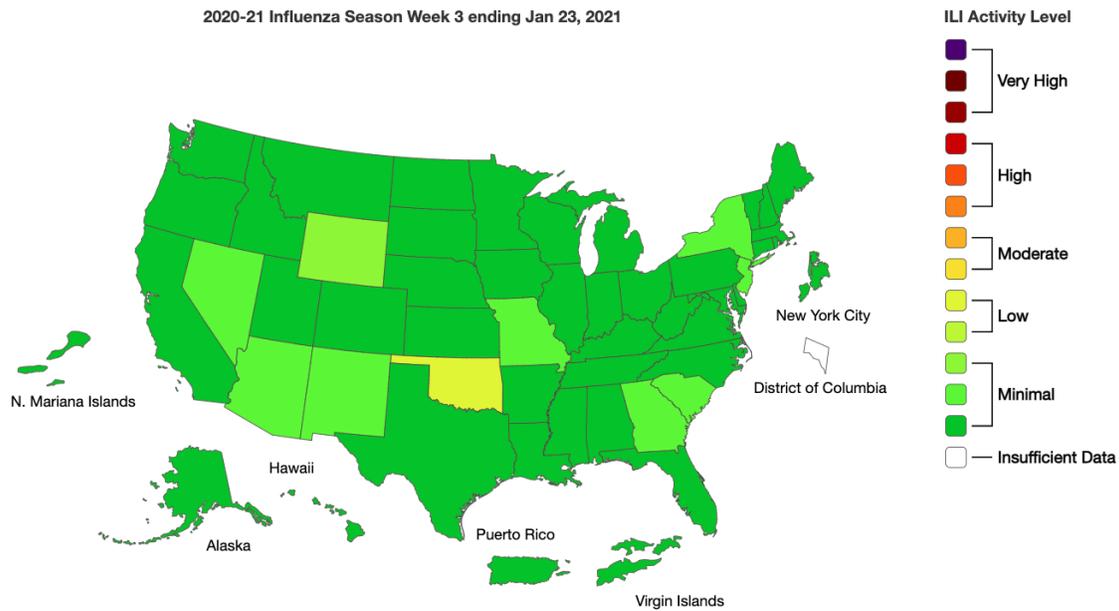
Weekly Flu News



CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report - Week 3, ending January 23, 2021; [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

- Seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains lower than usual for this time of year.
- The first novel influenza A virus infection of the 2020-2021 season was reported this week.
- 0.3% of specimens from clinical laboratories tested positive for influenza this week.
- 1.3% of visits to a health care provider were for influenza-like illness (ILI). ILI remains below the national baseline of 2.6%.
- A total of 142 laboratory-confirmed influenza-associated hospitalizations occurring between October 1, 2020, and January 23, 2021, were reported for an overall cumulative hospitalization rate of 0.5 per 100,000 population.
- 14.8% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 3. A total of one influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-2021 season has been reported to CDC.

2020-21 Influenza Season Week 3 ending Jan 23, 2021



Flu activity is 'unusually low' in the US: Can we keep it going in future years? [TODAY](#)

In a typical year, rising flu cases would be dominating the headlines in January. Not in 2021. The change is not surprising since the flu virus spreads through respiratory droplets, similar to the new coronavirus, and people are wearing masks, social distancing and paying attention to hand hygiene to avoid COVID-19.

Kids are typically the main spreaders of COVID-19. They are very contagious because they make more influenza virus than adults and they shed it for longer periods of time. But during the coronavirus epidemic, many children are either learning from home, or wearing masks and social distancing at school.

In case flu activity picks up in the coming weeks, get a flu vaccine now!



Physicians Should Encourage Age-Appropriate Influenza Vaccination; [HCP Live](#)

Researchers examined family physicians' and general internal medicine physicians' perceptions, knowledge, and practices for use of the 2 influenzas types during the 2016-2017 and 2018-2019 influenza seasons. "Many physicians

incorrectly thought ACIP had preferential recommendations for HD-IIV,” the authors wrote. “Physicians should be encouraged to use any available age-appropriate influenza vaccine to optimize influenza vaccination particularly among older adults and patients with chronic conditions who are more vulnerable to severe influenza disease.”

[Use of High-Dose Influenza and Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccines by US Primary Care Physicians](#),” was published online in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.



FAQs: Is the Flu Vaccine Safe?; [Insights on Influenza](#)

Many members of our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) communities have questions about vaccine safety. Safety is the number one focus in making vaccines. The [CDC](#) and the [FDA](#) continuously monitor the safety of all vaccines, and new vaccines must go through a series of research and clinical trials before they are deemed safe and effective for the general public.



History suggests we may forget the pandemic sooner than we think; [The Guardian](#)

One day this will all be over. That’s hard to believe now, when even this month seems interminable, the January that refused to end. But one day, not soon perhaps, we will speak of the pandemic in the past tense. When that time comes, how will we remember the plague that visited death upon us?

History suggests we may not remember it. The first world war killed some 17 million people, but the “Spanish” flu that struck in 1918 infected one in three people on the planet – a total of 500 million – leaving between 50 million and 100 million dead. The number of dead was so much greater and yet, as the leading historian of that pandemic, Laura Spinney, writes, “there is no cenotaph, no monument in London, Moscow or Washington DC” for any of them. The great writers of the age, the Hemingways and Fitzgeralds, all but ignored the plague that had descended.

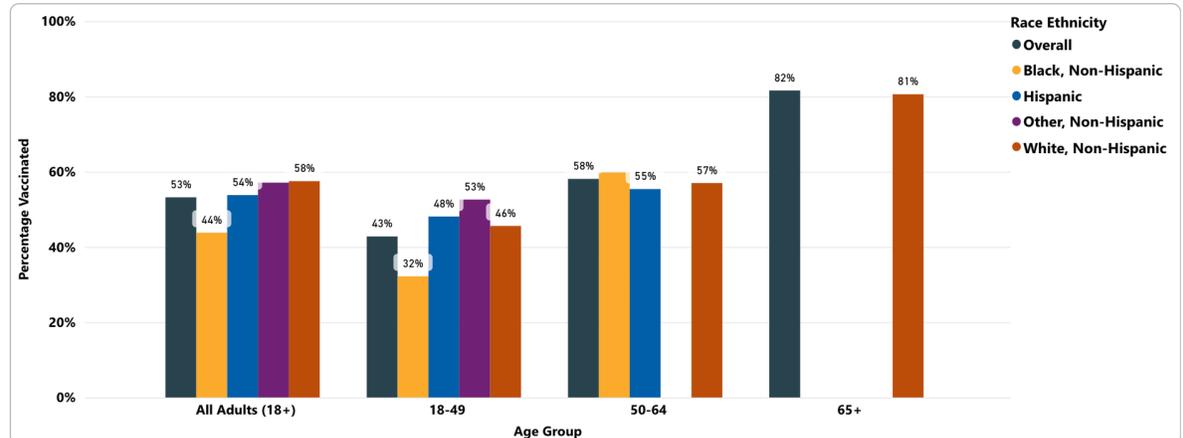


Weekly National Flu Vaccination Dashboard; [CDC](#)

CDC's Immunization Services Division (ISD) has developed this new Weekly National Influenza Vaccination Dashboard to share some preliminary, within-season, weekly influenza vaccination data and coverage estimates using existing and new data sources. Highlights include:

The latest data from CDC sponsored biweekly questions about influenza vaccination, from the [NORC AmeriSpeak Omnibus](#) survey fielded January 14-19, 2021, indicate that:

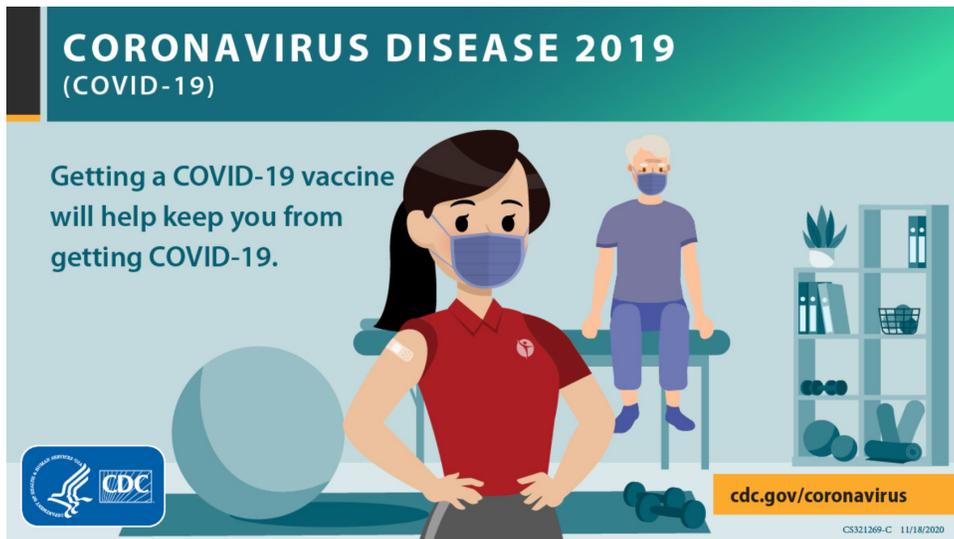
- 53% of all adults had received flu vaccine. These estimates are higher than the previous season's (2019-2020) coverage estimates for adults, which were 45% by the end of January 2020 and 48% by the end of May 2020.
- Coverage increased with age, from 41% for people ages 18-49, to 54% for people ages 50-64, and 82% for people age ≥65 years.
- Coverage was lower among non-Hispanic Black adults compared to non-Hispanic White adults (38% vs. 58%).



Updates & Announcements

CDC COVID-19 One-Stop Shop Toolkits

CDC recently launched toolkits to discuss COVID-19 with people experiencing homelessness, pregnant people, K-12 schools, faith-based organizations, and more. Find the tools you need to successfully communicate with your audience [here](#).



NEW Educational Comic Books

Families Fighting Flu, in collaboration with **Sanofi Pasteur** and the **National Association for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners** is excited to announce two new flu educational materials. These comic books that feature our family stories are available for immediate download to learn about [flu in children](#) and [flu in adolescents](#).



CDC Announces New Flu ChatBot

The CDC has worked with Microsoft to launch a new interactive feature on their website called the Flu ChatBot that answers common questions about flu and flu vaccines. It's currently in the pilot phase and the goal is to help users get flu-related information from CDC's website quickly and easily. Check it out [here](#)!

2 Protects 2 Educational Program Increases Awareness of Maternal Vaccines

[2 Protects 2](#) is a collaborative educational program between Families Fighting Flu and the **Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern New Jersey** aimed at increasing public awareness about the importance of influenza (flu) and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccinations for pregnant women, especially among African American and Latina populations. Download and share our educational materials and social media graphics, available in both English and Spanish!

Healthcare professionals recommend two vaccines during pregnancy.

1ST TRIMESTER 2ND TRIMESTER 3RD TRIMESTER

FLU vaccines can be given during any trimester on a yearly basis

WHOOPIING COUGH vaccines should be given during every pregnancy between 27 - 36 weeks







Social Media Graphics for Immediate Download

Looking to promote flu awareness on your social media channels? Check out our suite of social media graphics on general flu prevention, flu complications, COVID-19, and more [here!](#) Immediately download any of our graphics for use on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Blake was a healthy 16-year-old who suddenly passed away from what initially seemed to be a typical virus.



His parents did not know that healthy children can die from the flu until it happened to them.

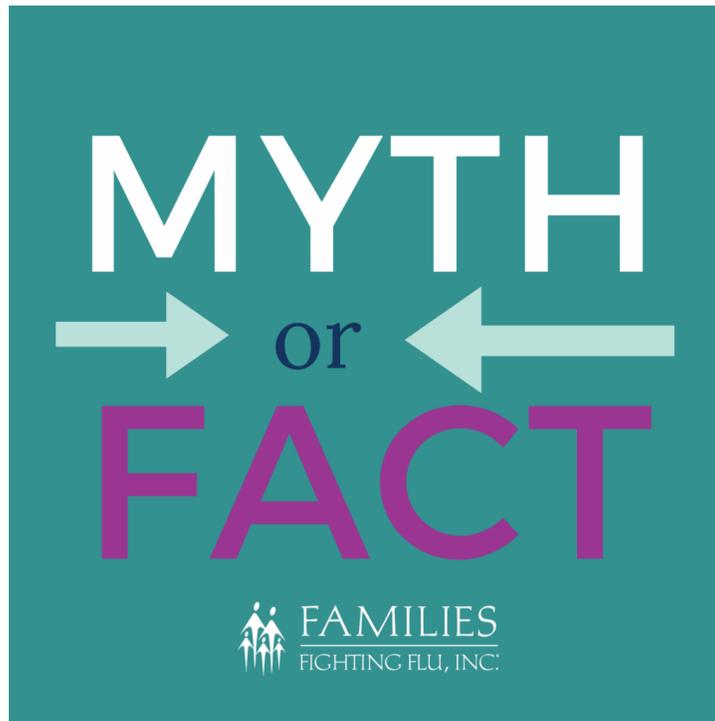
 **The flu can be deadly.**
Learn the warning signs and get vaccinated every year.



FAMILIES
 FIGHTING FLU, INC.

Insights on Influenza Blog Highlights Key Information

Our blog features a variety of flu-related topics, such as flu news & surveillance, science & research, expert commentary, and advocacy. Our newest blog discusses FAQs about COVID-19 and flu. We publish a new blog every two weeks so bookmark this [webpage](#) to stay up to date!



Families Fighting Flu's Spanish Translated Resources

Take advantage of our new Spanish educational materials! Visit our website to view and download our [Spanish educational materials](#) today.

A purple infographic with a dark purple header bar containing the text 'LA GRIPE EN LOS NEGOCIOS' in white. In the top right corner is the 'FAMILIES FIGHTING FLU, INC.' logo. On the left is a white icon of a calendar with a cross in a circle above it. To the right of the icon, the text reads: 'En los EE. UU., la gripe causa hasta' followed by '810,000 hospitalizaciones al año' in large white font. Below that, it says 'Eso es más que la población de Seattle.' with a horizontal line underneath.

Become a Flu Champion

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Are you interested in flu education and advocacy? Become a [Flu Champion](#) to help inform others about the seriousness of flu and the importance of flu prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.



Our Contact Information

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