

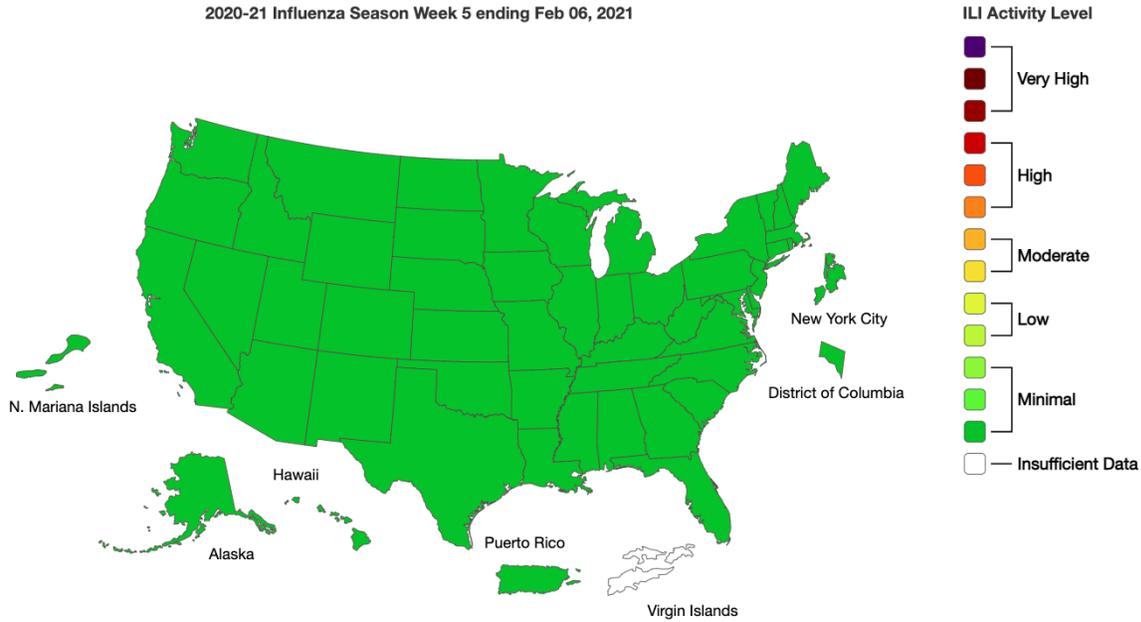


Weekly Flu News



CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report - Week 5, ending February 6, 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.
- 1.1% 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 165 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.
- 25% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 5. A total of one influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-2021 season has been reported to CDC.



We wiped out the flu this year. Could we do it again? [Vox](#)

The sum of all our mask-wearing, distancing, business closures, and other, however imperfect, precautions haven't been enough to stop the Covid-19 pandemic in its tracks. But there's a silver lining: It has been enough to virtually wipe out the flu this season.

The warning: Since people aren't getting the flu this year, that means more people will be susceptible to catching it next year. Kids are especially vulnerable to catching the flu, and next year there will be more children than ever who have never gotten the flu in their lives. This will also make them more likely to spread it. Some adults might also be more vulnerable to get sick with the flu next year. Immunological memory of the virus fades over time, and by the time the next flu season begins, it will have been a year since many adults last received a flu shot.



Where Did The Flu Go? Homebound Kids Shape A Mild Season; [NPR](#)

Over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, as schools went virtual and children interacted less, the chances of spreading the flu narrowed. "Children are generally thought of as having the distribution franchise for the influenza

virus," Dr. William Schaffner, infectious disease specialist at Vanderbilt University, said in an interview with Weekend Edition. "They produce much more virus, they shed more virus for longer periods of time."



COVID-19 could become a seasonal illness like the flu, experts say; [ABC](#)

It is possible, experts say, that COVID-19 could become a seasonal illness, like the flu. Virologists call this an "endemic" disease -- one that is constantly circulating among us. In the years and decades to come, many people will be exposed to it in childhood and develop some immunity, which would protect them later in life against serious disease.

Although experts said it's impossible to predict the future, they agreed that the virus that causes COVID-19 is unlikely to be completely eradicated by current vaccines and prevention measures. Rather, it will likely transform into a milder illness that can be managed seasonally, like the annual flu.



Next flu season could be extra weird, and potentially very bad; [LiveScience](#)

Experts predict that this respite from seasonal viruses like flu may leave us vulnerable, since fewer people will be exposed and gain immunity to the circulating strains. Children with no prior exposure to the viruses will be born, as usual, but fewer will encounter the viruses than would in an average year. At the same time, the immunity in previously exposed adults will begin to wane. That means future outbreaks could be severe — and may come at weird or unexpected times, experts are warning.



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

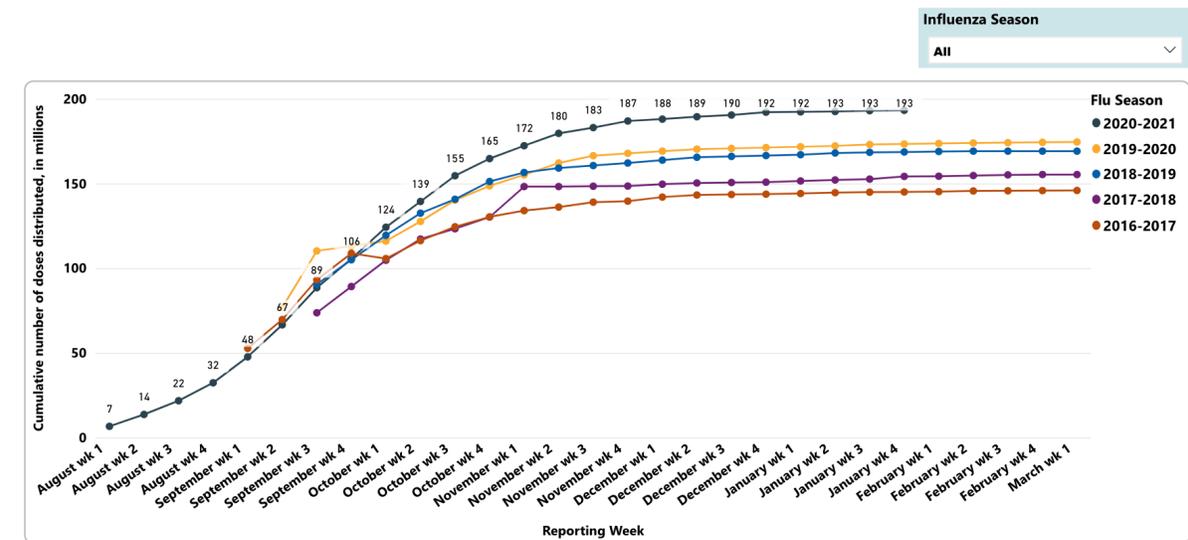
CDC's Immunization Services Division (ISD) has developed this new Weekly National Influenza Vaccination Dashboard, an exploratory data product, in order to share some preliminary, within-season, weekly influenza vaccination data and coverage estimates using existing and new data sources.

- As of January 15, 2021, 193.2 million doses of flu vaccine have been distributed in the United States. This is the highest number of flu doses distributed in the United States during a single influenza season.
- Flu vaccination coverage among adults is higher at this time during the current season than during prior seasons, indicating that more than half of adults had been vaccinated by late January.

Figure 1. Weekly Cumulative Doses (in Millions) of Influenza Vaccines Distributed,* United States, 2016-2021

Data Source: CDC

Data are current through week ending January 15, 2021



Updates & Announcements

Happy Presidents' Day!

Thank you to our past Presidents who have pledged to take two in the arm! The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. Mask Up. Sleeve Up. Happy Presidents' Day!



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](#).

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!



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.



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. 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.

LA GRIPE EN LOS NEGOCIOS



En los EE. UU., la gripe causa hasta

61,000 muertes al año

¡Eso es suficiente para llenar un estadio de fútbol!

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.



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