

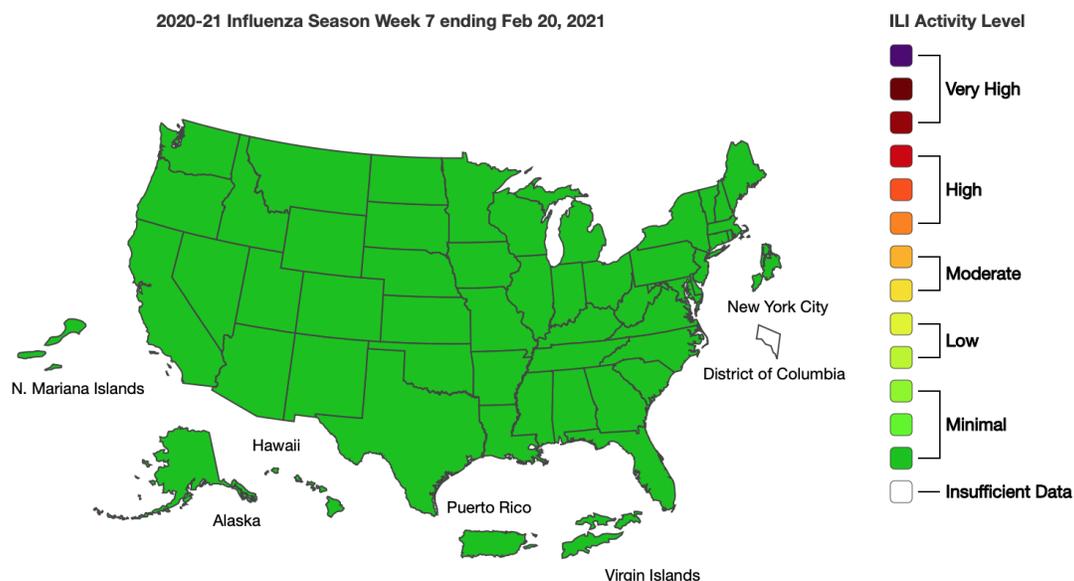


Weekly Flu News



CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report - Week 7 ending February 20, 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.
- 1.0% 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 0.6 per 100,000 population.
- 19.3% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 7. A total of one influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-2021 season has been reported to CDC.





A welcome casualty, for once, of the COVID-19 pandemic: flu; [Los Angeles Times](#)

February is usually the peak of flu season, with doctors' offices and hospitals packed with suffering patients. But not this year. Flu has virtually disappeared from the U.S., with reports coming in at far lower levels than anything seen in decades. Experts say that measures put in place to fend off the coronavirus — mask-wearing, social distancing and virtual schooling — were a big factor in preventing a feared "twindemic" of flu and COVID-19. A push to get more people vaccinated against flu probably helped, too, as did fewer people traveling, they say.



CDC reports low flu activity, racial disparity in pediatric vaccination; [AAP News](#)

Flu infections have been unusually low this season during the COVID-19 pandemic, and one child has died compared to more than 100 at this time last year. The numbers are so low the CDC could not provide an estimate of vaccine effectiveness it usually releases at this time of year. However, Dr. Grohskopf presented data to the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices on Thursday showing the racial disparity in children receiving flu vaccines. Coverage was 58% for White children, 53% for Hispanic children, 44% for Black children and 58% for other non-Hispanic races as of Jan. 16. Overall, about 55% of all children were vaccinated compared to 56.5% at the same time last year.



Flu shot reminders do not increase uptake among general practice residents; [Healio](#)

A nudge intended to remind general practice residents to receive an influenza vaccine, though deemed "acceptable," did not increase uptake, according to researchers. "These data highlight the importance of choosing the right nudge for the right population," the researchers concluded. "Despite nudges' growing popularity, they are not necessarily effective, which stress the importance for policymakers to match an intervention to the population's needs."



Recommended composition of influenza virus vaccines for use in the 2021 - 2022 northern hemisphere influenza season; [World Health Organization](#)

Public health and laboratory responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, initially led to reduced influenza surveillance and/or reporting activities in many countries, which have been improving. Additionally, COVID-19 mitigation strategies including restrictions on travel, use of respiratory protection, and social-distancing measures in most countries have contributed to decreased influenza activity. Overall, record-low levels of influenza detections were reported and fewer viruses were available for characterization during the September 2020 to January 2021 time period than in previous years. This recommendation relates to the influenza vaccines for use in the northern hemisphere 2021-2022 influenza season.



Cardiologists Should Prioritize Influenza Vaccination Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic; [Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiology](#)

Each year in the U.S., influenza is responsible for millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and tens of thousands of deaths. Patients with heart disease face an increased risk for serious influenza-related complications. During the 2019-2020 influenza season, 92.6 percent of patients hospitalized for influenza complications had at least one underlying chronic health condition. The most common (47 percent) was heart disease, which affects more than 30 million U.S. adults.

Updates & Announcements

ICYMI: Families Fighting Flu Webinars on Influenza

Last week, we held two webinars on *What's New in Flu? Emerging Evidence in Management and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis*.

Session 1: Influenza: Acting Beyond Treatment to Protect Everyone

Session 2: Influenza in the COVID-19 Era When Effective Treatment and Post-exposure Prophylaxis Matter

Join expert clinicians, Jeb Teichman, MD and Andrew Eisenberg, MD, along with Serese Marotta from Families Fighting Flu, for two educational sessions on the diagnostic requirements for initiating antivirals, the guidelines for

treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, and emerging evidence and approvals in influenza treatments and post-exposure prophylaxis. This complimentary, accredited activity is intended for pediatricians, family medicine/internal medicine physicians, pharmacists, NPs, and PAs. View these webinars on demand [here](#).



Families Fighting Flu Welcomes New Medical Advisor, Dr. Jeb Teichman

Dr. Teichman spent a majority of his career as a pediatrician before transitioning to managed care. He currently is the Chief Medical Officer for United Healthcare Community Plan of Kentucky. Dr. Teichman understands the toll of flu not just from his work over the years with children and families, and now on the burden to our healthcare system, but from a deeply personal perspective. Dr. Teichman's 29-year-old son [Brent](#) died from the flu in 2019. Read more about Dr. Teichman in one of our recent [blog posts](#).



Vaccinate Your Family Releases 2021 State of the Immunization Report

This report looks at the federal policies we need to protect our country against deadly vaccine-preventable diseases. Chronic underfunding and neglect of our public health infrastructure left us at a serious disadvantage when COVID-19 hit. Please help us save lives from COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable diseases by sharing this new report with your Members of Congress. Access the report [here](#).



Educational Comic Books for Children and Adolescents

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 Highlights Maternal Vaccinations for Flu and Tdap

[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!

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

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