

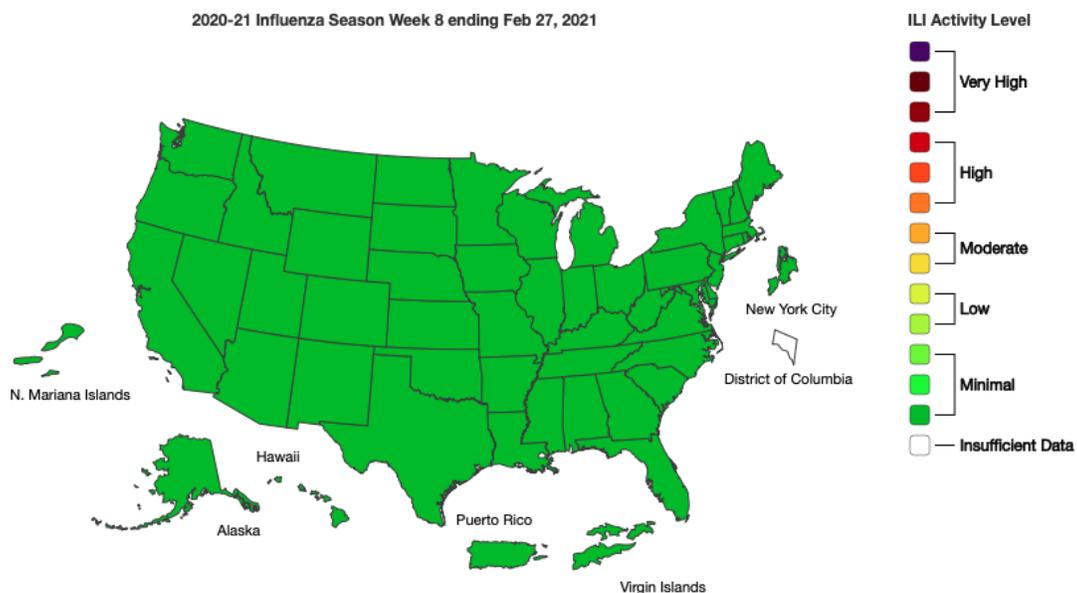


Weekly Flu News



CDC: Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report - Week 8 ending February 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.
- 16.4% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia, influenza, or COVID-19.
- No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to CDC during week 8. A total of one influenza-associated pediatric death occurring during the 2020-2021 season has been reported to CDC.





4 former surgeons general join call for 'National Vaccine Day'; [ABC News](#)

Four former surgeons general are joining a campaign calling for a National Vaccine Day to "focus our nation's attention on the importance of vaccination." In a letter exclusively obtained by ABC News, the doctors call on President Joe Biden to consider enacting the one-time federal holiday, which they say could feature telethons, radio messages and social media posts about the COVID-19 vaccines as well as widely available "opportunities for vaccination."

Families Fighting Flu is proud to be a sponsoring institution for the National Vaccine Day effort, working with 1Day Sooner, a vaccine policy non-profit organization.



The flu killed nearly 200 children last season. This time, 1 has died; [The Washington Post](#)

In the shadow of the past year's coronavirus surge came a less noticeable, but more positive infectious-disease trend: Influenza and other common viruses have nearly disappeared. The flu is circulating at such low levels that officials know of only one child in the United States who has died of it this flu season, a striking deviation from the dozens of pediatric deaths in other recent years. This season's death toll is a marked decline from the 2019-2020 flu season, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 195 children died of the flu. While influenza typically keeps circulating in March and April, experts say a combination of coronavirus precautions and existing immunity has so far nearly eradicated infection levels and, by extension, deaths.



FDA Expands Pediatric Indication for Cell-Based Quadrivalent Flu Vaccine; [HCPLive](#)

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a cell-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVc; FLUCELVAX QUADRIVALENT) for individuals ≥ 2 years of age. Granted to Seqirus, the approval expands use from previous indication of ≥ 4 years of age. The approval was based on efficacy data that showed the QIVc was effective

in producing a sufficient immune response against seasonal influenza in pediatric patients ≥ 2 to <18 of age—as compared with a non-influenza agent.



Researchers Make Headway on Universal Flu Vaccine Candidate; [BioSpace](#)

A recent study published in *Science Translational Medicine* shows that a new flu vaccine appears to protect monkeys against influenza strains that are likely to cause a global pandemic, giving researchers hope that this vaccine could hold the key to providing a future universal flu vaccine for humans. In the new study, researchers added an adjuvant to a flu vaccine to increase the immune system response to the shot among nonhuman primates. Monkeys' immune systems are similar to humans', which is likely why the vaccine worked well in the primates compared with mice or ferrets, two animal models featured in the researchers' prior work. When the monkeys received the vaccine, they produced a high number of neutralizing antibodies to several different dangerous influenza strains.



Survey Shows Flu Vaccination This Season Likely Highest Ever; [Pharmacy Times](#)

According to findings from a December 2020 national survey, more US adults reported receiving or planning to receive an influenza vaccination during the 2020-2021 flu season than ever before. Conducted by the University of Georgia (UGA), the survey of 1027 adults found that 43.5% of respondents reported having already received a flu vaccination, with an additional 13.5% stating they "definitely will get one" and 9.3% stating they "probably will get one." Combined, 66.3% have received or intended to receive influenza vaccination, according to the press release. In comparison, 48.4% of adults 18 years of age and older received the vaccine during the 2019-2020 flu season, which is an increase of 3.1% points from 2018-2019, according to the CDC.

Updates & Announcements

Families Fighting Flu CME Webinars on Influenza

We're offering two on-demand 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](#).



Guest Blog Post from Clorox Spokesperson and ER Physician, Dr. Gillespie

In this [blog post](#), Dr. Darria Long Gillespie shares tips and best practices for preventing flu and COVID-19, such as the importance of annual flu vaccination, maintaining regular healthy habits, and staying up-to-date on routine medical appointments.



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](#).

Learn how flu affects children.

Caroline's story: Having the Flu
Why You Don't Want to Skip the Flu Vaccine

Download

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!

¡Protéjase usted y a su bebé de la tos ferina y la gripe!

¡La protección para su bebé puede comenzar en el embarazo! Las vacunas le transmiten anticuerpos para que esté sano.

FAMILIES FIGHTING FLU, INC. Partnership for Maternal & Child Health of Northern New Jersey

Our Contact Information

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