

# EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

## INFLUENZA OUTBREAK AMONG RESIDENTS AND STAFF OF AN ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, 2018

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*Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology*

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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide the scientific community, decision makers, healthcare providers, and the public a summary of the outbreak investigations conducted by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

### BACKGROUND

On January 2, 2018, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology (OPHIE) was informed of an outbreak of influenza among residents of Facility "A." The increase in illness was first identified by staff of the facility on December 28, 2017. Initial symptomology of the ill residents included cough, nasal congestion, sore throat, and malaise. The outbreak investigation began on January 2, 2018.

### CASE DEFINITIONS

**Clinical criteria** An influenza-like illness, which is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F [37.8°C] or greater) and a cough and/or a sore throat without a known cause other than influenza between December 25, 2017 to December 30, 2017.

**Epidemiological criteria** Any residents or staff members associated with Facility "A" and their ill contacts identified through investigations.

**Laboratory criteria** Any laboratory confirmation by PCR or other method from a human specimen for influenza.

#### Case classification

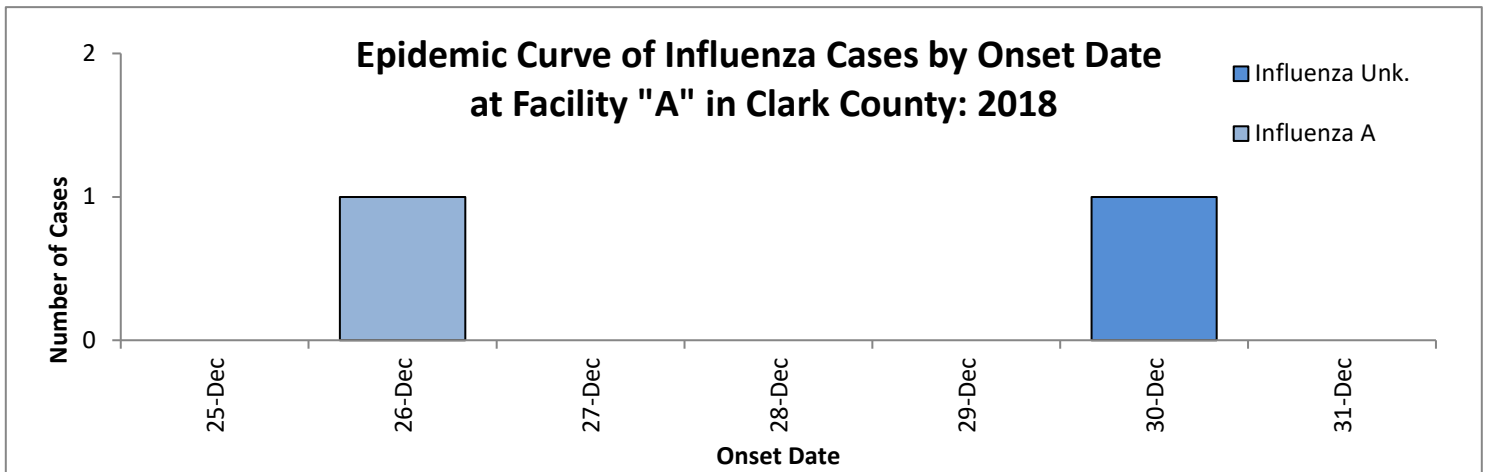
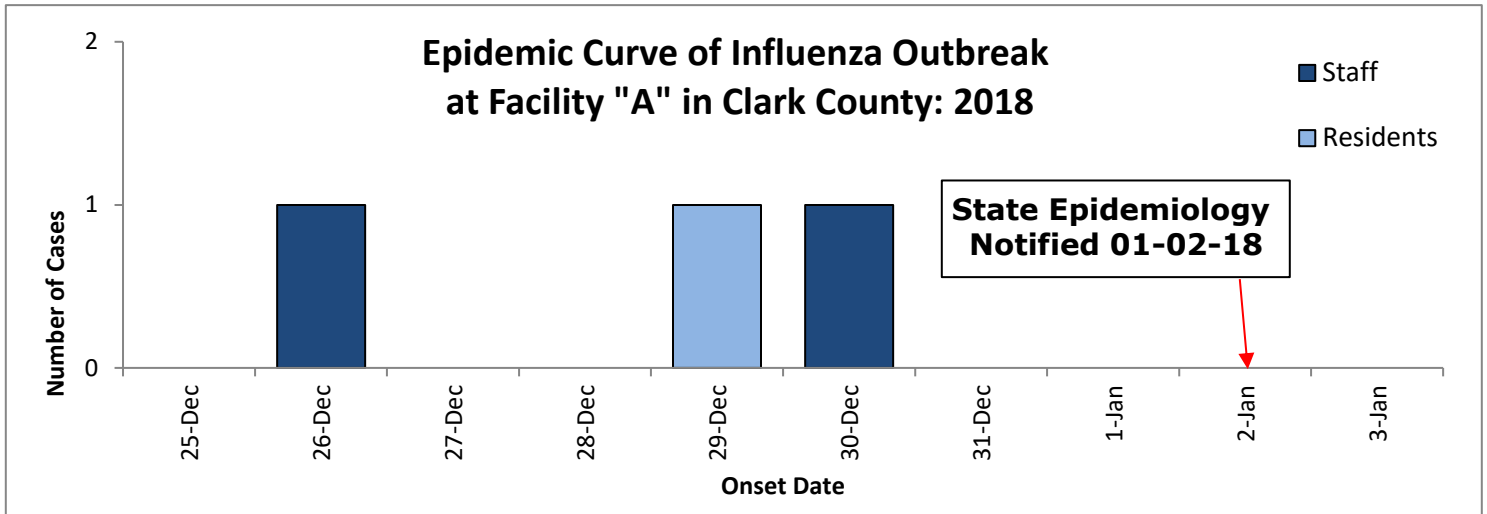
**Confirmed case** A case meeting clinical, epidemiological, and laboratory criteria.

**Probable case** A case meeting clinical and epidemiological criteria without laboratory confirmation.

### Epidemiology

#### Onset Date

There was no peak illness onset date of cases.



## Epidemiology

A total of three cases met the confirmed and probable case definition (two lab-confirmed and one probable). Zero (0) residents were hospitalized and zero (0) deaths associated with this outbreak. The resident attack rate was 1% (n=96) and the staff attack rate 4.8% (n=42).

*Age-* The median age was 55 (range: 20 – 84 years).

Age	n	Total N	%
20-49 years	1	3	33.3%
50-74 years	1	3	33.3%
> = 75	1	3	33.3%

*Sex-* Male 0 (0%), Female 3 (100%)

*Incubation period-* The incubation period for influenza is 1-4 days.

*Duration of illness-* The average duration of illness was approximately eleven days (range four – seventeen days).

## Clinical symptoms-

Symptoms	n	Total N	%
Chills	1	3	33%
Congestion	2	3	67%
Cough	3	3	100%
Headache	2	3	67%
Malaise/Body Aches	1	3	33%
Nausea	1	3	33%
Vomiting	1	3	33%

## Laboratory

A total of two specimens were tested, and both were positive for influenza. One was positive for influenza A, the other was confirmed influenza unknown via a doctor's note.

## Data Sources

Health Clinic Visit Data. (electronic)  
Residents who had complaints consistent with respiratory illness. (line listing form)

Staff who call in with complaints consistent with respiratory illness. (line listing form)

## CONCLUSIONS

The last onset date occurred on December 30, 2017. The outbreak was declared over on January 16, 2018 because the facility went two full incubation periods without a new case.

### Mitigation

After lab results confirmed that the cause of the outbreak was influenza which has an incubation period of one to four days, DPBH reiterated the importance of continued outbreak control measures in order to interrupt further transmission. The facility continued their own mitigation efforts as well.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

To prevent influenza outbreaks in healthcare settings, the following public health measures are recommended:

- Remind residents, staff, and visitors of proper hand hygiene and cough etiquette in compliance with CDC/WHO guidelines.
- Clean and disinfect equipment and environment with an agent approved to kill the influenza virus.
- Educate healthcare workers, housekeepers, administration staff, residents, and families on influenza.
- Isolate residents and exclude from work any staff members who have symptoms consistent with influenza<sup>1</sup>.
- Immediately notify infection control about positive laboratory results.

## REFERENCES

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings: Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. January 9, 2013. Retrieved February 2, 2015, from: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/healthcaresettings.htm>

For additional information regarding this publication, contact:

**Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology**  
4126 Technology Way, Ste 200  
Carson City NV 89706  
Email: [outbreak@health.nv.gov](mailto:outbreak@health.nv.gov)  
Tel: (775) 684-5911



Brian Sandoval  
Governor  
State of Nevada

Richard Whitley, MS  
Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Julie Kotchevar, PhD  
Interim Administrator  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Dr. Leon Ravin, MD  
Chief Medical Officer (Acting)  
Division of Public and Behavioral Health



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Jessica Conner, MPH; Brian Parrish, MPH; Kimisha Causey, MPH; Adrian Forero, BS; Chidinma Njoku, BS; Judy Dumonte; Sandi Larson, MPH; Melissa Peek-Bullock; Ihsan Azzam, MD, MPH.

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