

Steve Sisolak  
Governor



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# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



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## Technical Bulletin

**Date:** May 25, 2022

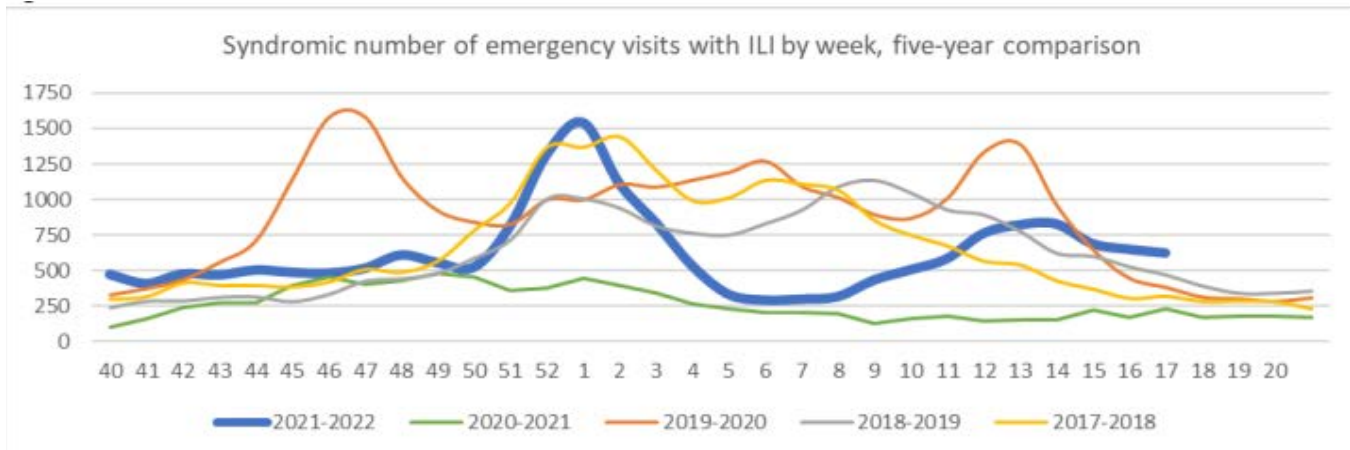
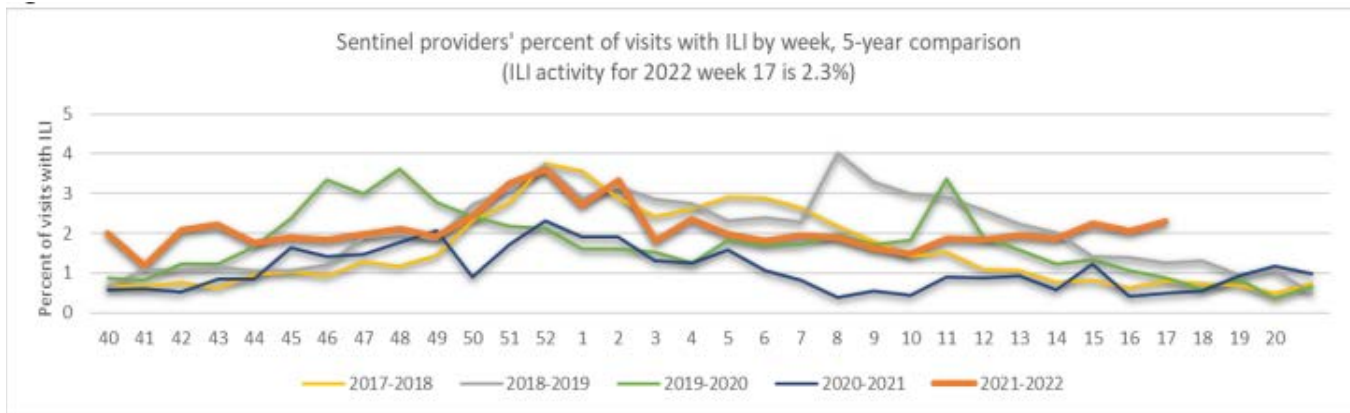
**Topic:** Extension of the Influenza Surveillance Season

**Contact:** Melissa Peek-Bullock, State Epidemiologist, Office of State Epidemiology

**To:** Influenza Sentinel Surveillance Providers, Hospitals and Health Care Personnel

### Background:

The 2021-2022 influenza surveillance season began on October 3, 2021, and was set to end on May 21, 2022. However, results of the current influenza surveillance efforts have shown that Nevada, along with the nation, is experiencing higher case rates, influenza-like illness rates and hospitalization rates than what are typically expected during this time of the year. The 2020-2021 influenza surveillance season was historically low due to several layered mitigation measures that were implemented on a population scale to slow the spread of COVID-19. Many of these mitigation measures, such as masking, were still in effect during much of the 2021-2022 influenza season. Now that these population-scale mitigation measures are no longer in place, health officials are seeing a rise in influenza, and it is unclear how influenza rates and hospitalizations will trend moving into the summer months. Given this uncertainty along with the increasing trends, the current influenza surveillance season in Nevada will be extended through the summer months and into the 2022-2023 season, which will begin on October 2, 2022.



**Influenza Reporting:**

Current influenza sentinel providers are requested to continue to report influenza-like illness data weekly throughout the summer and should continue to work with their local health authority on any influenza-related issues.

All providers are required to report influenza hospitalizations and pediatric influenza deaths year-round in accordance with NAC 441A.575.<sup>1</sup>

**Intervention Recommendations:**

An annual influenza vaccine is the best way to protect against becoming sick with influenza. Vaccination can prevent severe health outcomes in people who get vaccinated but still get sick. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to recommend that everyone ages six (6) months and older get an influenza vaccine as long as influenza activity continues.<sup>2</sup>

Influenza antiviral medications are available and can be prescribed to lessen symptoms and shorten the time a person is sick by one (1) to two (2) days. Antiviral medications can also prevent serious influenza complications, such as pneumonia. For people at higher risk of serious complications, treatment with antiviral medications can mean the difference between a milder or more severe illness possibly resulting in hospitalization. CDC recommends prompt treatment for people who have influenza or suspected influenza and who are at higher risk of serious complications.<sup>3</sup>

Those considered to be at higher risk include<sup>4</sup>:

- Adults 65 years and older
- Pregnant people
- Young children
- Children with neurological conditions
- People with disabilities
- Racial and ethnic minority groups
- Persons with chronic health conditions (asthma, heart disease and stroke, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, cancer or chronic kidney disease)

**Reporting:**

Influenza sentinel providers should continue to report weekly in the manner established with their local health authority. Providers reporting influenza hospitalizations or pediatric influenza deaths should report to their appropriate local health authority using the information on the following page. [The State of Nevada Confidential Morbidity Report Form is available online at this link.](#)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nac/nac-441a.html#NAC441ASec575>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/treatment/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/highrisk/index.htm>

Health Department	County	Reporting
Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)	Clark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report online by completing the <a href="#">Online Provider Disease Reporting Form linked here</a> (recommended).</li> <li>Complete and fax the <a href="#">State of Nevada Confidential Morbidity Report Form</a> to (702) 759-1414.</li> </ul>
Washoe County Health District (WCHD)	Washoe	(775)-328-2447 (24 hours) <a href="https://www.washoecounty.gov/health/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/disease-reporting.php">https://www.washoecounty.gov/health/programs-and-services/ephp/communicable-diseases-and-epidemiology/disease-reporting.php</a>
Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS)	Carson City, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey	(775)-887-2190 (M-F 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) (775)-887-2190 (after hours) <a href="https://gethealthycarsoncity.org/communicable-disease-reporting/">https://gethealthycarsoncity.org/communicable-disease-reporting/</a>
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)	All other Counties	(775)-684-5911 (M-F 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) (775) 400-0333 (after hours) <a href="https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/Public_Health_Informatics_and_Epidemiology_-_Home/">https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/Public_Health_Informatics_and_Epidemiology_-_Home/</a>

**Questions:**

For updated guidance, please review the [DPBH Technical Bulletin web page](#) and [Nevada Health Response website](#) regularly. Please email [stateepi@health.nv.gov](mailto:stateepi@health.nv.gov) for other questions regarding influenza surveillance. Weekly influenza surveillance reports can be found here: [https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/dta/Publications/OPHIE\\_-\\_Influenza\\_Weekly\\_Report/](https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/OPHIE/dta/Publications/OPHIE_-_Influenza_Weekly_Report/)



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