



Southern Nevada Weekly Influenza Surveillance Snapshot

CDC Week 41, October 6, 2019 to October 12, 2019

From October 6 – October 12, 2019 (week 41), the seasonal influenza activities remained low in the United States, in Nevada, and in Clark County. However, the proportion of emergency room and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) has been increasing signaling the influenza activity might increase in the coming weeks. For the season, as of 10/12/19, five influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported to SNHD. Influenza B was the dominant circulating type.

The best way to prevent influenza and its potentially serious complications is getting the influenza vaccine. Influenza vaccines are safe and can prevent influenza, influenza-associated hospitalizations and deaths. Influenza vaccination can also protect women during and after pregnancy. Getting vaccinated may protect people who are more vulnerable to serious influenza illness such as babies and older people around you. While some people who get vaccinated may still get sick, there is a growing amount of data showing that vaccination makes illness less severe, helping to prevent serious complications.

Anyone can get very sick from influenza, including healthcare personnel (HCP). HCP can get influenza from patients and coworkers who are sick with it, and then spread it to others. CDC, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) recommend that all HCP get vaccinated annually against influenza.

HCP include (but are not limited to) physicians, nurses, nursing assistants, therapists, technicians, emergency medical service personnel, dental personnel, pharmacists, laboratory personnel, autopsy personnel, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the health-care facility, and persons (e.g., clerical, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, security, maintenance, administrative, billing, and volunteers) not directly involved in patient care but potentially exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted to and from health care workers and patients.

In Nevada, no statute or regulation requires any hospital or medical facility to ensure that employees are vaccinated with influenza vaccine. However, the state does mandate hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other medical facilities to submit data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) concerning the influenza vaccination rate of the HCP of the facility. According to CDC, 2017–2018 season influenza vaccination coverage among HCP was 78.4% nationwide, similar to coverage during the 2016–17 season (78.6%). In Clark County, Nevada, per NHSN, the 2018 – 2019 season influenza vaccination rate of HCP was highest among HCP who were working in inpatient psychiatric facilities (82%) and lowest among those working in ambulatory surgery centers (50%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Influenza Vaccination Coverage Among Healthcare Personnel – Clark County, NV (2018-2019 Season)

Type of Healthcare Facilities	Percent of HP Received Flu Vaccines
Acute Care Hospitals (n = 21)	81%
Ambulatory Surgery Centers (n = 14)	50%
Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities (n = 8)	82%
Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (n = 11)	70%
Long Term Acute Care Hospitals (n = 7)	59%

If you have any questions on influenza or influenza surveillance, please contact OEDS at (702) 759-1300.

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