Sacramento County Public Health

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has confirmed a total of 129 influenza cases among all ages for the 2018-2019 season,* with 98 influenza-associated intensive care unit (ICU) admissions and 31 influenza-associated deaths. This is a 39.5% decrease among confirmed cases less than 65 years old compared to the previous season. Peaks occurred during Week 3 (ending 1/19/19) and Week 9 (ending 3/2/19) [Figure 2].

Figure 2. Incidence of Influenza-Associated Intensive Care Unit Hospitalizations and Deaths, Sacramento County, 2016-2019

*For the 2018-2019 season, influenza-associated ICU admissions and deaths of all ages were reportable in Sacramento County. Previously, only those less than 65 years old were reportable.
For the 2018-2019 season, all confirmed cases were influenza type A. Of the 49 (38.0%) that were subtyped, 36 (73.5%) were 2009 H1N1 and 13 (26.5%) were H3 [Figure 3]. The 2009 H1N1 strain predominated most of the season with the H3 strain predominating in the latter part of the season (data not shown). Persons younger than 65 years old accounted for a higher proportion (61.2%) of cases [Figure 4], which is consistent with influenza seasons in which 2009 H1N1 predominates. However, those 65 years and older still accounted for a higher percent of influenza-related deaths.

Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory

For the 2018-2019 season, Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory tested 71 specimens for influenza of which 36 (50.7%) were positive. All positive specimens were influenza type A [Figure 5]. Slightly more than half (55.6%) were subtype 2009 H1N1 and the rest (44.4%) were subtype H3, which predominated towards the end of the season.

Vaccination

CDC recommends annual influenza vaccination for everyone six months of age and older, with rare exceptions.\(^1\) In an interim report released by CDC in February, the overall effectiveness of the 2018-2019 influenza vaccine was estimated to be 47%.\(^2\) The effectiveness was higher (61.0%) for children six months to 17 years old. Vaccine effectiveness was estimated to be 46% against the influenza A 2009 H1N1 strain.

Resources/References

\(^1\) CDC – Influenza (Flu): [https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm)
\(^2\) CDC – Interim Estimates of the 2018-19 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness – United States, February 2019: [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6806a2.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6806a2.htm)
\(^3\) California Department of Public Health – Influenza (Flu): [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/Influenza.aspx)
\(^4\) SCPH – What You Need to Know About the Flu: [http://www.dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/What-You-Need-to-Know-About-the-Flu.aspx](http://www.dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/What-You-Need-to-Know-About-the-Flu.aspx)