

INFLUENZA, 2019–2020 SEASON

Influenza activity in the United States started during the 2019-2020 season began in November and was consistently high through January and February. The 2019–2020 influenza season was a moderate severity season with two consecutive waves of influenza activity, beginning with influenza B viruses followed by A(H1N1) pdm09 viruses. Overall, influenza A(H1N1) pdm09 viruses were the most commonly reported influenza viruses this season. Activity began to decline in March, perhaps associated with community prevention measures for COVID-19.

Lab Confirmed Influenza Cases (by DFA, PCR, or culture)		Influenza Associated Hospitalizations		Influenza Associated Deaths	
Age Group	# Cases (%)	# Hosp (%)	Deaths (%)		
0-4	2932 (20%)	55 (10%)	0	(0%)	
5-18	5560 (38%)	50 (9%)	1	(3%)	
19-49	4069 (28%)	120 (21%)	4	(12%)	
50-64	1354 (9%)	116 (21%)	7	(21%)	
> 64	859 (8%)	218 (39%)	21	(64%)	
Total	14,774	559	43		

In South Dakota, there were 14,774 confirmed influenza cases reported to SDDOH, including 6,995 A not subtyped (47%), 704 A(H1N1) pdm09 (5%), 22 (<1%) A(H3N2), and 7,053 Influenza B (48%). The number of laboratories using rapid confirmatory tests has increased, which may account for some of the increase in confirmed cases reported in the 2018–2019 influenza season. Additionally, 27,012 rapid antigen influenza tests were performed with 7,171 positive results (27%); 3,385 (47%) positive for influenza A and 3,786 (53%) positive for influenza B.

The first confirmed case of influenza was reported the first week of October 2019 and the last case reported early April 2020. The peak of the season was the third week in February 2020 with A and B Influenza viruses all circulating at the same time.

There were 559 influenza-associated hospitalizations and 33 influenza-associated deaths reported during the 2019–2020 influenza season.

