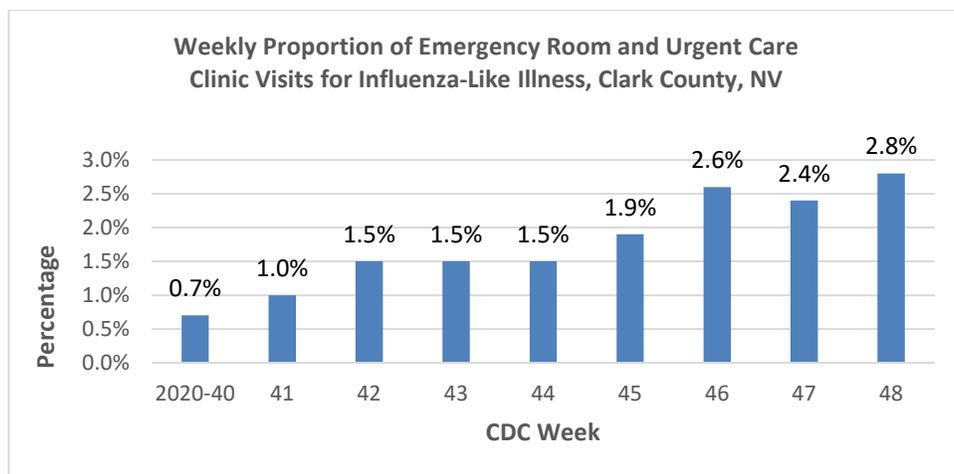




### Southern Nevada Weekly Influenza Surveillance Snapshot CDC Week 48, November 22, 2020 to November 28, 2020

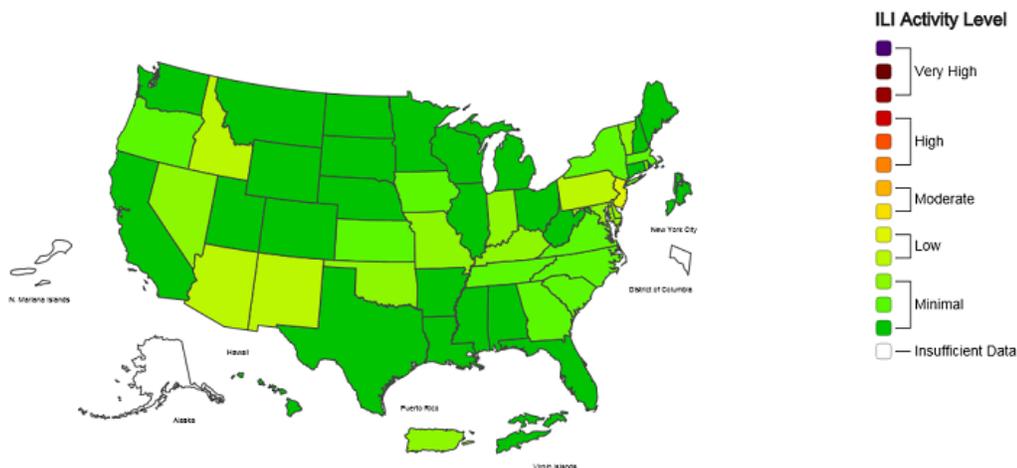
**Summary:** The Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) Office of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance (OEDS) began surveillance for the 2020–2021 influenza season on September 27, 2020 and will continue through May 22, 2021. Influenza surveillance for Clark County, Nevada includes data collected from local acute care hospitals and other healthcare providers. As of November 28, 2020, one hospitalized case and zero deaths associated with influenza had been reported to SNHD for Clark County. During week 48, the percentage of emergency room (ER) and urgent care clinic visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) in Clark County was 2.8% which was higher than week 47 (2.4%). Nationwide, seasonal influenza activity in the United States remains lower than usual for this time of the year. According to the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), 1.6% of reported patient visits were due to ILI, which was similar to the previous week (1.6%). The US ILI activity remains below the national baseline of 2.6%. Among 54 states/jurisdictions, the ILI activity level in the state of Nevada is minimal. ILI surveillance may be impacted by Covid-19 pandemic and should be interpreted with caution.

#### Weekly Percentage of Emergency Room and Urgent Care Clinic Visits for ILI, Clark County, NV



#### National ILI Activity Level – 2020-2021 Influenza Season CDC Week 48 ending November 28, 2020

2020-21 Influenza Season Week 48 ending Nov 28, 2020



## **Influenza Types**

1. Seasonal Flu: It happens annually. While seasonal influenza (flu) viruses are detected year-round in the United States, flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter. Influenza activity often begins to increase in October. Most of the time flu activity peaks between December and February, although activity can last as late as May.
2. Pandemic Flu: An influenza pandemic is a global outbreak of a new influenza A virus. Pandemics happen when new (novel) influenza A viruses emerge which are able to infect people easily and spread from person to person in an efficient and sustained way. The United States is NOT currently experiencing an influenza pandemic.
3. Avian Flu: It refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Avian flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, human infections with bird flu viruses are rare but possible. Most reported bird flu infections in people have happened after unprotected contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces.
4. Swine/Variant Flu:
  - Swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that regularly cause outbreaks of influenza in pigs. Swine flu viruses can cause high levels of illness in swine herds, but usually cause few deaths. Influenza viruses that commonly circulate in swine are called “swine influenza viruses” or “swine flu viruses.” Like human influenza viruses, there are different subtypes and strains of swine influenza viruses. The main swine influenza viruses circulating in U.S. pigs in recent years have been, swine triple reassortant (tr) H1N1 influenza virus, trH3N2 virus, and trH1N2 virus.
  - Variant flu virus: When an influenza virus that normally circulates in swine (but not people) is detected in a person, it is called a “variant influenza virus”. Most commonly, human infections with variant viruses have occurred in people exposed to infected pigs. Also, cases of limited person-to-person spread of variant viruses have occurred. If the new variant flu virus causes illness in people and can be transmitted easily from person-to-person, an influenza pandemic can occur. This is what happened in 2009 when an influenza A H1N1 virus with swine, avian and human genes emerged in the spring of 2009 and caused the first flu pandemic in more than 40 years.
5. Influenza in Animals: Influenza A viruses are found in many different animals, including ducks, chickens, pigs, whales, horses, seals and cats. Influenza B viruses circulate widely only among humans. While it is unusual for people to get influenza infections directly from animals, sporadic human infections and outbreaks caused by certain avian influenza A viruses have been reported.

## **Key Points:**

1. Flu activity is unusually low at this time but may increase in the coming months.
2. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to protect against flu and its potentially serious complications.
3. If you haven't gotten your flu vaccine yet, [get vaccinated now](#).

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