



# Department of Health

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TO: Healthcare Providers, Clinical Laboratories, Hospitals, Long Term Care Facilities, Healthcare Facilities, Regional and Home Care Agencies, Pharmacists and Local Health Departments

FROM: NYSDOH Division of Epidemiology

**HEALTH ADVISORY:**  
**EXTENDED INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SEASON DUE TO ELEVATED INFLUENZA ACTIVITY IN NEW YORK STATE**  
For healthcare facilities, Infection Control Department, Emergency Department, Infectious Disease Department, Director of Nursing, Medical Director, Director of Pharmacy, Laboratory Service, and all inpatient and outpatient patient care areas.

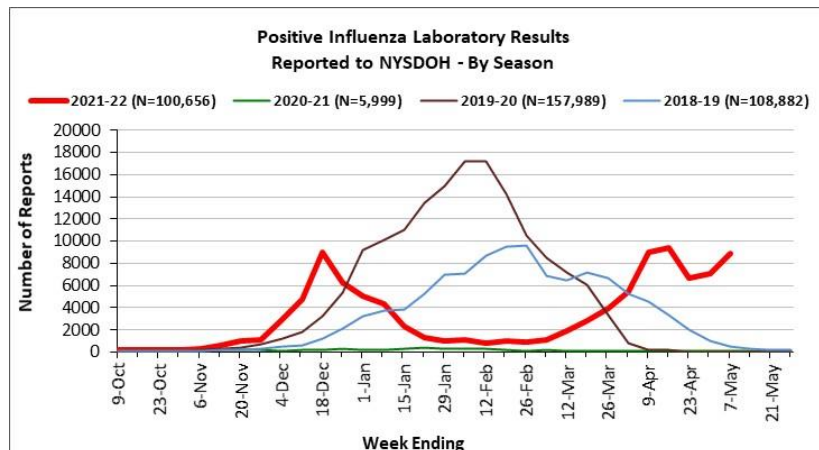
## PURPOSE

In view of persisting elevated influenza activity throughout New York State (NYS), this advisory serves to (1) notify healthcare facilities and providers that the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will be extending the influenza surveillance season, and (2) provide updated influenza surveillance information along with links and references to influenza prevention and control resources.

## Influenza Surveillance Summary

NYSDOH conducts routine influenza surveillance each October through May. Influenza is unpredictable; and while it is not uncommon for influenza activity to extend into late spring, current activity remains elevated and widespread. Therefore, NYSDOH is extending the surveillance season beyond May until influenza activity has decreased.

Surveillance data shows an unusual bimodal distribution of influenza activity during the 2021-22 season. Following consistent declines during January and low rates in February, laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and hospitalizations have been steadily rising since March with significant increases in laboratory-confirmed cases occurring throughout April. It is unknown if activity will remain at high levels or continue to increase in the coming weeks.



Surveillance data indicate that influenza A(H3) has been the predominant influenza virus circulating this season, accounting for 90% of all NYS influenza cases reported last week. While influenza viruses can cause severe illness in people of all ages, influenza A(H3) viruses are known to cause disproportionately more illness among young children and older adults. Since the start of the current influenza season, 100,656 laboratory-confirmed influenza cases and more than 5,600 hospitalizations have been reported, with 59% of all laboratory-confirmed cases occurring in persons aged 0–17 years and 42% of hospitalizations in persons aged 65 and older. During the week ending May 7, 2022, a total of 8,885 laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza were reported in 56 of 57 New York State counties and in all five boroughs of New York City.

## **INFLUENZA VACCINE, TESTING AND ANTIVIRAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

All persons aged 6 months and older are eligible to be vaccinated. Influenza vaccine for the 2021-22 season can be given through June 30, 2022. Providers should review the influenza testing and antiviral treatment recommendations provided by the Department earlier in the season (linked below). Influenza antiviral treatment decisions should not be delayed pending testing results, nor should they be made based solely upon the results.

Questions or concerns about surveillance, diagnostic testing, treatment and/or chemoprophylaxis should be directed to the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control at 518–473–4439 ([bcdc@health.ny.gov](mailto:bcdc@health.ny.gov)), except for those related to Article 28 healthcare facilities. For questions related to Article 28 healthcare facilities and facility-associated reporting, please contact your NYSDOH Regional Epidemiology office (Western Regional Office: 716-847-4503; Central New York Regional Office: 315-477-8166; Capital District Region: 518-474-1142 or Metropolitan Area Regional Office: 914-654-7149).

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- NYSDOH Influenza Guidance: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/>
- NYSDOH Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report: <http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/>.
- NYSDOH 2021-22 Annual Influenza Surveillance and Reporting Requirement Advisory can be found at: [https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/docs/influenza\\_health\\_advisory.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/docs/influenza_health_advisory.pdf)
- CDC Influenza Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>
- Contact information for Local Health Departments can be found at: <https://www.nyscho.org/directory/>