

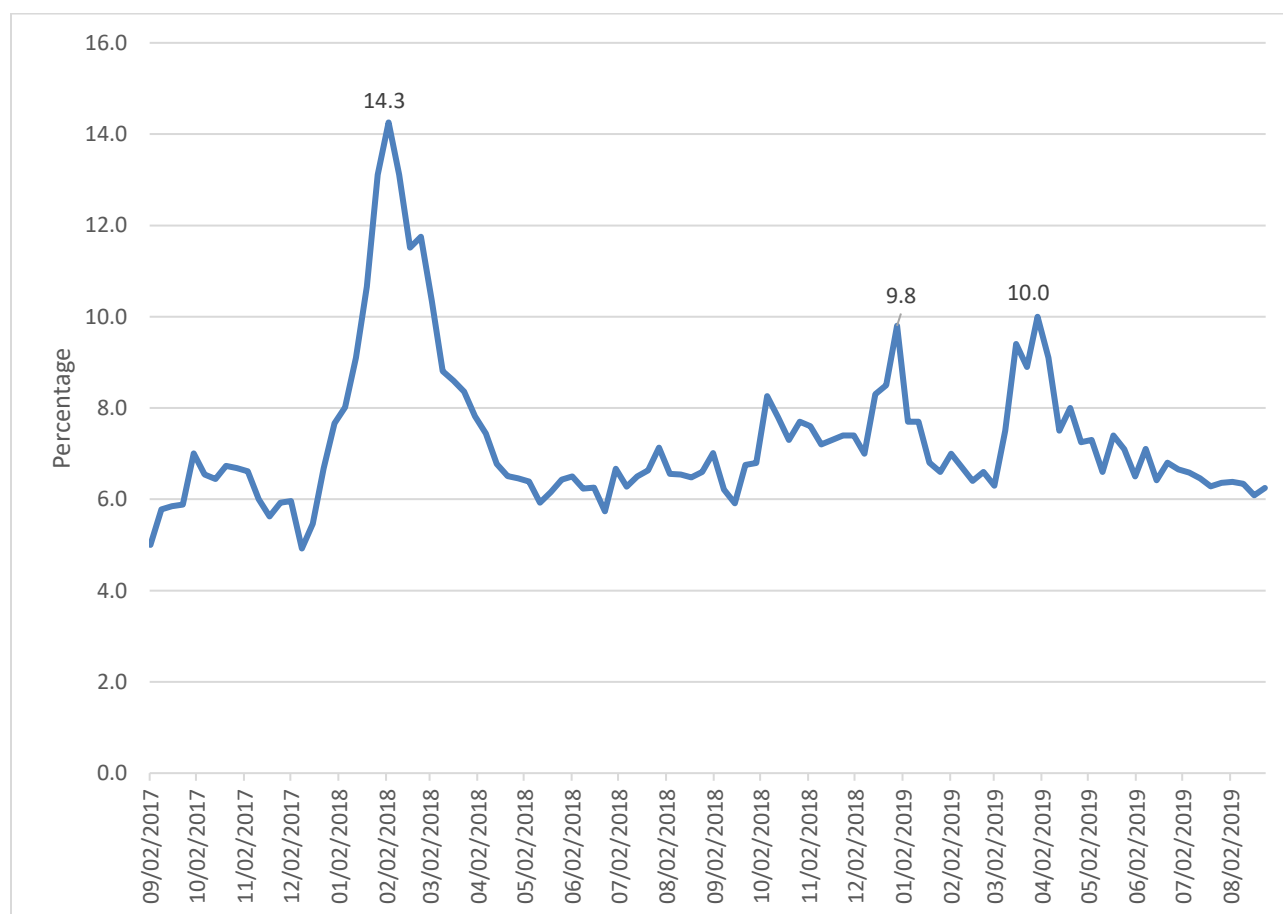
# Kent County Influenza Surveillance Trends

2018-2019 Summary

During the 2018-2019 influenza season, there were two-thousand six-hundred fifty (2,650) cases of influenza reported to the Kent County Health Department (2,440 A, 200 B and 10 Unknown).

- **Constitutional %** - The weekly average percentage of emergency department (ED) visits for constitutional complaints (including chief complaints of fever, weakness, dizziness, temp, flu, lightheadedness, and chills) peaked twice during the 2018-2019 influenza season. The first peak occurred in the week ending 12/29/2018 and was caused primarily by an influenza (H1N1) virus that was circulating at the time. A second period of elevated activity occurred in March and early April as a result of the emergence of an influenza A (H3N2) strain. The peak level of activity in this second wave occurred during the week ending 03/30/2019. The peak percentages during the 2018-2019 season were lower than the peak percentage of the 2017-2018 season (14.3%), however, which occurred during the week ending 02/03/2018.

**Figure 1: Constitutional Complaints as a Percentage of Total Emergency Department Visits**



**Table 1: Characteristics of Reported Influenza Cases, 2018-2019**

Age Group	Influenza Type		Gender		
<b>0-17</b>	45.9%	<b>A</b>	92.1%	<b>Male</b>	45.4%
<b>18-64</b>	38.5%	<b>B</b>	7.5%	<b>Female</b>	53.7%
<b>65+</b>	10.0%	<b>Unknown</b>	0.4%	<b>Unknown</b>	0.9%
<b>Unknown</b>	5.6%				

**Average Age of Reported Cases: 29 years**  
**Median Age of Reported Cases: 23 years**

**Figure 2: Laboratory Diagnosed Influenza Cases Reported by Week**

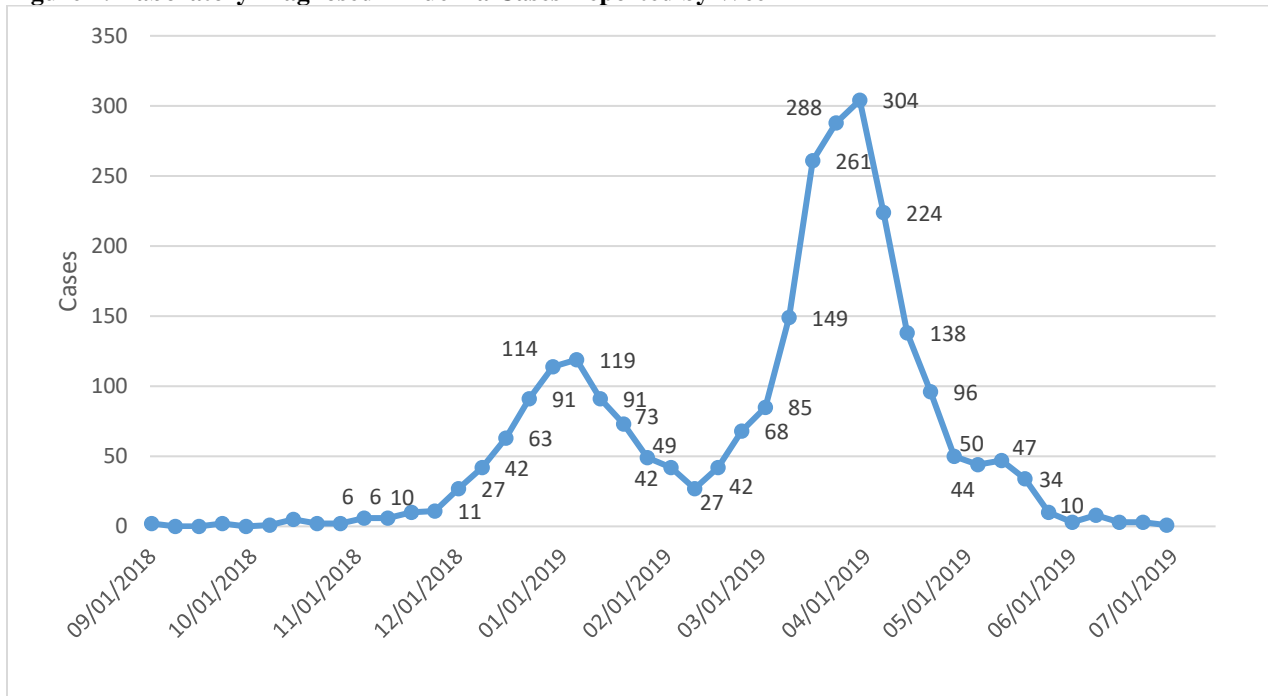
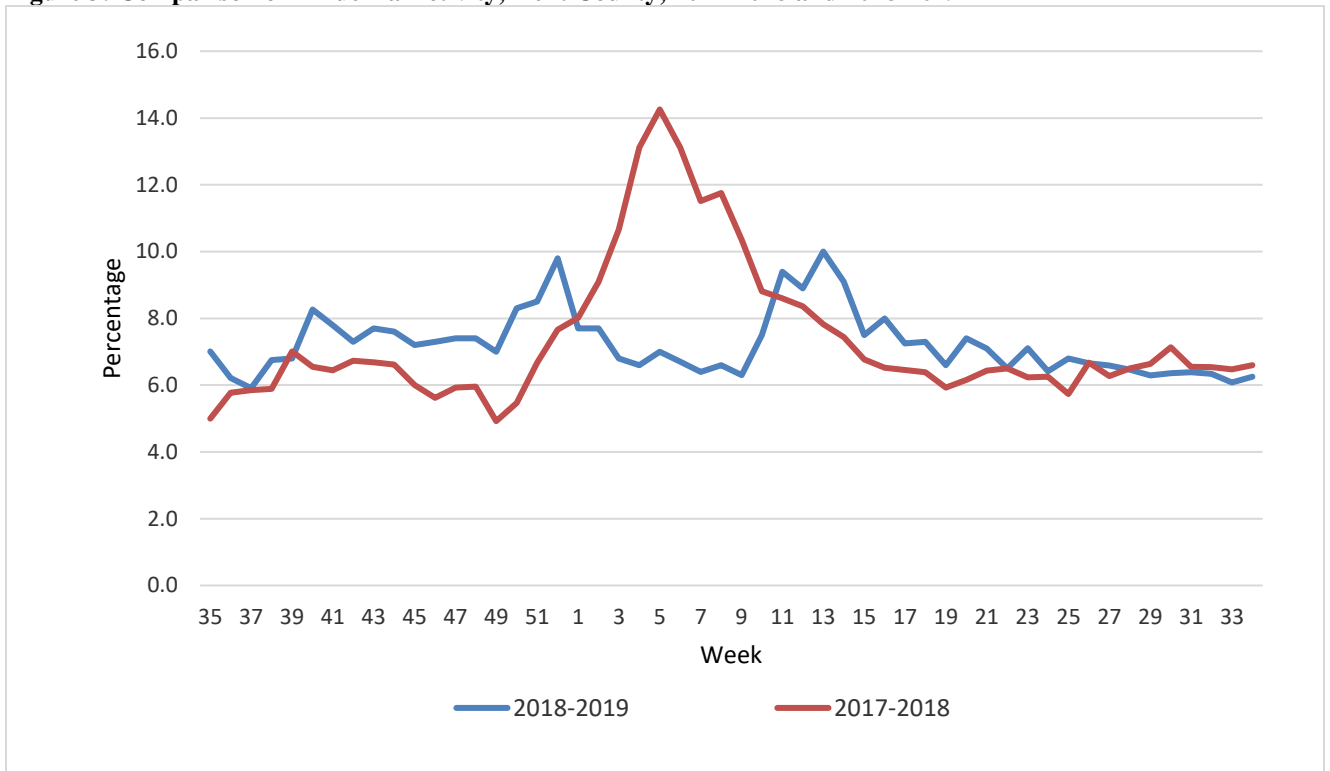


Figure 3 plots influenza activity for the 2018-2019 season compared to the 2017-2018 season, whereas Figure 4 plots 2018-2019 activity compared to the average activity over the previous four influenza seasons. For comparison purposes, weeks are numbered 1-52, with week 1 being the first week ending in the month of January and week 52 the last week ending in the month of December (week ending day is Saturday). For this analysis, the influenza season is considered to begin with week 35, the first week ending in the month of September (week ending 09/01 for 2018). These figures show that the 2018-2019 season was quite different than what was seen last year and what is typically seen during influenza season, with two peaks occurring. One peak occurred when seasonal activity typically begins to increase and the other occurred when activity typically begins to decline. The lowest levels of activity during the 2018-2019 season occurred when activity is typically at its highest.

**Figure 3: Comparison of Influenza Activity, Kent County, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019**



**Figure 4: Comparison of Influenza Activity, Kent County, 2018-2019 against the Four-Year Average**

