

Kent County Influenza Surveillance Trends

Week 10/07/2018 to 10/13/2018

During the week ending October 13, 2018, there was one case of influenza A reported to the Kent County Health Department. To date, three cases of influenza A have been reported. Influenza indicators for the week ending October 13 show that local activity is higher than both what was seen last year and what is typically seen during this time of year. Details of these indicators are listed below.

- **Constitutional %** - Data are presented on the average weekly percentage of emergency department (ED) visits for constitutional complaints (including chief complaints of fever, weakness, dizziness, temp, flu, lightheadedness, and chills). The percentage of ED visits for constitutional complaints decreased from 8.3% to 7.8% during the week ending 10/13/2018. This percentage is higher than that seen during this week last year (6.4%).
- **School ILI%** - The percentage of students absent from Kent County schools due to influenza-like illness (ILI) decreased from 0.67% to 0.61% during the week ending 10/13/2018. This was greater than the percentage seen at this time last year (0.58%).

Figure 1: Percentage of ED Visits for constitutional complaints and percentage of students absent with influenza-like illness, Kent County 09/02/2017 through 10/13/2018

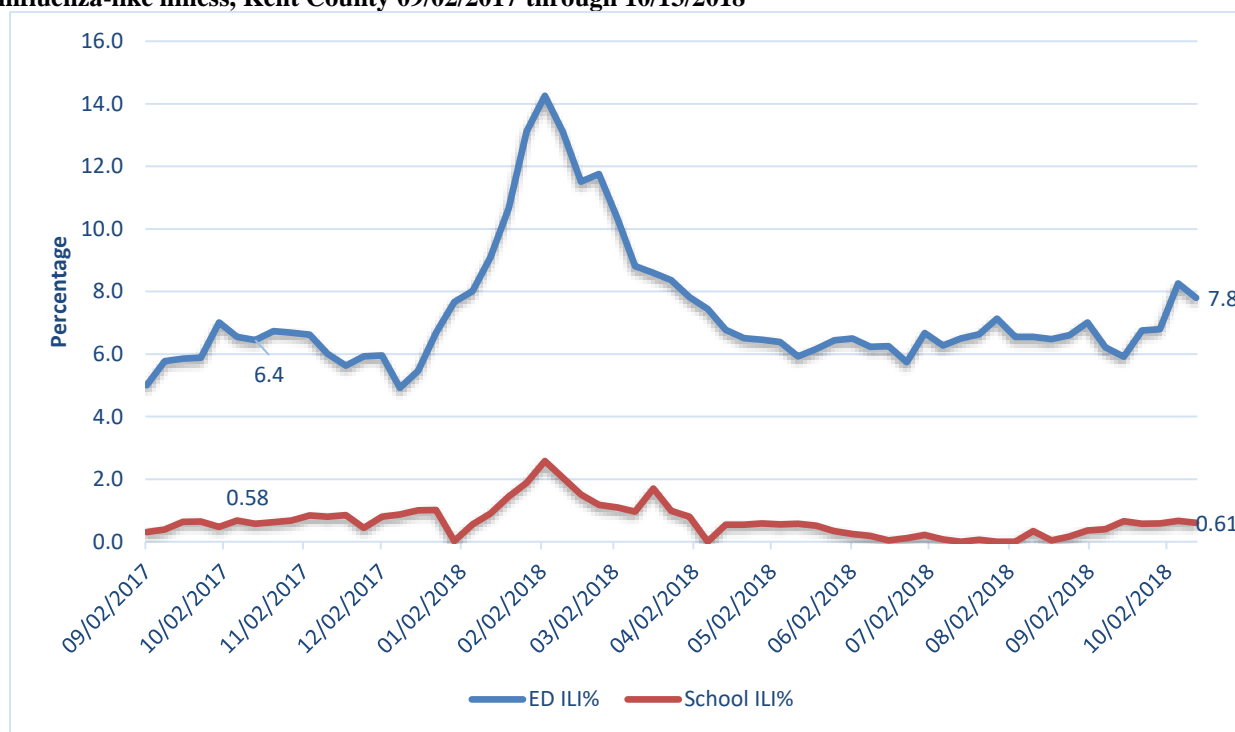


Figure 2 plots influenza activity for the current season compared to the 2017-2018 season whereas Figure 3 plots current activity compared to the average activity over the previous four influenza seasons. For comparison purposes, weeks are numbered 1-52, with week 1 being the first week ending in the 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). Both figures present the percentage of emergency department visits for constitutional complaints through week 41 (week ending 10/13/2018). It is evident from the figures that current influenza activity is higher than both what was seen last year and the average over the previous four seasons.

Figure 2: Comparison of Influenza Activity, Kent County, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019

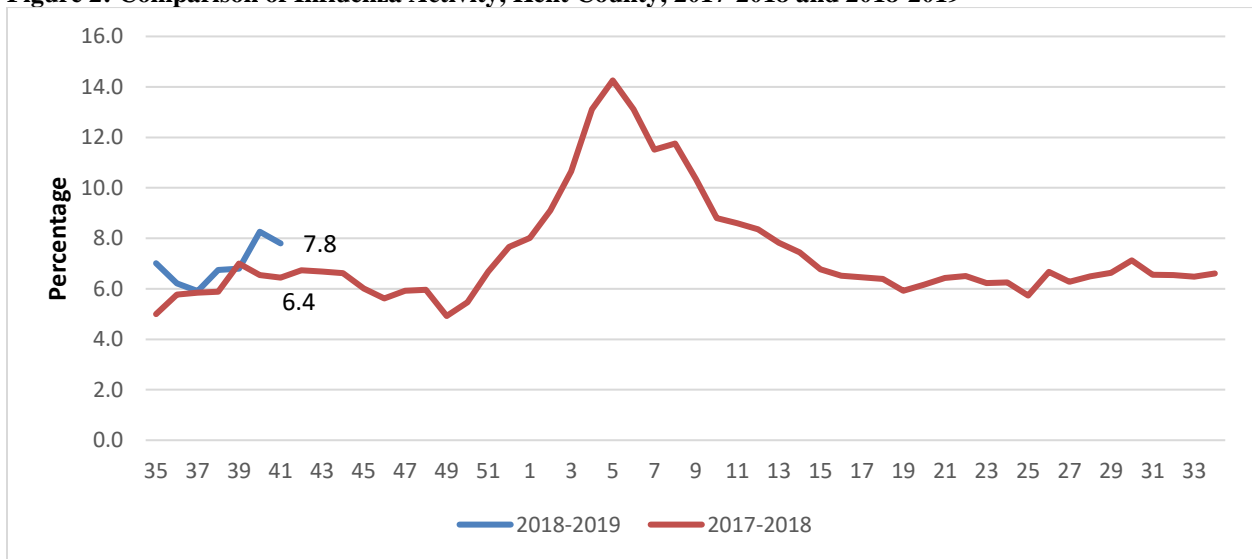


Figure 3: Comparison of Influenza Activity, Kent County, 2018-2019 against the Four-Year Average

