

Flu Report 2017 – 2018

Meriden Department of Health and Human Services

ABOUT INFLUENZA

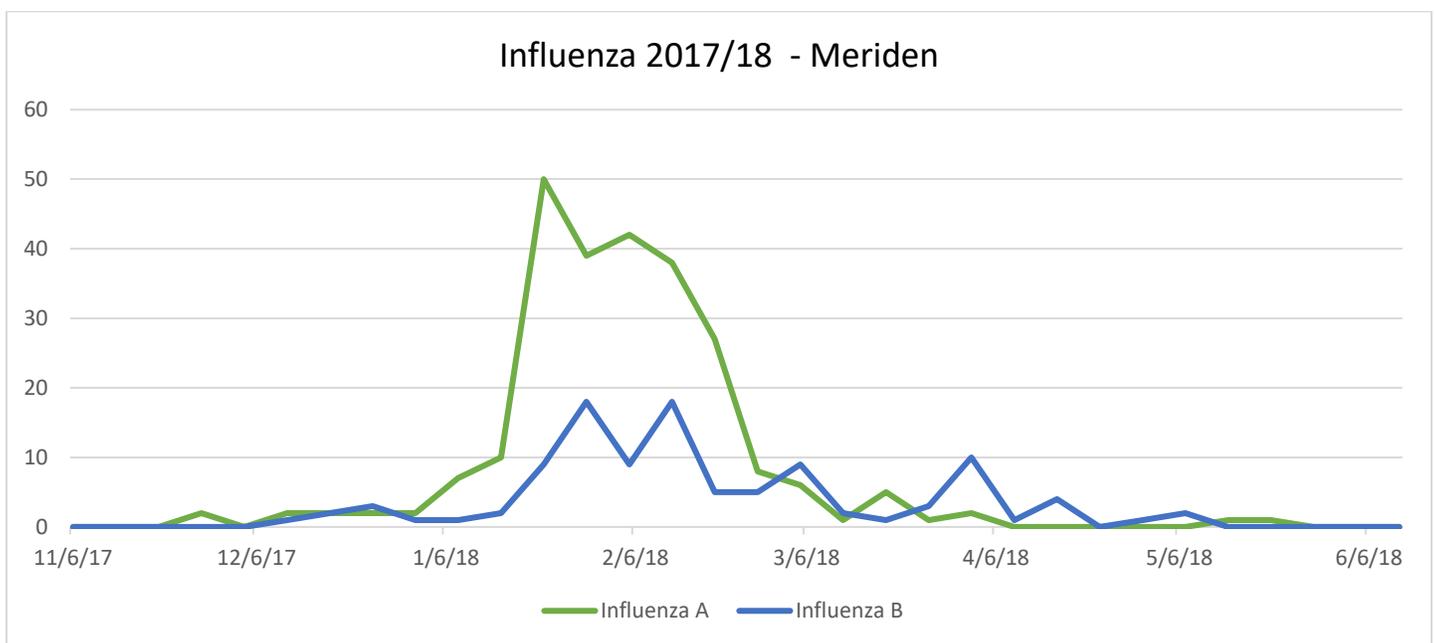
Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness. Serious outcomes of flu infection can result in hospitalization or death. Some people, such as older people, young children, women who are pregnant, and people with certain health conditions, such as asthma and heart disease, are at high risk of serious flu complications.

The United States 2017/18 influenza season (October 1, 2017–May 19, 2018) was a high severity season with high levels of outpatient clinic and emergency department visits for influenza-like illness (ILI), high influenza-related hospitalization rates, and elevated and geographically widespread influenza activity across the country for an extended period. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Connecticut had “widespread” flu activity through the week ending May 5, 2018; the week ending May 12 the status was downgraded to “regional”, and then reduced to “local” the week ending May 19.

The flu is a reportable disease; this means that local health departments receive a report when the flu is diagnosed by a health provider, hospital or laboratory. This allows the departments to conduct local surveillance and implement appropriate prevention, risk reduction, and response initiatives.

FLU IN MERIDEN

Our first confirmed case for the 2017/18 season was received the week of November 6, 2017. The season in Meriden peaked the week of January 22, 2018; we received 59 positive lab reports that week (50 for Influenza A, 9 for Influenza B). Our last lab report was received the week of May 21, 2018.



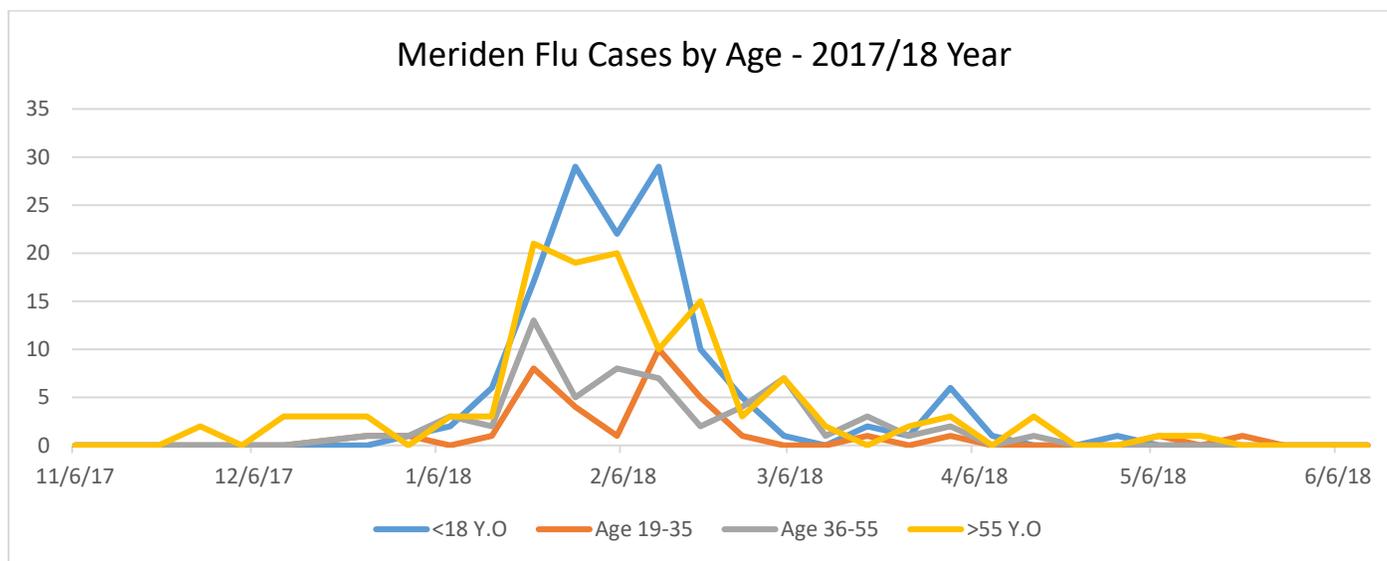
July 3, 2018



Our total confirmed case count for this season was 351; this was an increase over the previous season (287 confirmed). We also saw cases much earlier this year (November 6, 2017) than last year, when we received our first positive report January 16, 2017.

FLU DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of Meriden cases this year were seen in the under 18 age group (133 total) and the over 55 age group (121).



FLU SHOT CLINICS

An annual flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your chances of getting the seasonal flu and spreading it to others. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older receive an annual flu vaccine.

This season we offered Fluzone HD (for those age 65 and older) quadrivalent, Fluzone quadrivalent (0.5mg for 36 months and older), Fluzone quadrivalent (0.25mg for those 6 to 35 monthss), Flublok (for those 19 and older), and FluLaval (0.5mg for those 6 months and older).

Our office conducted 10 flu shot clinics during the 2017-18 season, in addition to offering the vaccine Monday through Friday at 165 Miller Street. Clinics were held at:

- Board of Education for employees
- City Hall for employees
- Meriden Water/Sewer for employees
- Meriden Police Department
- Meriden Public Library
- Meriden Senior Center
- Maloney and Platt High Schools
- Lincoln and Washington Middle Schools

In addition, our public health nurses in the elementary schools provided clinic days for staff in their respective schools. We coordinated flu shot clinics with the Meriden Fire Department to ensure everyone received their vaccine.

Many local businesses and non-profit organizations sent their staff to us for their flu shots, including Fiderio and Sons, Kuhn Employment Opportunities and Shelter NOW.

In total, this past flu season we provided 825 adult and 583 child flu vaccines. Fortunately, our office did not experience a shortage of flu shots and were able to provide the vaccine through May.

LONG TERM CARE CONSULTATION

Between November 2017 and May 2018 our office worked with 4 long term care (LTC) facilities during flu outbreaks at their facility. Long-term care facilities may be defined as institutions, such as nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities that provide health care to people (including children) who are unable to manage independently in the community. Flu outbreaks are defined as 2 more ill residents, suspected or confirmed.

We provided consultation on isolation, restriction, and cleaning procedures to reduce the spread of illness. Our office communicates with the facility Infectious Disease Nurse until the outbreak is over.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Our office conducts extensive outreach and education during flu season.

We posted regular flu updates, including the weekly CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) flu reports and prevention tips on our Facebook page, with some posts having over 2,000 views. We also posted information on website, send articles to be published in local newsletters, made regular prevention announcements at the Senior Center and sent informational letters to parents, day care centers, and local providers. We collaborated with the Board of Education and School Readiness programs to increase children and staff vaccinations.

City of Meriden Health & Human Services Department
Published by Lea Crown (F) · February 2 ·

This week's flu update from the CT Department of Public Health notes that there have been 52 deaths associated with the flu this season in Connecticut. It is not too late to get a flu shot, and we have plenty of adult and child vaccines available. Call our #Meriden Clinic office at 203-630-4234 to make your appointment.

News
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 1, 2018
Connecticut Department of Public Health
Contact: Maara Dovesan (860) 509-7250

THIS WEEK'S FLU UPDATE FROM DPH
Flu continues to be widespread throughout CT

HARTFORD—The state Department of Public Health (DPH) today released the weekly 2017-2018 Influenza Season Update for the week ending on January 27th. The full report will be available tomorrow on DPH's Influenza Surveillance and Statistics website. Please see below for the summary of the week's report.

According to this week's update, which tracks flu activity through January 27th, flu activity in Connecticut remains high and widespread with an increasing number of patients presenting with flu symptoms, as well as increasing numbers of flu-associated hospitalizations and deaths.

A total of 1,154 patients have been hospitalized with confirmed cases of flu between August 27, 2017 and January 27, 2018. 32 deaths have been attributed to the flu (41 associated with flu A, 11 with flu B) so far this season. Of these deaths, 64 were among patients over the age of 65, 4 were 50-64 years of age, 3 was 25-49 years of age, and 1 was between 5-17 years of age. A total of 2,096 influenza positive laboratory tests have been reported so far this season.

"We have heard from individuals concerned about reports of a shortage of rapid flu tests. This is not surprising for this time in the flu season, especially with the volume of patients presenting with flu symptoms. Fortunately, our hospitals have other ways to test patients hospitalized with severe symptoms of influenza," said DPH Commissioner Dr. Paul Pino.

"With the peak of the season potentially still several weeks away, it is still not too late to get a flu shot," added Dr. Pino. "However, it takes two weeks from the time of the shot to develop the antibodies needed to fight the flu, so I urge anyone who has not received a flu shot to do so as soon as possible in order to be fully protected for the remainder of this season."

END

1,478 people reached

City of Meriden Health & Human Services Department
Published by Lea Crown (F) · December 6, 2017

It's National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW)!

It's National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) and the Department offers the flu shot, including accept Husky, Cigna, and Medicare. The vaccine is just \$20 for cash-pay persons and is administered by public health clinic staff. Call 203-630-4234 to make your appointment.

143 people reached

City of Meriden Health & Human Services Department
Published by Lea Crown (F) · January 30 ·

Call our Clinic at 203-630-4234 to make an appointment to get your flu shot today!
<http://www.myrecordjournal.com/.../hospitals-increase-staff-t...>

Local health care agencies see increase in flu cases - Local health care.

387 people reached

5 likes

3 shares

City of Meriden Health & Human Services Department
Published by Lea Crown (F) · January 29 ·

We listed all of our vaccine offerings, including seasonal flu vaccine, on www.vaccinefinder.org which is highly publicized by the CT DPH. This website is still live and lists our currently provided vaccines.

The Record Journal featured flu data and prevention messages in an article published January 31, 2018. As a result, on February 1 we had a visit from WFSB Channel 3. Lea Crown, Director of Health and Human Services, provided information on the importance of getting an annual flu vaccines as well as maintaining personal hygiene practices, including covering coughs and regular handwashing.



Submitted by Lea Crown, Director of Health and Human Services

July 3, 2018

