



Tell us what you think



Scan code or click [HERE](#)

Ottawa County Influenza Surveillance Report

MMWR* Week 19: May 9, 2021 - May 15, 2021

Summary:

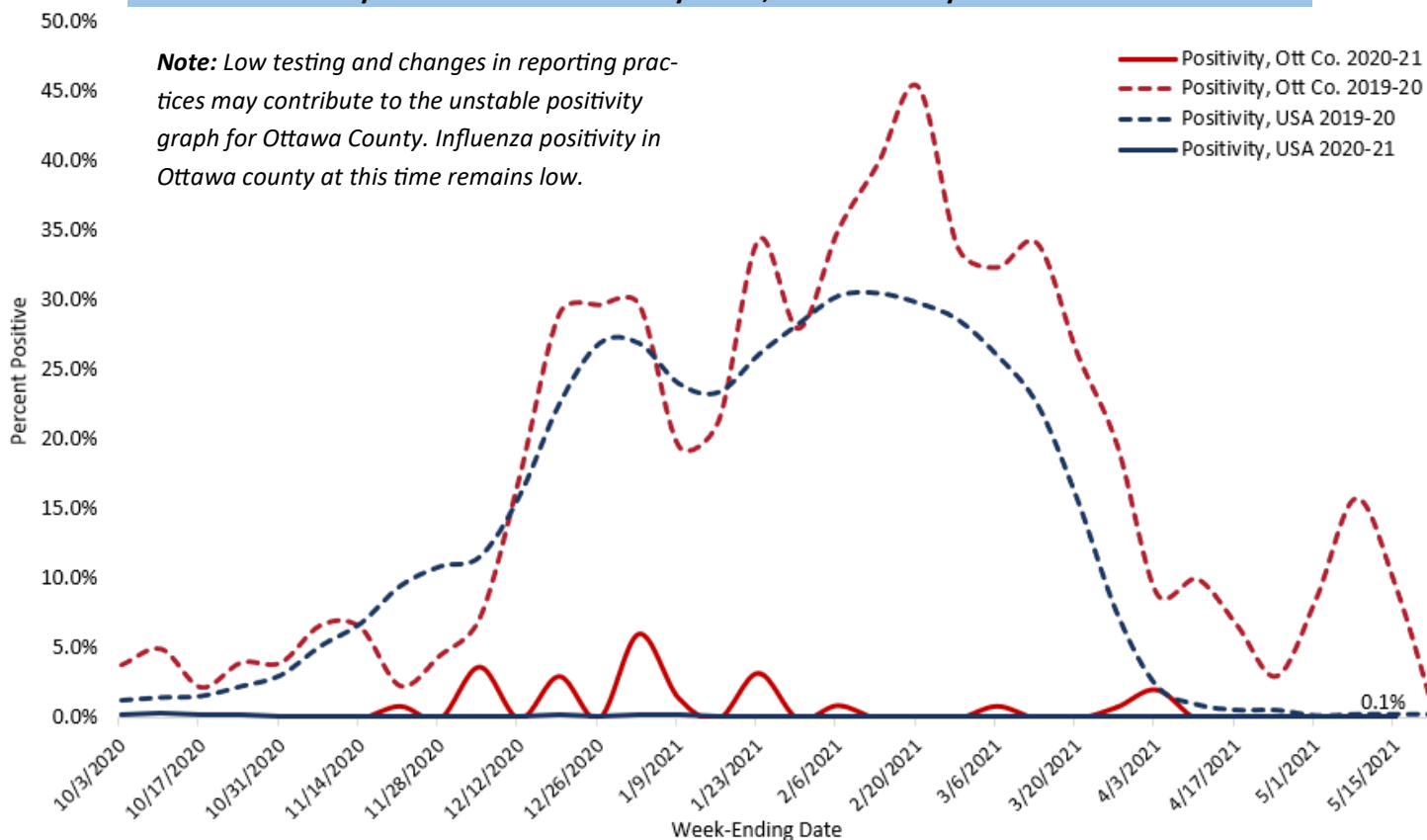
During week 19, nationwide influenza positivity was 0.1%, similar to that reported at the same time last year (0.3%). Positivity in Ottawa County was 0.0%, also well below the 9.4% reported this time last year. Reported influenza-like illness (ILI) in schools and licensed childcare settings stood at 0.8%, similar to 0.7% the previous week but well below that reported this time in the 2019 season (1.2%). At this time last season, most local schools were dismissed following the outbreak of COVID-19. ILI in healthcare offices last week (0.5%) was similar to that reported this time last year (0.5%). No cases of influenza were reported in long-term care facilities. Emergency Department (ED) visits with influenza symptoms was 0.6%, staying below that reported at this same time last year (1.3%). Some factors may be contributing to the relatively lower amount of influenza activity this year including heightened awareness of respiratory viruses, increased hygiene practices and other nonpharmaceutical interventions, and school absences for other reasons including COVID-19 quarantine and isolation.



Influenza Test Positivity

Influenza positivity is the percent of influenza tests conducted by reporting providers and laboratories that result positive. National data and available local data suggests less activity through the 2020-2021 influenza season, compared to previous seasons.

Positivity Rate of Influenza Tests by Week, Ottawa County and United States



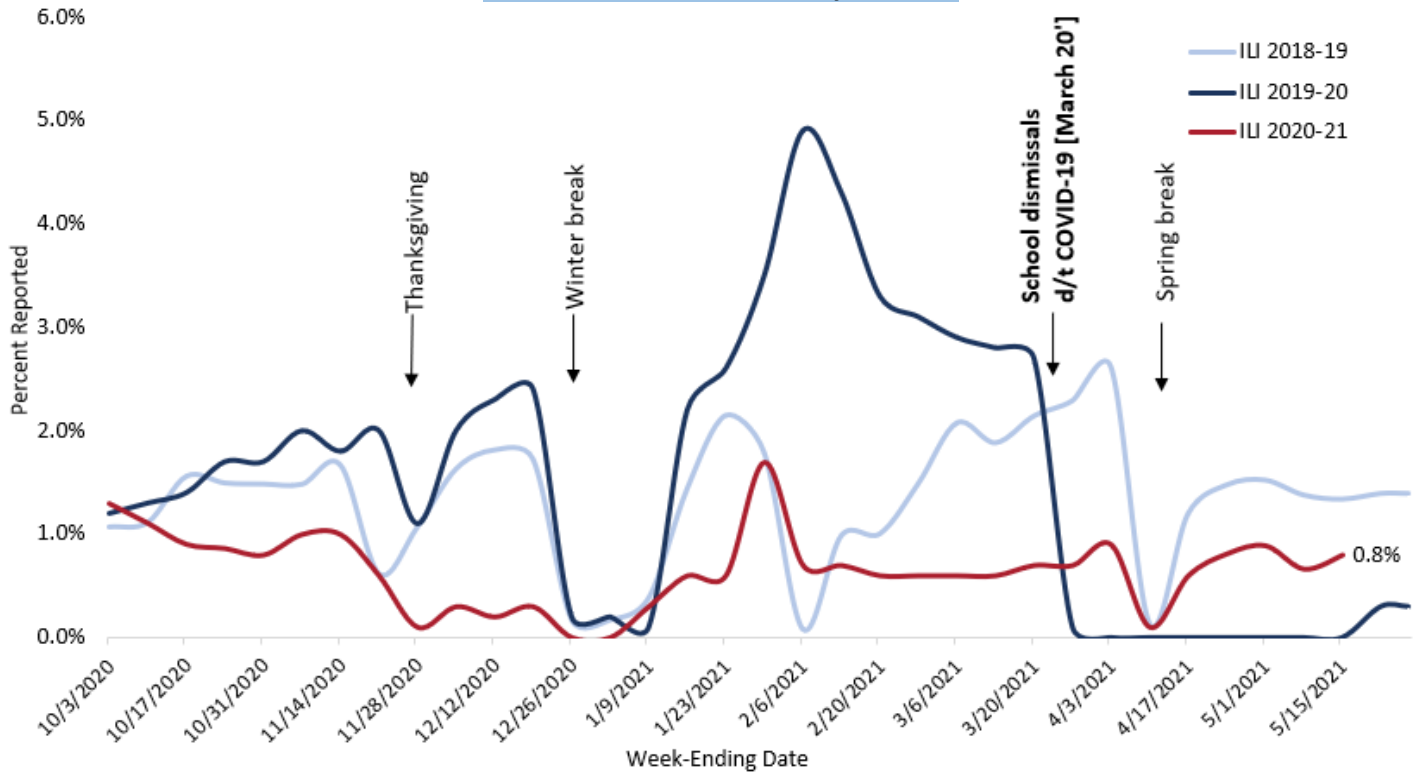
* Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report



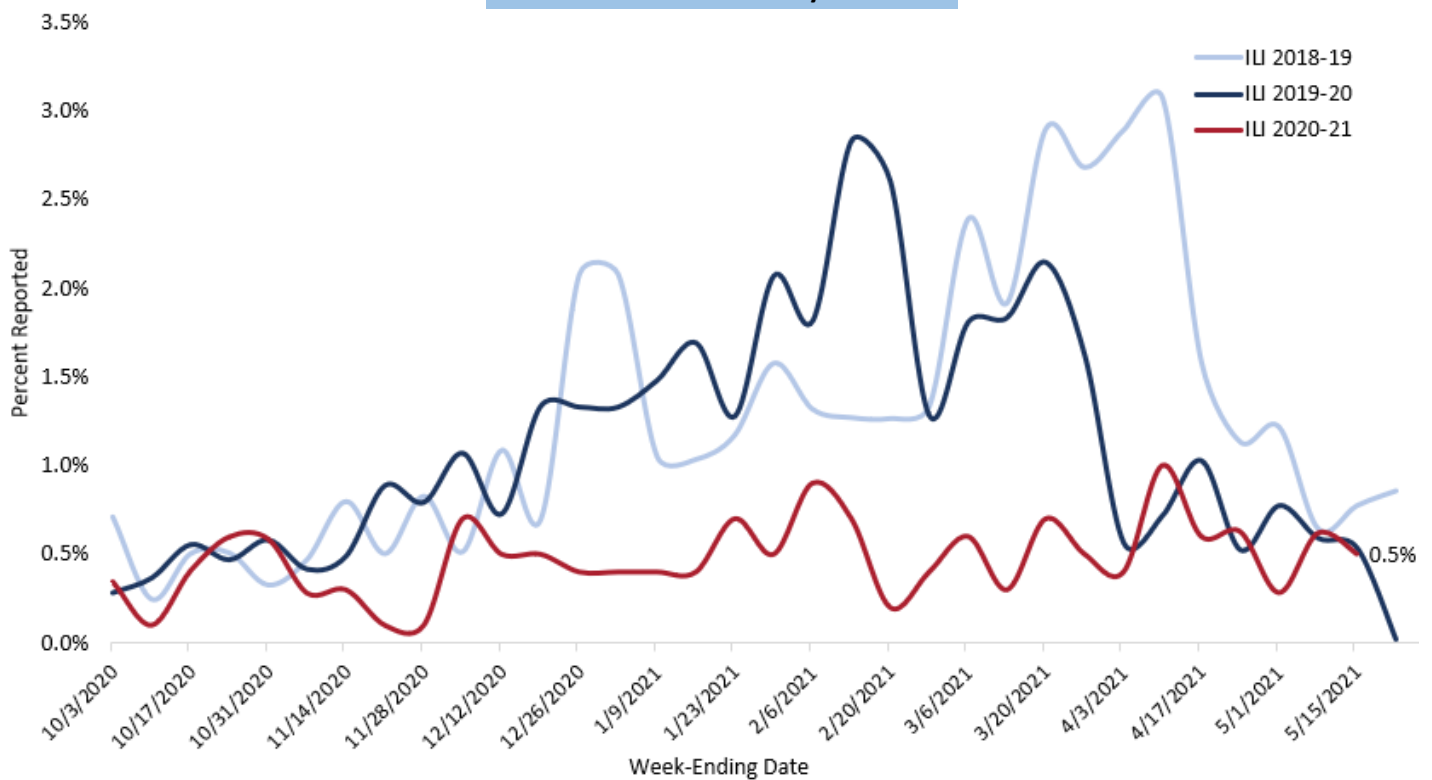
Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance from Reporting Schools, Childcare and Healthcare Settings

Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) reports on ILI activity in schools, licensed childcare, healthcare providers and long-term care facilities (LTCF) by week. During week 19, the proportion of ILI reported in school/childcare settings stood at 0.8% similar to the previous week (0.7%) and well below this time over the last 2 seasons. ILI visits in healthcare offices stood at 0.5%, also similar to the previous week (0.6%), and retaining a similar trend to that seen around this time last season. No new reports of influenza were received from LTCFs.

School and Childcare ILI by Week



Healthcare ILI Visits by Week

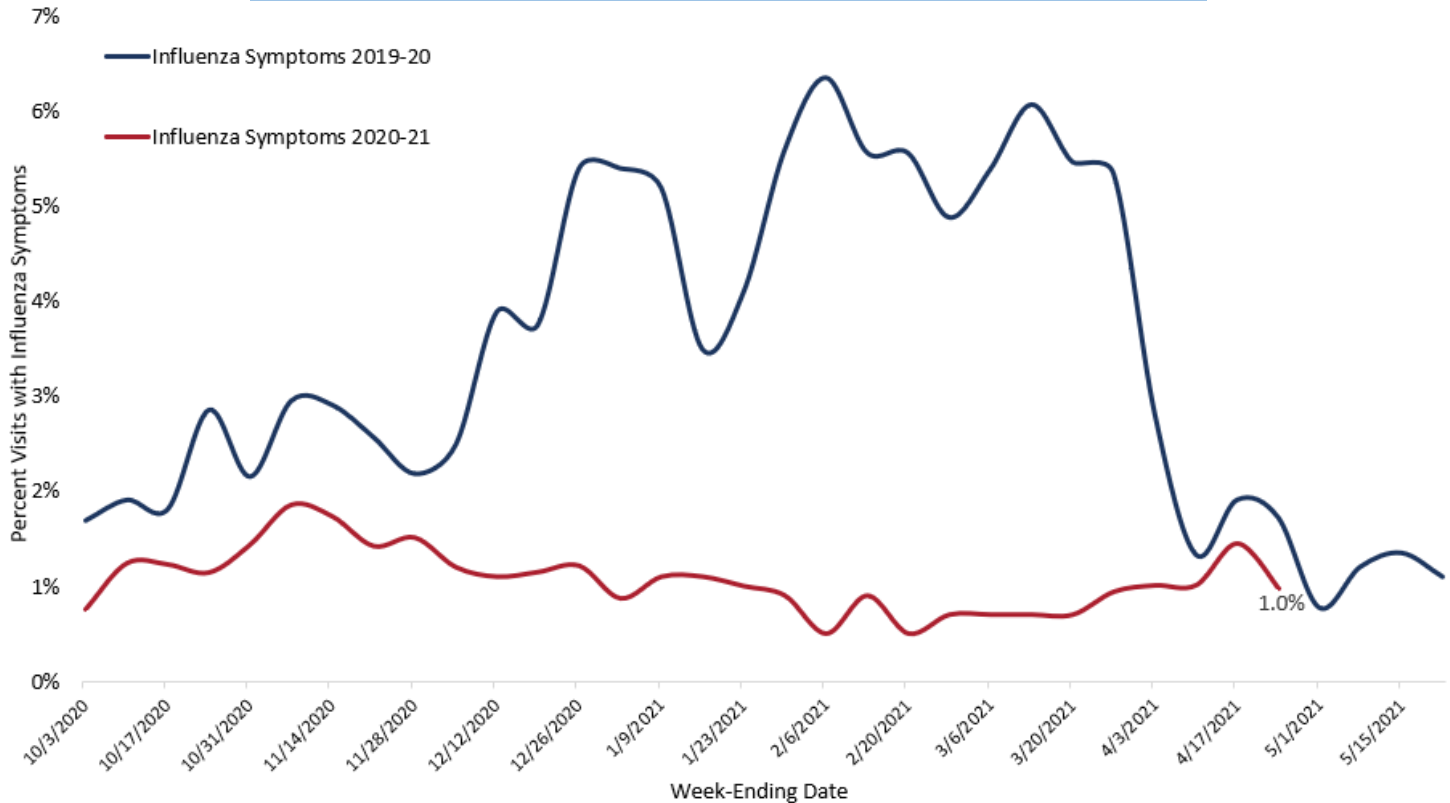




Syndromic Surveillance for Influenza

A syndrome is a set of signs and symptoms that occur together and characterize a particular disease or disorder. Influenza syndromic data reflect the proportion of patients seen in Ottawa County hospital EDs with influenza syndrome*. During week 19, Ottawa County ED visits for influenza was 0.6% (similar to the previous week). This proportion is also well below that seen at the same time last season (1.3%).

Percentage of ED Visits in Ottawa County with Influenza Symptoms



MMWR Week	Week Ending Date	Total ED ILI	Total ED Visits	Percent ILI
17	5/1/2021	18	1516	1.2%
18	5/8/2021	13	2023	0.6%
19	5/15/2021	11	1703	0.6%

* Influenza syndrome includes the sudden onset of fever, cough and/or sore throat.



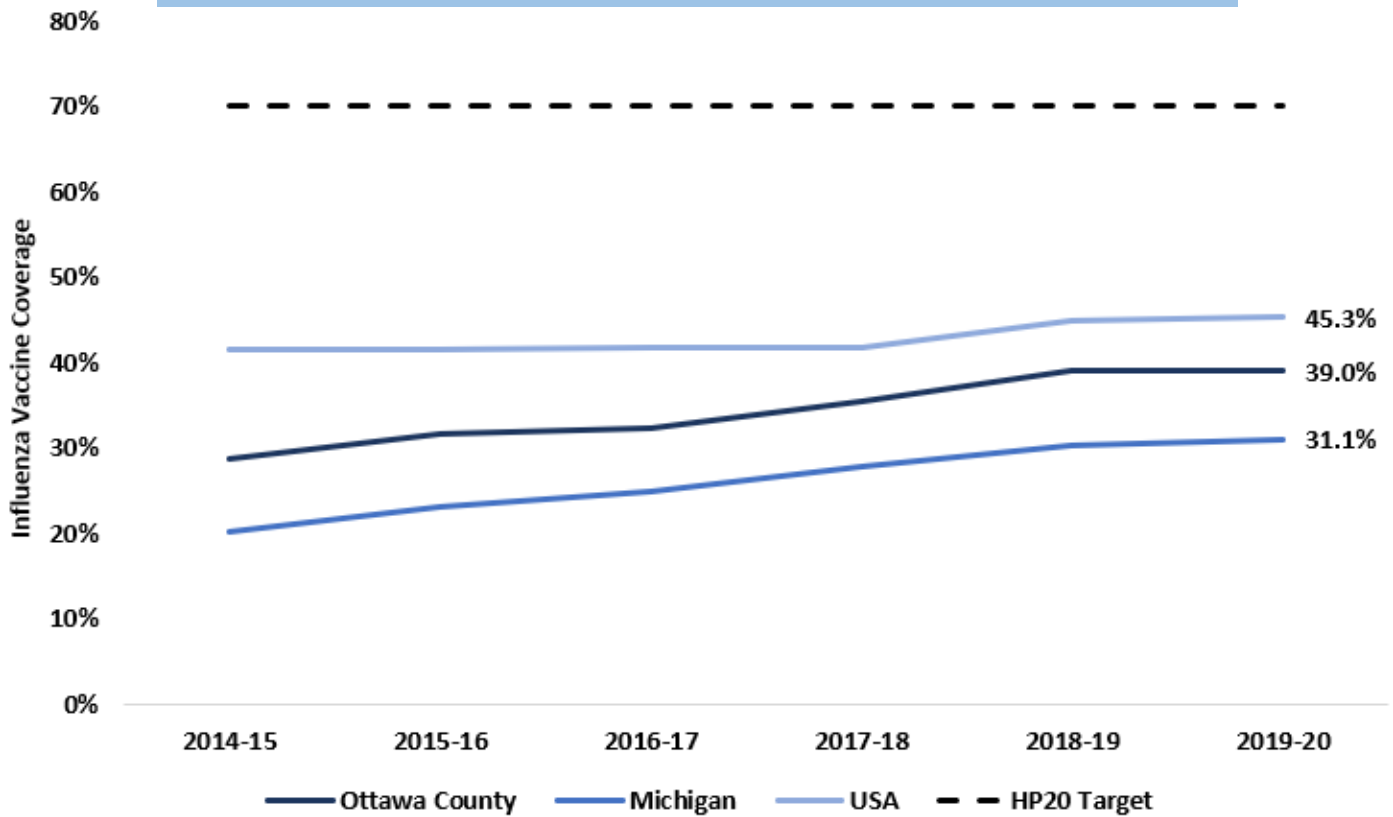
Influenza Vaccine Coverage

The best way to prevent influenza is by getting the influenza vaccine each year. Although below the national average, Ottawa County has seen improvements in influenza vaccine coverage over the years. The table below reflects adult vaccination coverage in Ottawa County, Michigan and the United States over the last 5 influenza seasons.

	2015-16 Season	2016-17 Season	2017-18 Season	2018-19 Season	2019-20 Season
Ottawa County	31.7%	32.4%	35.5%	39%	39%
Michigan	23.1%	24.9%	27.9%	30.3%	31.4%
United States (average)	41.5%	41.7%	41.7%	44.9%	45.3%
Healthy People 2020 Target	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%

Source: Michigan's County Quarterly Immunization Report Card

Influenza Vaccine Coverage by Season, Ottawa County, Michigan and United States



Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness



The performance of influenza seasonal vaccines are monitored to improve their benefits. Vaccine effectiveness (VE) studies regularly assess and confirm the value of flu vaccination as a public health intervention³. The table below shows estimates of seasonal flu vaccine effectiveness from past seasons. CDC does not have flu vaccine effectiveness estimates for this season yet because it is still early in the season and these estimates are based on epidemiologic studies comparing illness among vaccinated versus unvaccinated people. That data will likely be available later in 2021.

	2015-16 Season	2016-17 Season	2017-18 Season	2018-19 Season	2019-20 Season
Overall vaccine effectiveness	48%	40%	38%	29%	45%

Source: CDC - Past seasons Vaccine Effectiveness Estimates⁴.

Severe Disease



No new influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on week 19. The total reported so far this season is **1**. A total of **195 influenza associated pediatric deaths** were reported nationwide last season. So far this season in Ottawa County, there have been **no** reports of influenza-associated pediatric deaths, similar to last season.

Resources

- ◆ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Influenza: <https://www.michigan.gov/flu>
- ◆ Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - Influenza activity and Surveillance: https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2955_22779_40563_48357-191722--,00.html
- ◆ Michigan's County Quarterly Immunization Report Card: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Ottawa_447497_7.pdf
- ◆ National influenza surveillance data are available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>
- ◆ Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2019–20 Influenza Season: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/rr/rr6803a1.htm?scid=rr6803a1e&delivery Name=USCDC_921-DM7382
- ◆ ¹Forecasting Peak Activity of Seasonal Influenza Using Only One Surveillance Indicator Colorado, 2013-2019 (CSTE Presentation): By Bernadette Albanese, MD, MPH, Tri-County Health Department
- ◆ ²Baumbach, J., Mueller, M., Smelser, C., Albanese, B., & Sewell, C. M. (2009). Enhancement of influenza surveillance with aggregate rapid influenza test results: New Mexico, 2003-2007. American journal of public health, 99 Suppl 2(Suppl 2), S372–S377. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2007.125450
- ◆ ³CDC. (2019). Seasonal Flu Vaccine Effectiveness Studies. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/effectiveness-studies.htm>
- ◆ ⁴CDC. (2019). Past Seasons Vaccine Effectiveness Estimates. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/past-seasons-estimates.html>

NOTE: All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.

Tell us what you think of this report



Scan code or click [HERE](#)

Compiled by Derick N. Chia, MPH
Epidemiologist
Ottawa County Department of Public Health