Wyoming Department of Health

INFLUENZA REPORT

2024-2025 Influenza Season

MMWR Week 10 (3/2/25 – 3/8/25)

Weekly Report of Influenza and Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Activity

Overview (MMWR Week 10)

Influenza and Influenza-like Illness Activity

Spread
Widespread
Transmission levels remain elevated across the state

Flu Activity
Elevated
Reported influenza activity is elevated but has started to decrease

ILI Activity
Moderate
Reports of outpatient respiratory illnesses have decreased slightly

Co-circulating
Other Respiratory Infections:
SARS-CoV-2, Pertussis, and RSV

Seasonal Data
Types of Flu
Influenza A and B viruses are circulating

Subtypes
Primary: A viruses
Predominately H1N1 and H3N2 viruses reported across the country this week

Outbreaks
0
No newly reported school or LTCF outbreaks reported this week

Severity
Hospitalizations
The percent of ED visits and hospital admissions for influenza remains elevated

Deaths
134
No locally reported pediatric deaths this week; 134 pediatric deaths reported in the US so far this season

Syndromic
0
No syndromic anomalies were reported this week

EMS
45
Suspected ILI reports this week

Hot Spots
Tracking Trends
Several schools and daycares across the state continue to report high levels of respiratory activity

Geographic Activity by Regions

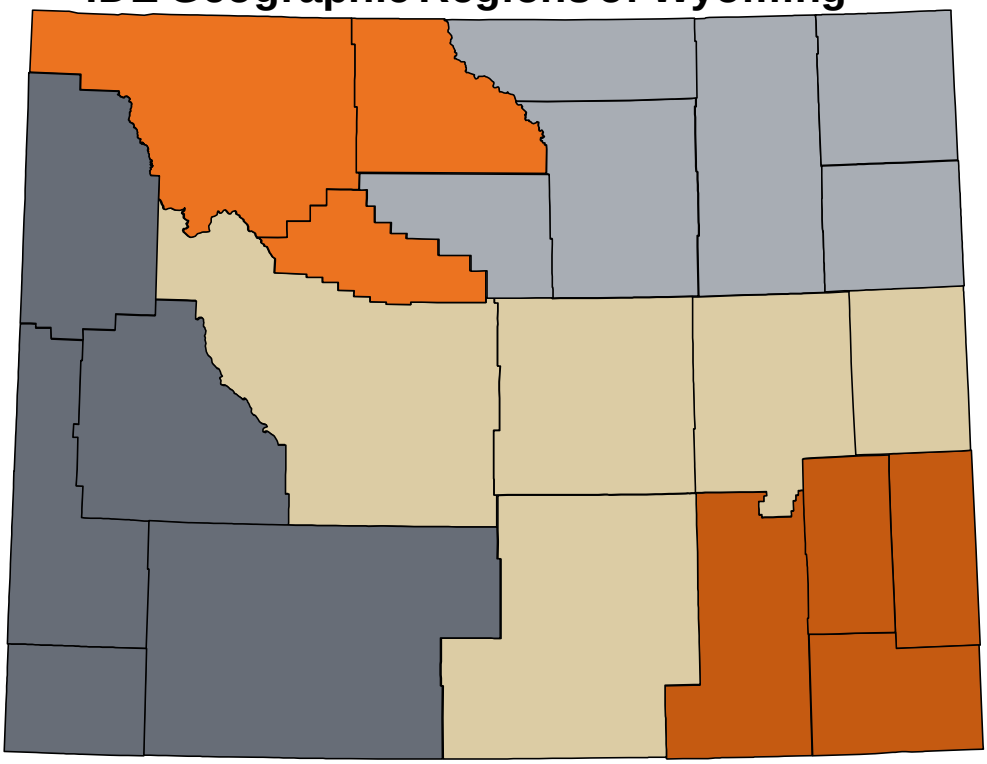
Wyoming as a whole had **moderate** ILI activity this week (MMWR Week 10). Transmission levels remain elevated across the state.

Healthcare providers in 20 counties reported ILI activity.

The electronically reported influenza cases represent all five Infectious Disease Epidemiology (IDE) Geographic Regions.

Healthcare providers across the state electronically reported **275 cases** of influenza (rapid influenza diagnostic tests and PCR confirmed tests) this week.

IDE Geographic Regions of Wyoming



Southeastern (**widespread**, cases reported in every county)

Central (**widespread**, cases reported in Carbon, Niobrara, Natrona, and Fremont)

Western (**widespread**, cases reported in every county besides Sublette)

Big Horn (**widespread**, cases reported in every county)

Northeastern (**widespread**, cases reported in every county besides Johnson)

Virologic Surveillance

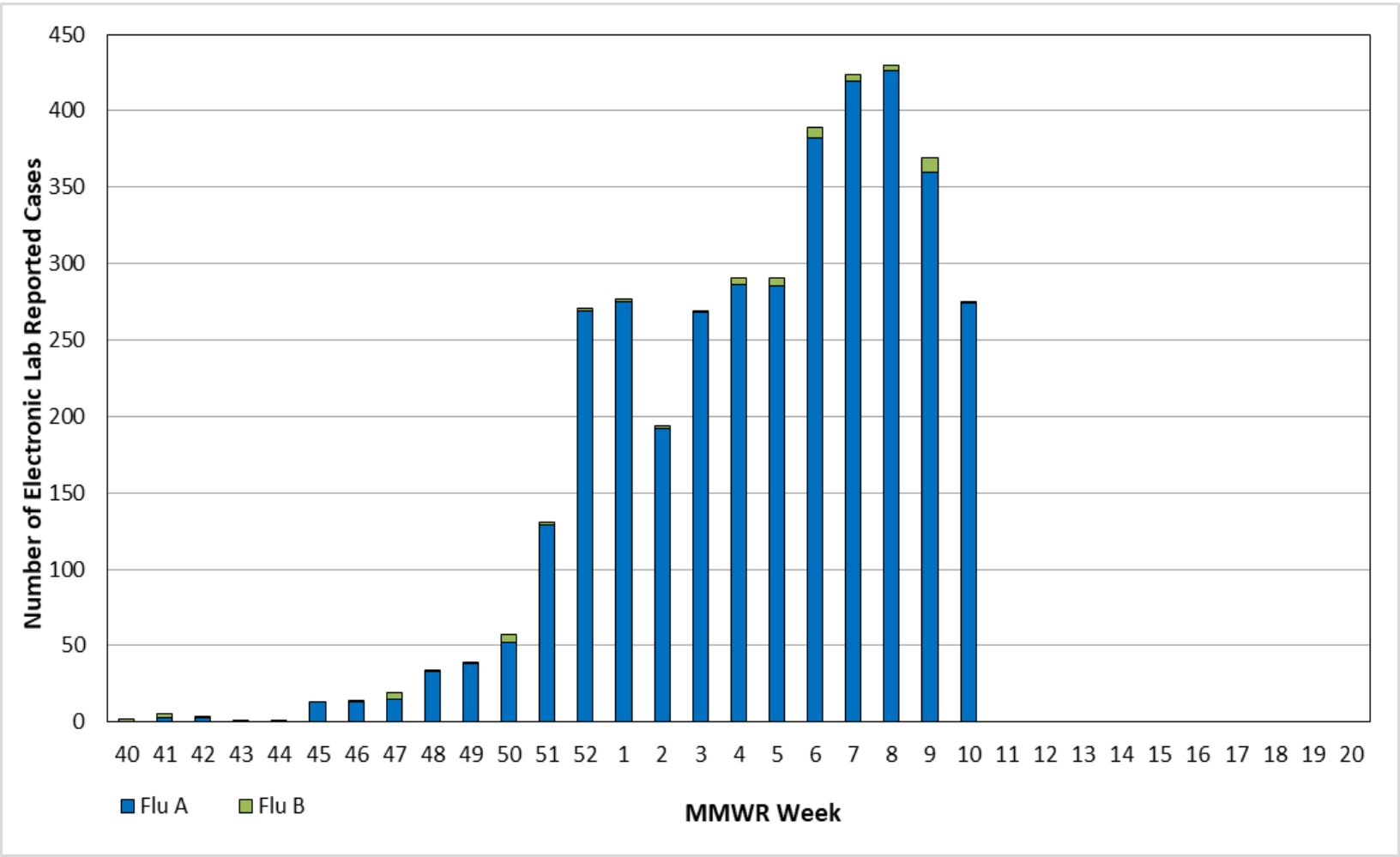
Public Health Laboratory

The overall volume of samples tested for influenza at the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory has steadily declined following the increasing distribution of the CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 Multiplex Assay in addition to at home testing options. **We strongly encourage providers across the state to send additional specimens to the WPHL for virologic surveillance.** The number of positive influenza specimens electronically reported this week decreased compared to week 9.

Healthcare and Clinical Laboratories

Clinical laboratories across the country most frequently reported **influenza A viruses (A/H1N1 and A/H3N2)** co-circulating during MMWR Week 10.

Electronic Lab Reports of Influenza Cases

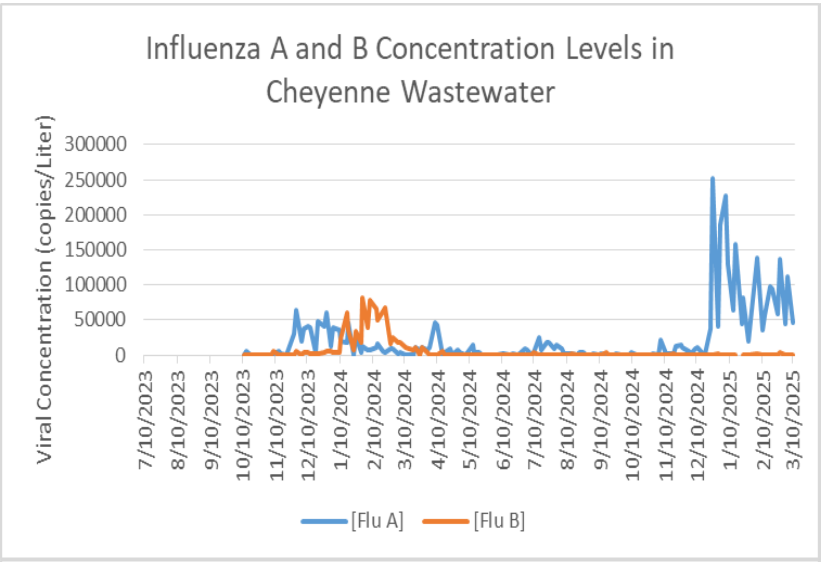


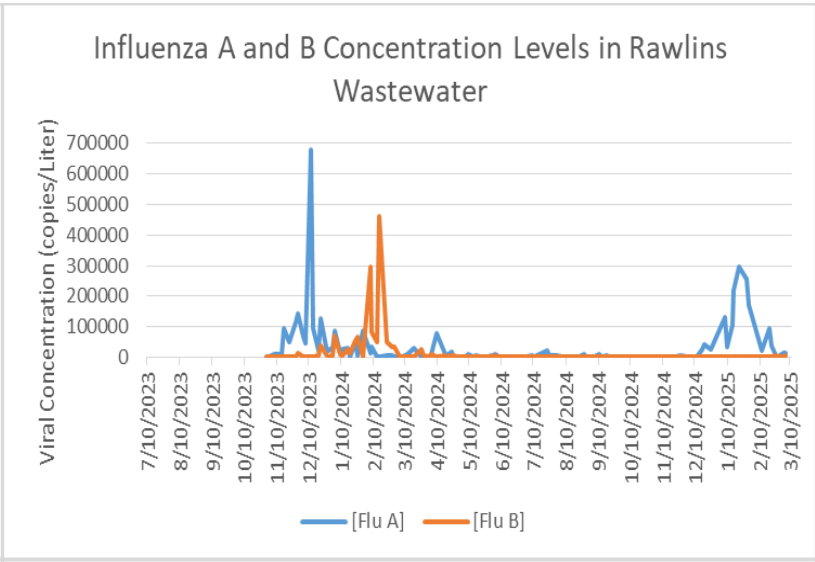
*** This graph is not representative of all influenza cases across the state**

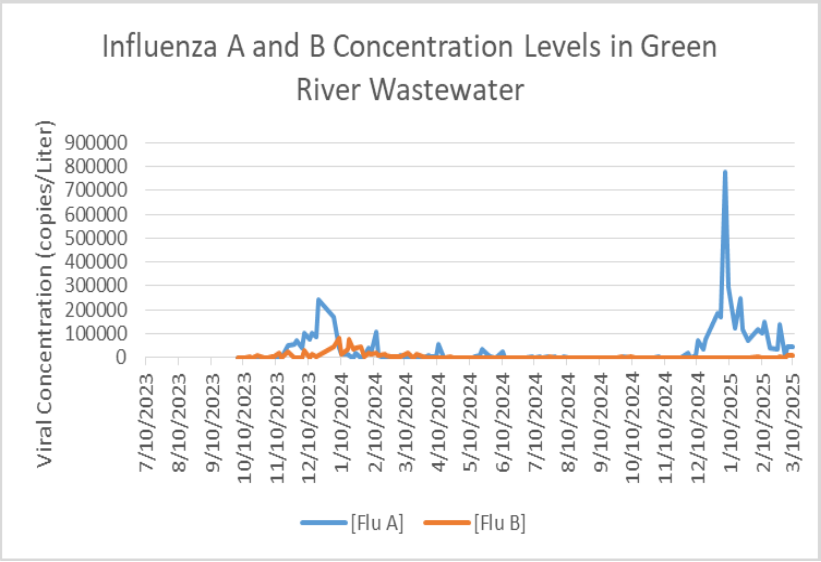
Wastewater Surveillance

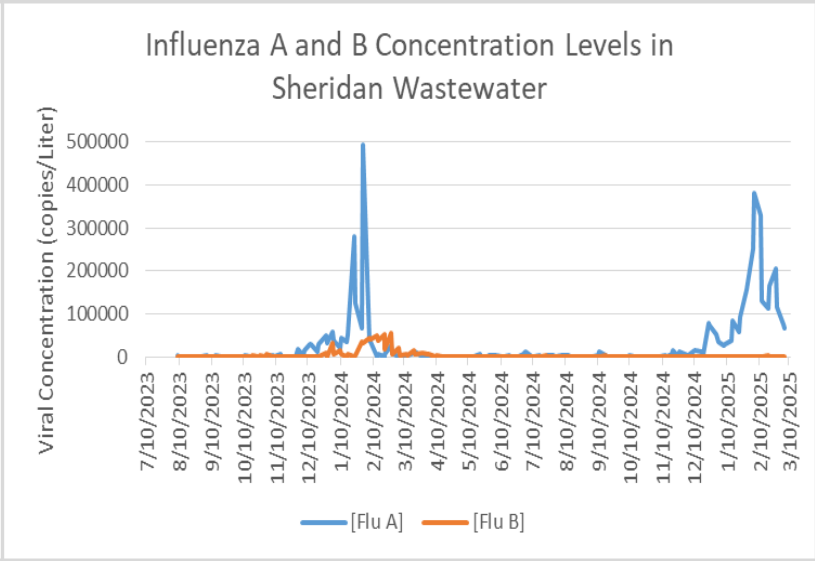
Importance of Wastewater Surveillance:

Here at the Wyoming Public Health Laboratory, we have a team of scientists working to analyze wastewater samples to identify trends in influenza (and many other pathogens). The graphs pictured below depict trend lines for the 2023-2024 influenza season and the 2024-2025 season. It is important to note that the high concentrations we have seen recently have dwarfed many of the values that were detected last year.









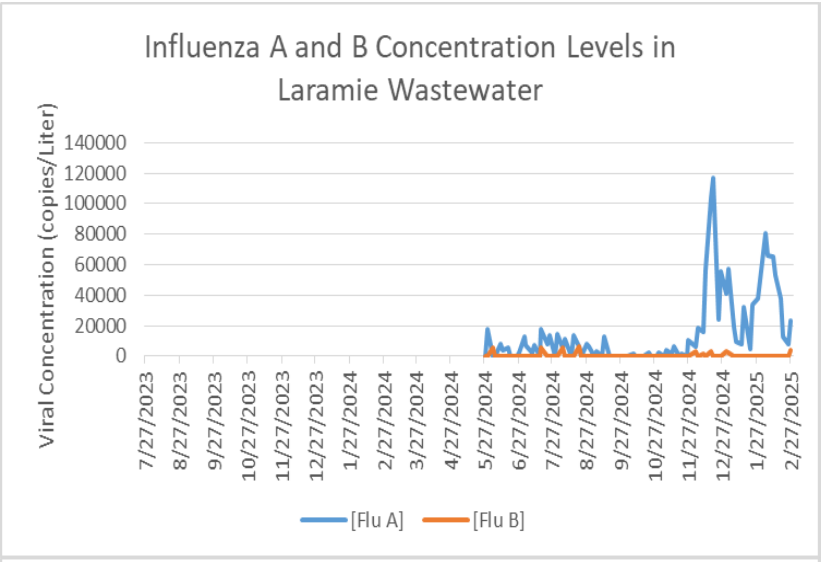
Sampling and Analysis Methodologies:

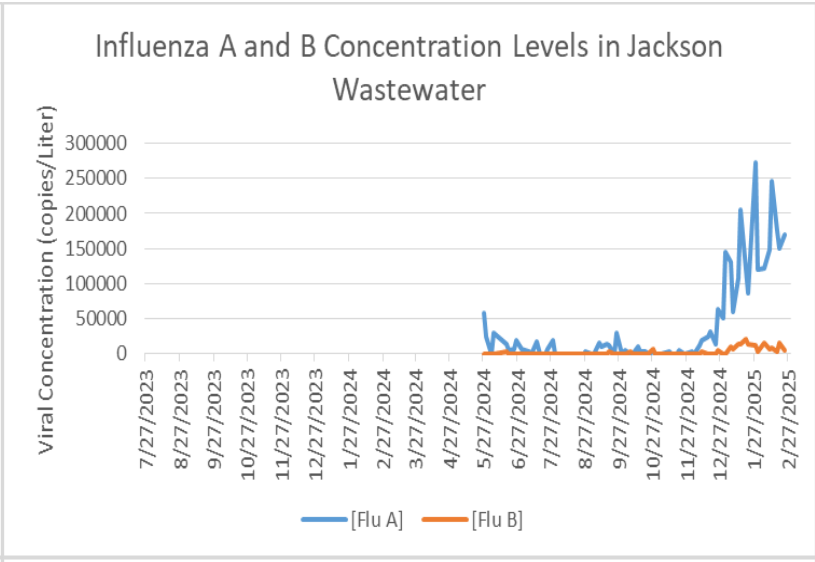
For each city, twice a week, we have a wastewater utility operator take a 24 hour composite sample from the influent channel prior to treatment, of which they send us a total of 150mL in three 50mL tubes for us to test. They then ship the samples chilled via priority overnight so that we can run all of our measurements the following day. The sampling procedure is conducted in triplicate, and we take an average of the three to determine the estimated concentration of viral particles present in the wastewater for any given day. We then take the average concentration and divide it by our percent recovery to account for any deviation due to differing levels of present inhibitors. Each plot point on the graph represents the average viral concentration for a set of triplicates, normalized for the percent recovery.

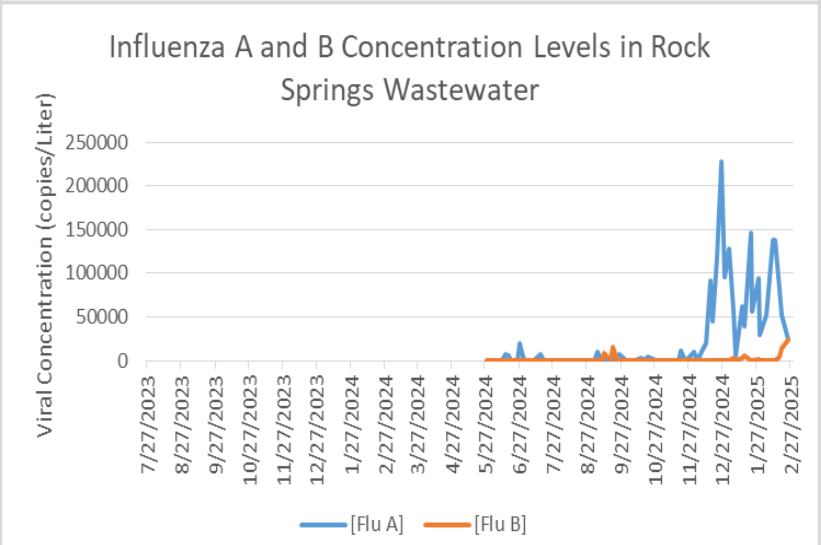
Wastewater Surveillance Continued

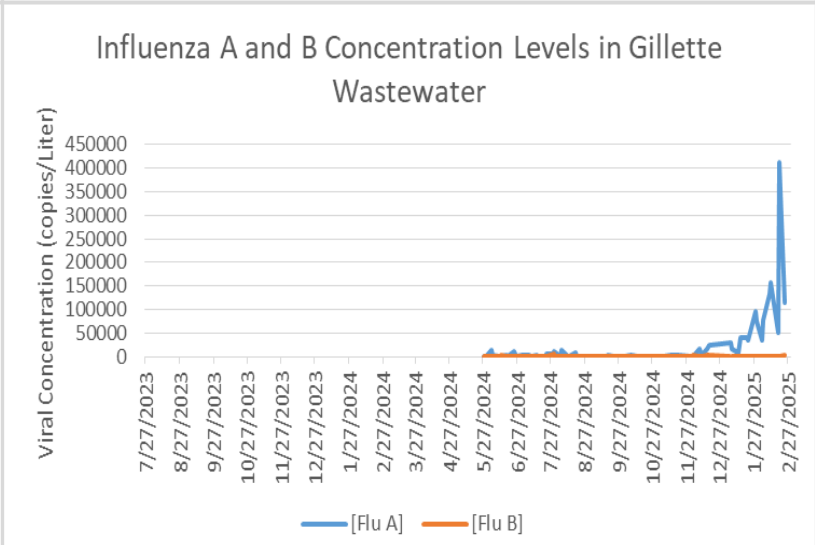
Four additional sample sites:

Our colleagues at the University of Wyoming have also started to analyze wastewater samples that have been collected at four additional treatment facilities across the state. The graphs below show current trend lines of varying influenza concentrations detected in wastewater starting in June of 2024 up until present. The data depicted below does not include the 2023-2024 influenza season. As a result, the initial viral concentrations will appear diminished now that we are seeing community wide viral spread.







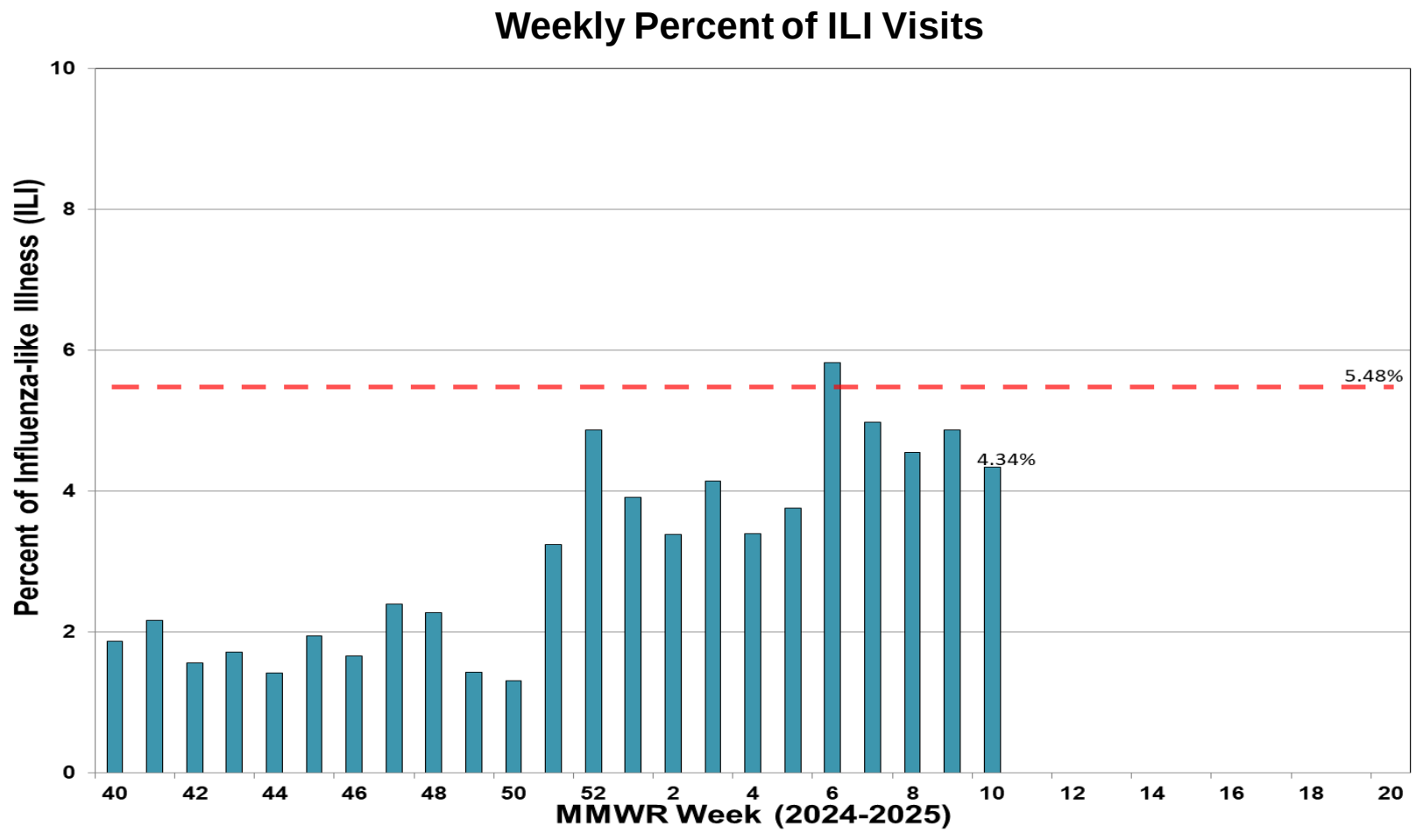


ILINet Providers

The percent of patient visits to ILINet Sentinel Providers for an influenza-like illness was **4.34%**, which is below Wyoming's baseline (**5.48%**), and a slight decrease compared to week 9.

The Wyoming Department of Health received reports from more than 50% of the ILINet providers across the state. Although weekly percentages could continue to change as additional values are submitted.

Key Updates: Seasonal influenza activity remains elevated nationally but has decreased for four consecutive weeks. The season has peaked; however, flu-related medical visits, hospitalizations, and deaths remain elevated, and CDC expects several more weeks of flu activity. Based on CDC calculations, transmission within Wyoming was **moderate** this week. Outpatient respiratory illness decreased this week but remains above the national baseline for the fifteenth consecutive week. All 10 HHS regions are above their region-specific baselines.



Mortality Data

Tracking death certificates is the best surveillance system to capture and identify pneumonia and influenza-associated deaths in Wyoming. According to the CDC, influenza is infrequently listed on death certificates. Also, testing for seasonal influenza infections is not frequently performed, particularly among the elderly, who are at greatest risk for seasonal influenza complications and death. Therefore, public health officials may not identify influenza-associated deaths in many instances; consequently, this surveillance system may underestimate the true impact of influenza-associated deaths across the state.

There have been 40 pneumonia and influenza (P&I) mortality reports certified since the beginning of the 2024-2025 Influenza Season.