



# 2015-16 INFLUENZA SEASON SUMMARY

County of Santa Cruz ~ Public Health Division

[www.santacruzhealth.org/flu](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/flu)

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**Public Health**  
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**Santa Cruz County**

This report summarizes the 2015-16 influenza season in Santa Cruz County, California and the United States. Overall, the 2015-16 flu season was mild to moderate, arriving and departing relatively late.

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY <sup>1</sup>

The Santa Cruz County Health Officer's masking order was extended beyond March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup>, since flu was still widespread in California at the end of March. The order states that all licensed healthcare facilities must ensure that all healthcare workers either receive an annual flu vaccine or, if they decline, wear a mask while working in patient care areas. Reportable condition numbers were similar, though slightly decreased, compared to the previous season (Table 1).

## CALIFORNIA <sup>2</sup>

The number of positive flu specimens in California peaked in late February, which is fairly late in the season (Figure 1). The majority of cases were flu B (green bar), followed by flu 2009 A (H1N1) (the orange bar); the yellow bar shows flu A results that were not sub-typed.

## UNITED STATES <sup>3</sup>

Nationally, the 2015/16 flu season peaked in mid-March, which is quite a bit later than usual, using outpatient influenza-like illness visits as the measure (Figure 2). Fortunately, antigenically characterized influenza viruses have matched the influenza components included in the trivalent and quadrivalent influenza vaccines. In February, the CDC reported preliminary overall influenza vaccine effectiveness (VE) of 59 percent, meaning getting a flu vaccine reduced the risk of having to go to the doctor because of flu by nearly 60 percent.<sup>4</sup> This finding is comparable to past estimates in years when most of the circulating viruses and vaccine viruses have been similar.

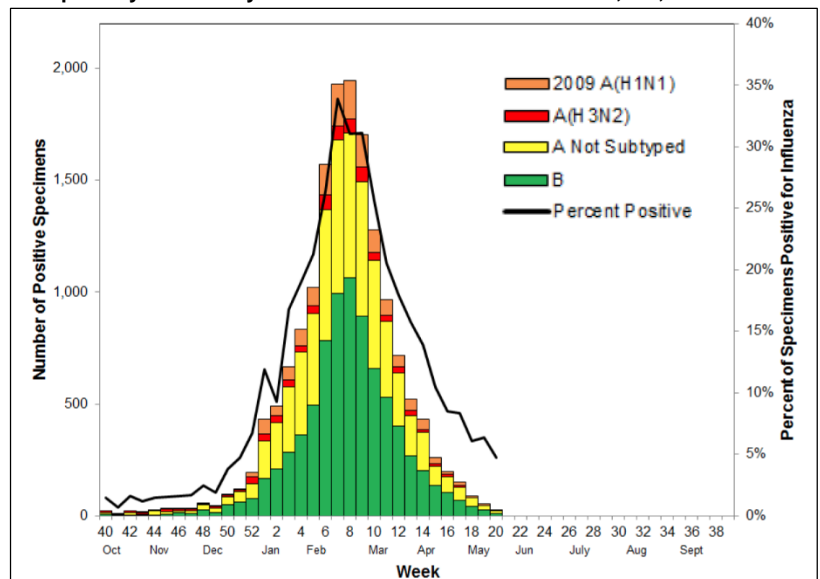
## SOURCES

1. Santa Cruz County Public Health Division; Communicable Disease Unit (Unpublished Data).
2. California Department of Public Health. Influenza Surveillance Program. [California Influenza and Other Respiratory Disease Surveillance for Week 20 \(May 15, 2016 to May 21, 2016\)](#)
3. Centers for Disease Control. Weekly U.S. Influenza Surveillance Report. 2015-2016 Influenza Season Week 22 ending June 4, 2016. [www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/)
4. Centers for Disease Control. CDC Newsroom. [Flu Vaccine Nearly 60 Percent Effective.](#) 2/24/2016.

**Table 1: Number of Reported Influenza-Related Conditions, Santa Cruz County Residents, 2014/15 and 2015/16 Flu Seasons <sup>1</sup>**

Reportable Conditions	2014/15 Flu Season	2015/16 Flu Season
ICU hospitalization of persons with influenza ages 0-64 years	7	5
Deaths from influenza among persons ages 0-64 years	0	0
Outbreaks of influenza	3	2

**Figure 1: Number of Influenza Detections by Type and Subtype Detected in Respiratory Laboratory Network and Sentinel Laboratories, CA, 2015-2016 <sup>2</sup>**



**Figure 2: Percentage of Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Reported by the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-like Illness Surveillance Network (ILINet), Weekly National Summary, 2015-2016 and Selected Previous Seasons <sup>3</sup>**

