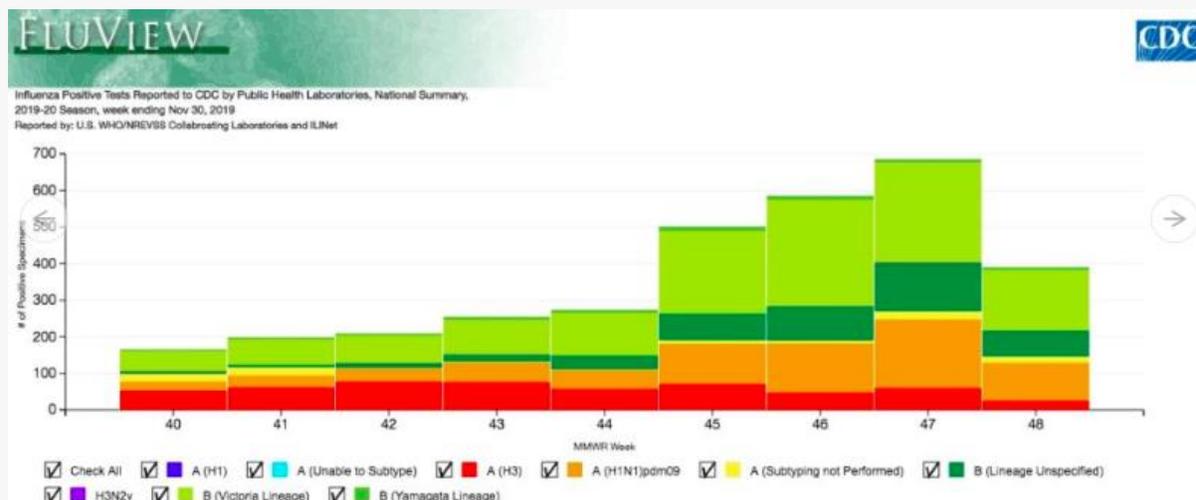


## December 13 Influenza B increase this season



### Threat Assessment



The influenza season data collection and analysis is essential for healthcare's ability to identify the type(s) of influenza that is affecting communities. Identifying the influenza type can help the healthcare professionals understand the mitigation practices and protective measures they need to put in place to protect the community. Some of these protective measures can be actions such as flu visitation restrictions (hours and age restrictions), required wearing of mask in a healthcare setting, having sanitizing stations in more high traffic areas and more. "According to the latest surveillance data from US surveillance programs, around 60 to 70 percent of the flu viruses analyzed from patients this flu season have been type B viruses. Of those, about 97 percent tested were in the B/Victoria lineage. Over the last few weeks, the proportion of B/Victoria strains among the flu-positive cases has been increasing....Type B viruses typically account for about a third of all of the flu disease burden and in 2018-2019, the influenza cases of type B viruses have been relatively low in recent years and almost non-existent in the 2018-2019 flu season....So far in the US, there have been six confirmed pediatric deaths from flu this season. Overall, the CDC estimates that there have already been at least 1.7 million flu cases nationwide this season, leading to at least 16,000 hospitalizations and 910 deaths. Southern states have been hardest hit" ([ARS](#))

#### Action Steps:

1. Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season, especially people at [high risk](#).
2. Take actions every day to help stop the spread of germs. Getting a [flu vaccine](#) is the most important.
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.  
([CDC](#))

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