

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



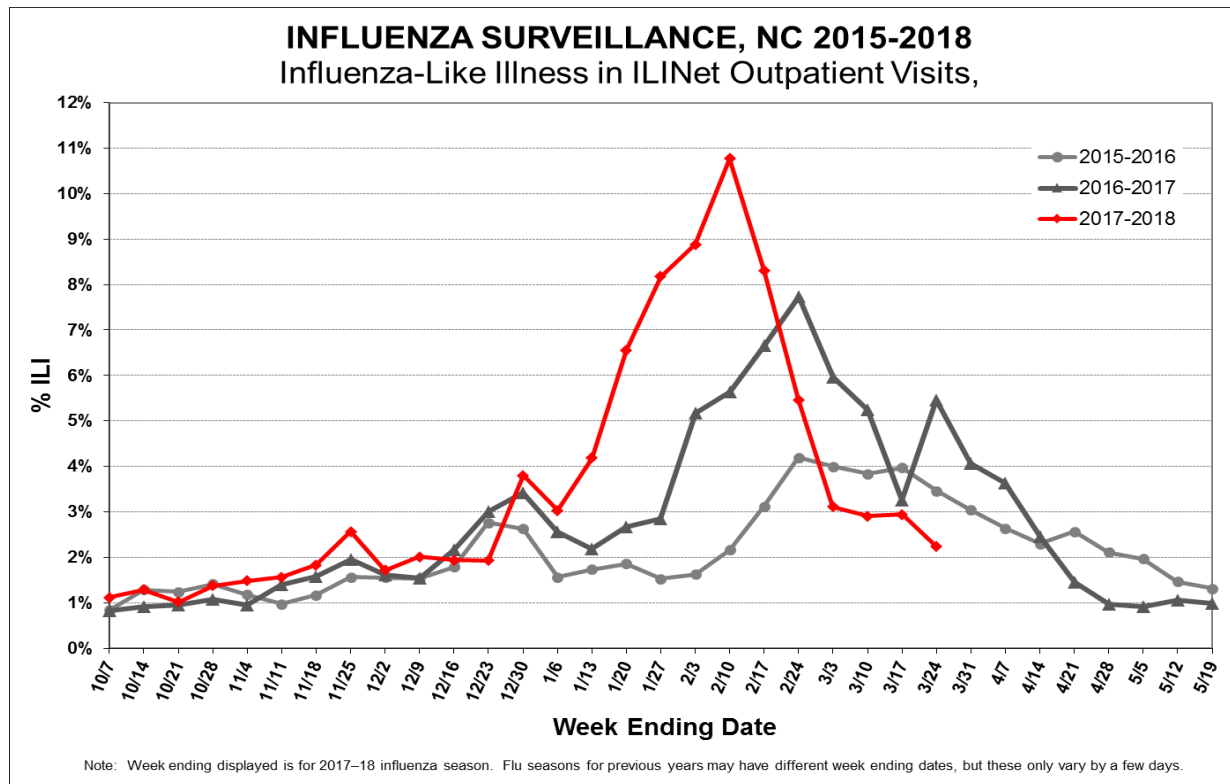
DHHS Updates

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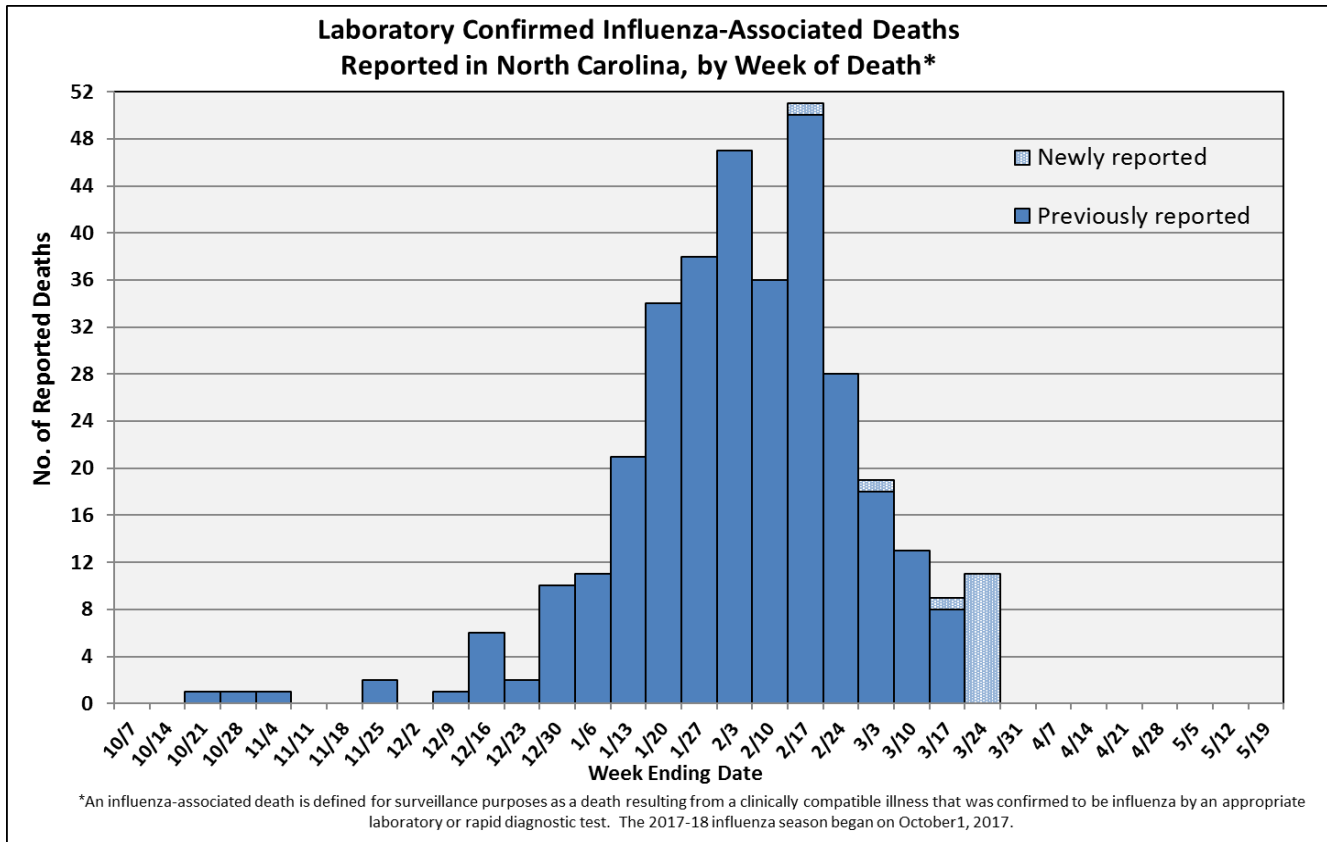
April 10, 2018

2017–18 NC Influenza Season: Update



- Activity peaked week ending February 10th
- Higher peak than recent seasons

NC Influenza-Associated Deaths: 2017–18 Season



- Most deaths in persons ≥ 65 years of age
- Reporting lags behind other measures of flu activity
- Total deaths 342

SOURCE: www.flu.nc.gov

Flu Messages

- **Flu B continuing to circulate**
- **If you think you have the flu, call your doctor**
 - Prescription antiviral drugs are important second line of defense
 - Especially important for those at high risk for complications
- **Remember common sense prevention actions**
 - Hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette
 - Stay home from school/work when sick

Cherokee County - Background

- **DHHS learned that counties had been using these Custody and Visitation Agreements (CVAs). We began working with Cherokee County to facilitate child placement for these children.**
- **Use of CVAs circumvented required court involvement, a judge determined this violated parent's rights of custody and control of their children on March 14**
- **In the course of investigating use of the CVAs, DHHS determined that:**
 - **Cherokee DSS' child welfare services were not being provided in accordance with law, rule and policy and**
 - **Posed a substantial threat to the safety and well-being of children**
- **DHHS assumed temporary direct operation of Cherokee DSS' child welfare services on March 19**

Collaboration with County Leadership

- **DHHS informed Cherokee County leadership prior to initiating action to assume temporary responsibility of child welfare services**
- **County leadership expressed support for action, and DHHS has been working closely with County leadership throughout the process**
- **DHHS provided Cherokee County leadership with an initial assessment of child welfare services on March 30**
- **DHHS will work County leadership to develop a plan to return administration of child welfare services to Cherokee DSS upon completion of agreed upon steps for: training, staffing, oversight**
- **DHHS is committed to continued partnership and collaboration with County leadership**