

Infectious Disease Diagnostics

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The overall percent of influenza continues to rise

We observed a slight drop in influenza activity during CDC week 5, however the decline reflects an overall drop in tests performed due to the snow storm which affected travel throughout the system. Although testing picked up again the following weeks, the rise of influenza-positive results has slowed down. **Influenza A is depicted on the bottom bar of the graph in the light blue.**

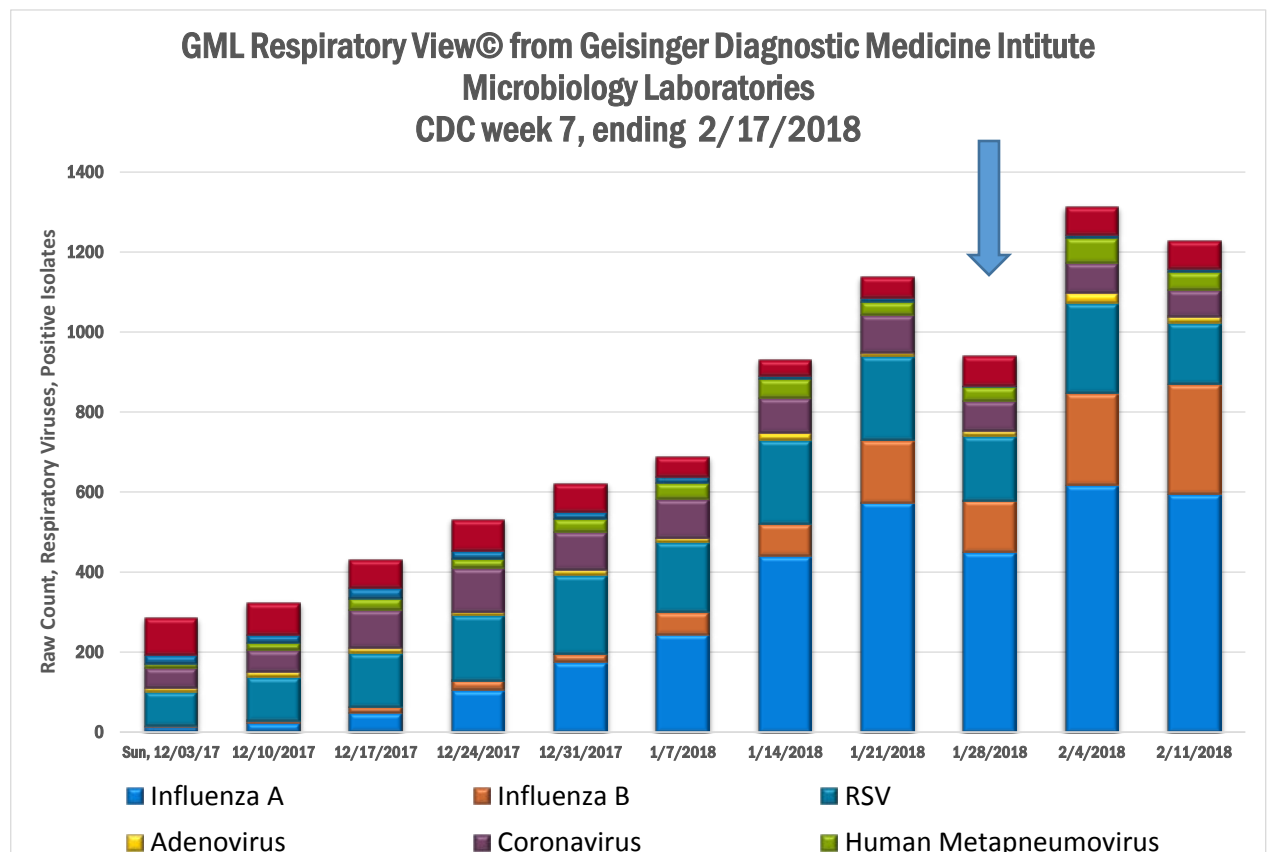
New CDC data demonstrate that the flu vaccine is only 36% percent effective for all ages.

The data also suggest that among those vaccinated, children (6 mos -8 yrs) are better protected against the flu than adults (59% vs. 25% effectiveness, respectively). Click [here](#) for the full article.



REMINDER

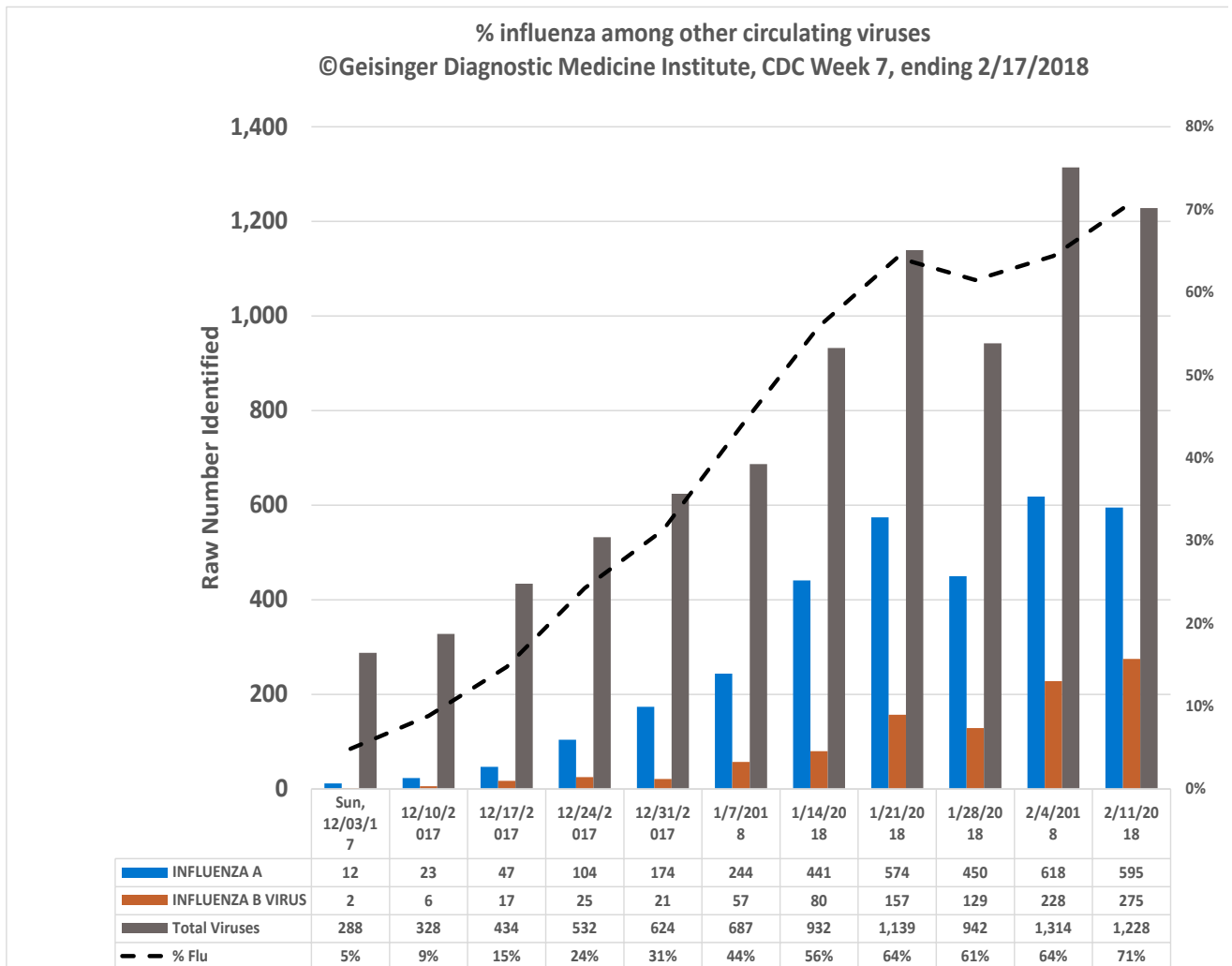
- Continue to order the Respiratory Pathogen Panel (RPPCR) for in-patients and high risk out-patients
- Flu swabs should be obtained in the office or clinic. Do not direct patients to the laboratory or ED for these collections. Please contact client services for supplies.



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Is Influenza A on the Decline?

Although fluB rates continue to rise, making the overall percent of influenza increase, it appears as though fluA rates may be on the down swing.



If you have any questions, please contact the Doctoral Directors, Donna Wolk, Ph.D., D(ABMM) at 570-271-7467 or Raquel Martinez Ph.D., D(ABMM) at 570-214-6587.