

Infectious Disease Diagnostics

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Update: Influenza Activity — United States, September 30, 2018–February 2, 2019

This seasons flu vaccine is a good match for the virus strains in circulation, according to new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, explaining in part the lower severity of the season.

In its 2/14/2019 report, CDC said the interim estimate of the flu vaccine's effectiveness against the H1N1 influenza strain, which has been dominant in the U.S. this year, was 47 percent. For context, at this time last year the midseason effectiveness of the vaccine was just 36 percent. The interim estimate covers October through February.

Tick Talk

Haemaphysalis longicornis was recently reported in Pennsylvania but **no cases of illness in humans or other species were reported.** *H. longicornis* is a tick indigenous to eastern Asia and an important vector of human and animal disease agents, resulting in such outcomes as human hemorrhagic fever and reduction of production in dairy cattle. *H. longicornis* was discovered on a sheep in New Jersey in August 2017. This was the first detection in the United States outside of quarantine. In the spring of 2018, the tick was again detected at - The hosts included six species of domestic animals, six species of wildlife, and humans. Where this tick exists, it is an important vector of human and animal disease agents. *H. longicornis* ticks were intercepted at U.S. ports of entry at least 15 times on imported animals and materials (James W. Mertins, U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA], personal communication).

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NOTE:

Vaccine coverage is approximately 47% this year up from the mid to 36% last year.

It's not too late to get a flu shot!

No human cases of *Haemaphysalis longicornis* yet.

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Respiratory View

In 2019 MMWR CDC Week 7, influenza A remains the predominant virus, followed by coronavirus and RSV.

Of Influenza A, Strain H1 2009 greatly predominates.

