
Flu Season is Here

December 2, 2019

Influenza, the most common respiratory virus, occurs in the fall and winter months spanning from mid-October to March in the United States. An estimated 40 million flu illnesses occurred during the 2018-2019 flu season in the U.S. which lasted nearly 21 weeks, the longest flu season in a decade.^{1,2} December and February are the peak months in flu season, however, several states have already reported widespread infection including California, Louisiana, and Maryland.¹

Respiratory viruses, like the flu, cause irritating symptoms for patients including fever, cough or sore throat, running nose and sneezing, and head or muscle aches. Symptoms of the flu and other respiratory viruses often overlap so diagnosis can sometimes be difficult. Patients can protect themselves from the flu by getting vaccinated early, however, if they do become infected, it is important to get diagnosed and treated quickly to avoid serious complications.²

PathGroup offers clinical and molecular laboratory testing options to help diagnose respiratory viruses in your patients. To learn more about our testing options, visit <http://www.pathgroup.com/clinical/testing-menu/> or contact your local PathGroup representative.

1. Influenza (Flu). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>. Published November 8, 2019.
2. Cassoobhoy A. Flu Season: What to Know This Year. WebMD. <https://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/flu-season-what-to-know-this-year>. Published October 4, 2019.