Influenza activity is now widespread in California with elevated activity in Long Beach compared to previous years. During week 48 (11/24-11/30), 17.3% of specimens in CA\(^1\) and 7.6% of specimens in LA\(^2\) tested for influenza tested positive. Based on CDC data, Influenza B/Victoria viruses are the predominant strain so far this season,\(^3\) which is unusual for this time of year. More detailed Long Beach specific data will be reported as the season progresses. It's not too late to get vaccinated. Everyone 6 months and older needs a flu shot.

On October 1, 2019, laboratories were mandated to report all cases of influenza for the first time. This may lead to an increase in the number of cases reported this season compared to past seasons.