



## CDC flu report: Pediatric death toll rises to 106

by Melissa Jenco, News Content Editor

**Editor's note:** An updated flu story is available at <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2019/05/17/flu051719>.

Health officials are reporting five more pediatric deaths related to flu, bringing the total to 106 as the season stretches into May.

Across all ages, the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates** 42.9 million people have gotten sick, 647,000 have been hospitalized and 61,200 have died this season.

During the week ending May 4, about 1.6% of outpatient clinic visits were for flu, marking the third consecutive week rates fell below baseline, according to **CDC data**. These rates were above baseline for 21 weeks, peaking in February at 5.1%.

H1N1 viruses were predominant from October into February, but a surge of H3N2 viruses beginning in late February contributed to what became the longest season in a decade. Flu still is widespread in Massachusetts and New York.

The CDC and the Academy recommend everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated against the flu. Flu vaccine is 61% effective against medically attended influenza for children and 47% for the overall population, according to **interim data** from the CDC.

This season, inactivated influenza vaccine has been the primary vaccine choice, while quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine may be used for children who would not otherwise receive a vaccine, according to **AAP policy**. However, the **AAP announced in March** that it will not have a preference between the two vaccines next season.

### Resources

- ["Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2018-2019"](#)
- [AAP News story "How to code for flu vaccine, administration in 2018-'19 season"](#)
- [Information from the CDC about flu](#)
- [Information for parents on flu vaccine from HealthyChildren.org](#)
- [AAP News stories on flu](#)
- [Pediatrics seasonal flu article collection](#)