



First Lab-Confirmed Flu Deaths Reported in Snohomish County

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Newsroom

Snohomish Health District is the local public health agency for Snohomish County in Washington state. Our news releases are a resource for current public health information for media, the public, policymakers, and other community partners.

News releases are sent to print and electronic media as needed. We also share relevant media releases from the Department of Health and other public health agencies.

Media Releases

Health officials remind public that it's not too late for flu shots

Author: [Lynn Ljungquist](#)/Tuesday, January 2, 2018/Categories: [Media Releases](#), [2018](#)

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Health officials remind public that it's not too late for flu shots

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. – Flu season typically peaks between January and March, but 2017 wrapped up with five influenza-related deaths being reported in Snohomish County. A man in his late-80s from Bothell that passed away in early December was the first lab-confirmed death for the 2017-2018 flu season. There were four additional deaths December 21-28:

- A woman in her early-70s from Everett
- A woman in her early-90s from unincorporated Snohomish County
- A woman in her late-80s from unincorporated Snohomish County
- A man in his late-40s from Edmonds

All five individuals had underlying health conditions. Hospitals were initially required to report influenza hospitalizations with the H1N1 pandemic in 2009-2010. While no longer considered a notifiable condition, local collaboration with Snohomish County hospitals has allowed the Health District to continue collecting this information on a weekly basis during flu season. Only those patients admitted overnight due to influenza complications are counted in these reports.

“We are seeing an increase in hospitalizations and flu cases reported by clinics, but it’s not too late to get your flu shots,” said Dr. Mark Beatty, health officer for the Snohomish Health District. “It’s also a good reminder for people to wash hands frequently, cover coughs, and most importantly—stay home if you’re sick.”

To help stay informed during flu season, the Snohomish Health District has developed resources for the community at www.snohd.org/flu. Highlights of the information include:

- [Weekly influenza surveillance reports](#) (updated weekly on Friday afternoons)
- Information on flu symptoms and treatment options
- [Guidelines on when to remain home](#), and when to seek medical or emergency care
- Status of medical providers who are offering extended clinic hours to help reduce the demand on hospitals
- [Flu vaccine information](#)

The Snohomish Health District works for a safer and healthier community through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats. To read more about the District and for important health information, visit www.snohd.org.

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