

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



# **DHHS Updates**

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# **Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Board Selection**

- **New Board –**  
**Nominated by County Commissioner process**
- **Board Members –**  
**Includes all legislatively mandated categories including the 3 CFAC representatives**
- **Training –**  
**DHHS and Cardinal staff conducted initial training January 6**
- **Next Steps –**  
**Additional training/preparation for Board to assume responsibility**

# **Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Operations**

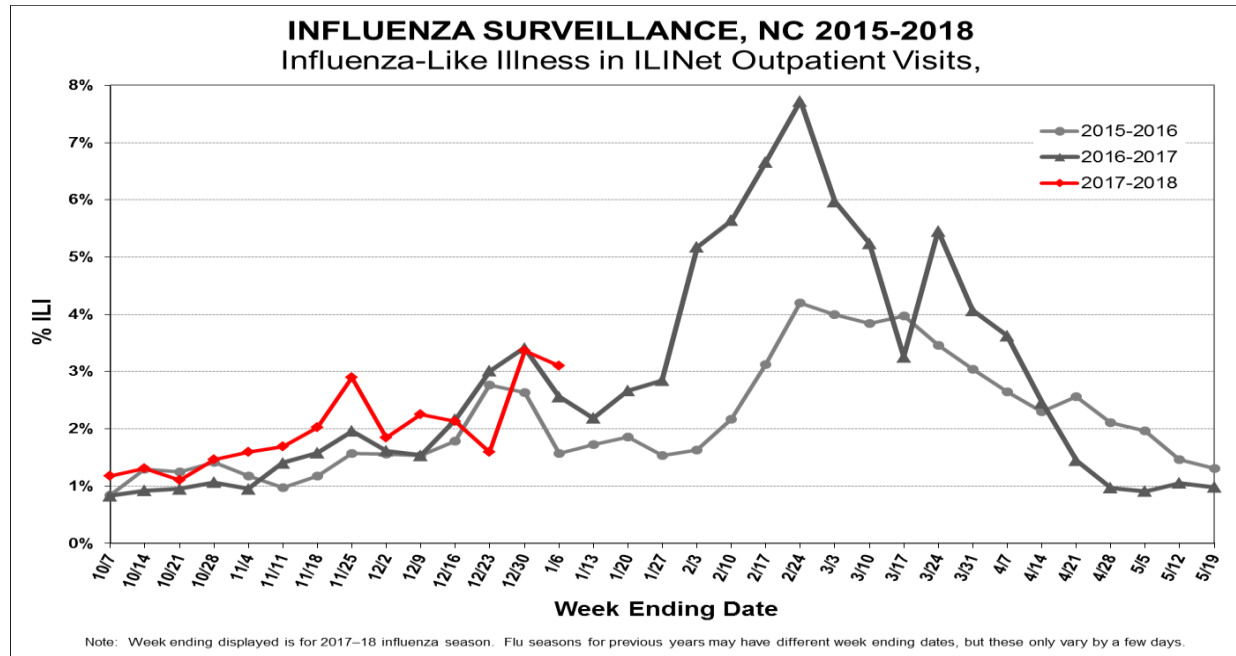
- **Meeting day-to-day obligations**
- **State onsite and regular calls with leadership**
- **Corrective Action Plan is being finalized**
- **Process for allocating \$3.8 million from administrative funds is being finalized**

# Influenza: Annual Impacts Nationwide

- Major health burden
  - 140,000–710,000 hospitalizations
  - 12,000–56,000 deaths
- \$10 billion in direct medical costs  
\$87 billion total economic burden
- Potential to cause deadly pandemics

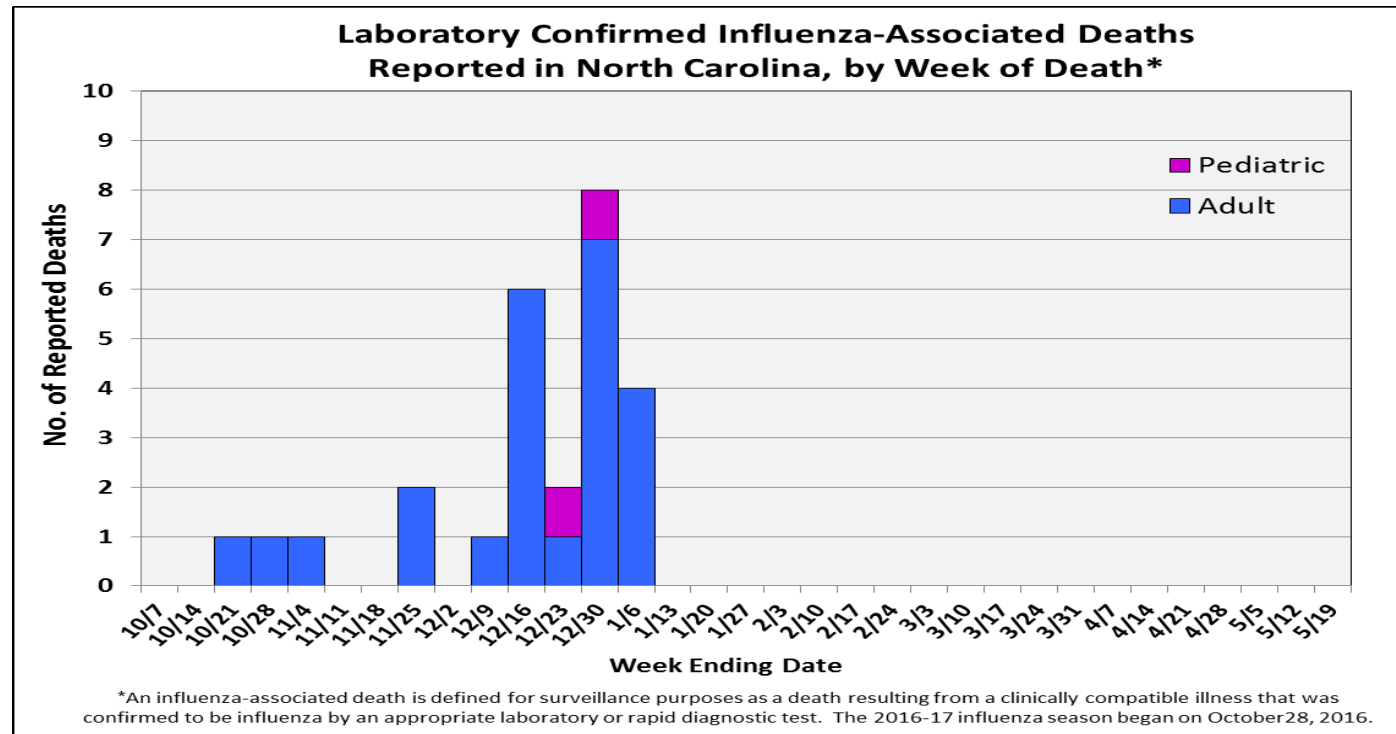
# 2017–18 NC Influenza Season: Update

- Activity increasing



- Influenza A (H3N2) viruses predominating
  - Associated with more severe illness in those  $\geq 65$  or  $< 5$  years of age

# NC Influenza-Associated Deaths: 2017–18 Season



- 26 deaths reported through January 6, 2018
- Most in persons  $\geq 65$  years of age
- Reporting lags behind other measures of flu activity

SOURCE: [www.flu.nc.gov](http://www.flu.nc.gov)

# Flu Vaccine Benefits

- **Best way to prevent flu illness and complications**
- **Prevents millions of illnesses and tens of thousands of hospitalizations each year**
- **Can significantly reduce a child's risk of dying from influenza**
- **Protects people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to serious flu illness**
- **May make illness milder if you do get sick**

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm>

# 2017–18 NC Influenza Season: DHHS Actions

- Promoting vaccination against flu
  - Meet the Shot Dodgers campaign launched 2017
  - >358,000 doses shipped by N.C. Immunization Program; still receiving orders
- Conducting influenza surveillance
  - Weekly updates at [www.flu.nc.gov](http://www.flu.nc.gov)
- Providing guidance to clinicians, facilities
  - Antiviral treatment recommendations
  - Control of outbreaks