

# Preparing for the “Twindemic” in Rural AZ

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THE ARIZONA  
**SURGELINE**

**1-877-SURGE-AZ**

**1-877-787-4329**

Arizona is preparing for a surge in hospital admissions due to COVID-19. The hospital systems and post-acute care facilities and in Arizona are collaborating in an unprecedented way in order to efficiently transfer, transport, offload and clinically manage patients.

The Arizona Surge Line is meant to facilitate the interfacility transfer of patients throughout the pandemic, with protocols that will change as levels of triage change over time.

# THE MISSION

To do the following with efficiency, consistency and ethical consideration:

- **Expedite interfacility patient transfers**
- **Equalize and optimize patient “load” across hospital facilities**
- **Optimize clinician time and ability to provide patient care**

# THE SCOPE

- A statewide resource for interfacility hospital transfers.
- Available to private, public and federal facilities.
- Used only for the transfer of presumed and confirmed COVID-19 patients.
- Active for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

# Arizona Surge Line Consult Services

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Luke Smith DNP, RN

# Critical Care and Palliative Care Consults

Staffed by Arizona critical care and palliative care physicians  
Consultation to a requesting provider will be offered if

- A) patient cannot be transferred and/or transported
- B) time to expected transport is >60 minutes

NOTE: If a patient is being transferred, right of first refusal for consultation goes to the destination accepting physician

# Insight to Palliative Care Consultative Services

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Masood Kisana MD, FACP





# Increased Importance of the Influenza Vaccination

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Lisa Villarroel MD, MPH

# Straight talk (1)

We need to keep people out of hospitals this season. The influenza vaccine does exactly that.

- Flu vaccination can reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalization for children, working age adults, and older adults.
  - Flu vaccine prevents tens of thousands of hospitalizations each year. For example, during 2018-2019 flu vaccination prevented an estimated 58,000 flu-related hospitalizations.
  - A [2014 study](#)  showed that flu vaccine reduced children's risk of flu-related pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) admission by 74% during flu seasons from 2010-2012.
  - In recent years, [flu vaccines have reduced the risk of flu-associated hospitalizations among older adults](#)  on average by about 40%.
  - A [2018 study](#) showed that from 2012 to 2015, flu vaccination among adults reduced the risk of being admitted to an intensive care unit (ICU) with flu by 82 percent.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/vaccines-work/vaccineeffect.htm>



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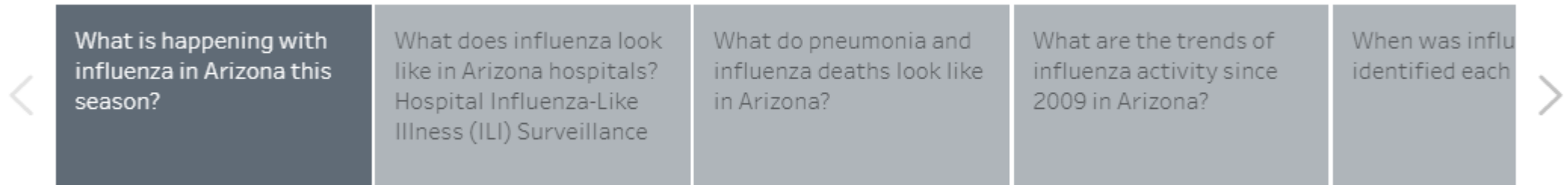
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# **Straight talk (2)**

**Arizona does not require HCW to get influenza vaccinations.**

# Straight talk (3)

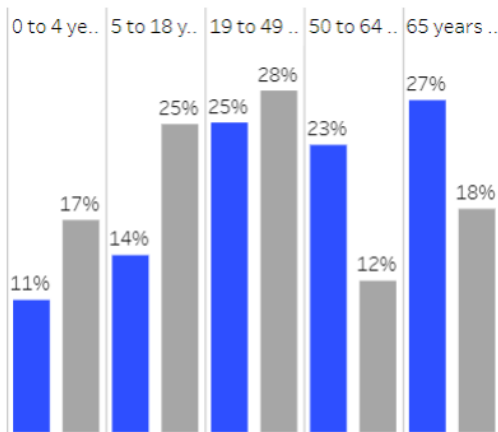
THE ARIZONA FLU DASHBOARD is one of best in the country,  
Check it out. ([www.azdhs.gov/flu](http://www.azdhs.gov/flu))



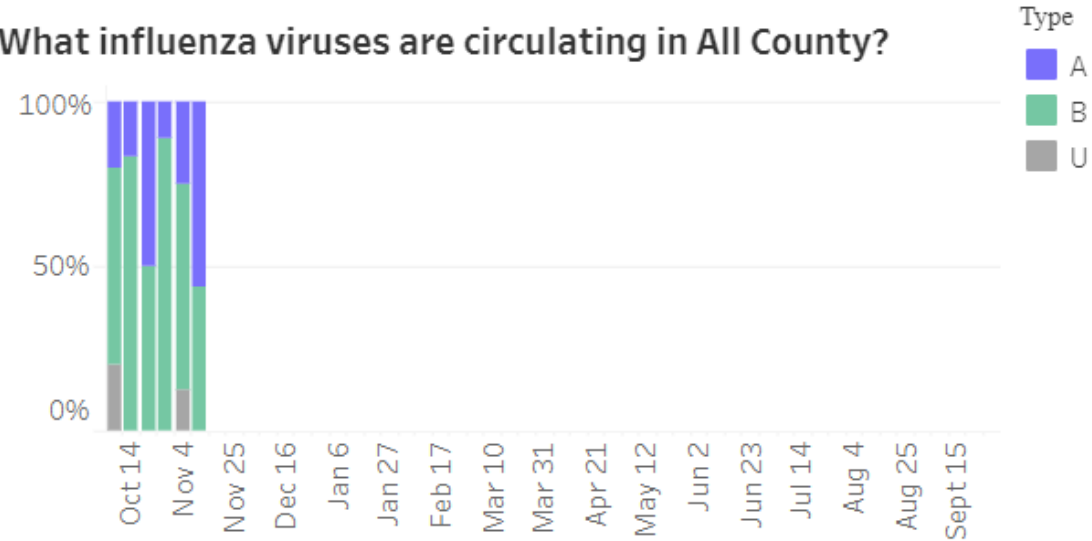
# Straight talk (3)

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Which age group is most affected by influenza in All County?  
(current season vs 5 season average)



What influenza viruses are circulating in All County?



# Resources

## VaccineFinder





Roll Up Your Sleeve & Get Your Influenza Shot



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[www.azdhs.gov/surgeline](http://www.azdhs.gov/surgeline)

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