



“Committed Service and
Responsiveness”

OFFICE OF THE CORONER COUNTY OF CHESTER

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For Immediate Release

Coroner's Office reports 11 Influenza Deaths so far in 2018

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The Chester County Coroner's Office has received reports to date of 11 deaths associated with influenza during the 2017-2018 reporting period. By comparison, five deaths due to influenza were reported during the 2016-2017 flu season.

Influenza was the primary cause of death in 6 of the 11 cases and a contributory factor in 5 other cases. Influenza type A was identified in 3 cases; no typing was available for the other 8 cases.

Dr. Christina VandePol, Chester County Coroner, said “Any influenza death is required to be reported to our office, but often we learn of a case only during our review of cremation permits, so the actual number of such deaths is probably higher than 11. Fortunately, it appears that influenza deaths and illness are finally starting to decrease after an unusually active season this winter.”

Influenza A(H3N2), has been the most prevalent flu virus in the United States this year. Although the current vaccine is only about 25% effective against that particular strain, vaccination can still prevent thousands of cases of influenza, according to CDC.

All but one of the 11 deaths associated with influenza in Chester County occurred in persons over 65 years of age, a population at higher risk of flu-related complications. No deaths due to influenza were reported in Chester County in two other high-risk groups, children under 5 and pregnant women.

Approved for release

Christina VandePol, M.D.