By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

Flu season is a tough time. Temperatures—and tempers—spike, children are even happy to go back to school, and parents are counting the days of work missed. Influenza has even sent some people to the hospital.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, though, the week of March 29-April 4 saw an overall slight decrease in influenza activity in Nebraska.

There were 150 positive tests on specimens at a Nebraska collaborating laboratory. Most of those involved Influenza A and subtype A (HI).

There were also 53 hospital admissions reported by Nebraska hospitals that week.

The DHHS monitors influenza activity from October through May.

Although Chase County Schools has had quite a few confirmed cases of influenza, both among staff and students, those numbers appear to be decreasing. School Nurse Angie Paisley said there were 10 high school students and 26 elementary students out of school due to the flu last Wednesday and Thursday.

That compares to about 40 cases the week before. However, Paisley said “We’re on the downhill” now. As of Tuesday, there were still “a couple of cases,” as well as absenteeism due to other illnesses, Paisley noted.

A comment wasn’t available from Dr. Jonathan Richman, Chief of Staff at Chase County Community Hospital regarding confirmed cases.

Persons who get the flu should stay home for four to five days after symptoms start.

Symptoms of the flu may start very quickly and may include body aches, chills, dry cough, fever, headache, sore throat and stuffy nose.

Typically, the fever begins to decline on the second or third day of illness.

Influenza almost never causes symptoms in the stomach and intestines.