COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Public Health

INFLUENZA WATCH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) With only 7 of 9 sentinel sites reporting, the total number of positive flu tests increased slightly, however, the percent of flu tests that tested positive decreased in week 44 (Figure 1). Parainfluenza type I, rhinovirus, and RSV are also circulating. Fifty new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (25 in elementary schools, 16 in other schools, 3 in healthcare facilities, 2 in a juvenile detention centers, and 4 in other facilities) were reported during week 44. The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI remains higher relative to the same time in previous years, especially in those 5-14 years old (Figures 2 & 3). Since the beginning of the pandemic in April, there have been a total of 83 deaths and 214 ICU admissions due to laboratory confirmed H1N1; since August there have been 33 deaths due to *any* influenza.

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 44	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	20.0	19.5
Percent Positive RSV Tests‡	0.8	0.3
Percent Flu A / Flu B±	100 / 0	99.7 / 0.3
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	3 (0)	51 (11)
Respiratory Outbreaks	50	290
Influenza Deaths	1	33

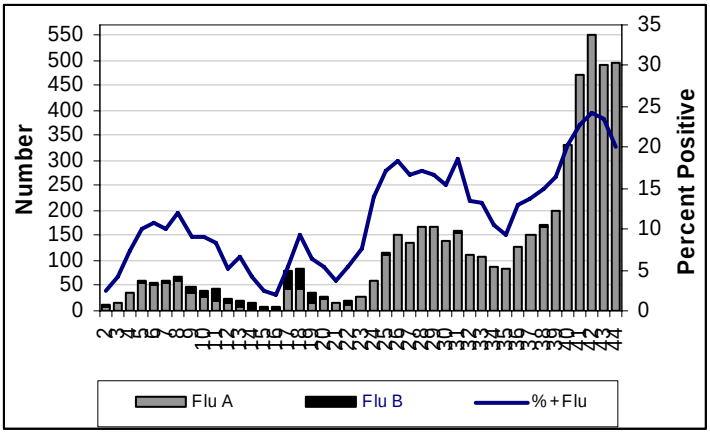
*See http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm for a description of methods. Surveillance 2009-2010 extends from 8/30/09 (week 35) through 5/30/10 (week 21).

± Sentinel sites (7 participating facilities in week 44)

‡ Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities in week 44)

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

Figure 1: Total Positive Flu and % Positive Flu by Week



*Influenza data represent testing completed in 9 facilities except for week 44 (7 facilities).

California During week 44 (November 1-November 7), influenza activity in California remained **widespread.**

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx

United States Influenza activity increased in the United States during week 43 (October 25-October 31). In week 43, 48 states reported widespread activity and 2 states reported regional activity. Over 99% subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC in week 43 were novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses. http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly

In the News In an MMWR released on November 13, the CDC described the results of a case-cohort study that attempted to measure the effectiveness of 2008-09 seasonal influenza vaccine against 2009 pandemic influenza A (H1N1). The case-cohort study estimated the relative risk for H1N1 illness given seasonal influenza vaccination versus no seasonal influenza vaccination. The overall seasonal vaccine effectiveness against pandemic H1N1 illness, after adjusting for age group and the presence of chronic medical conditions that increase the risk for complications from influenza, was -10% (95% confidence interval of -43% to 15%). In contrast to studies conducted in Mexico and Canada but in concordance with a study published in Australia, the results of the CDC study do not support the hypothesis that seasonal flu vaccine either increases or decreases the risk for H1N1 illness. http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5844a5.htm.

Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, All Ages

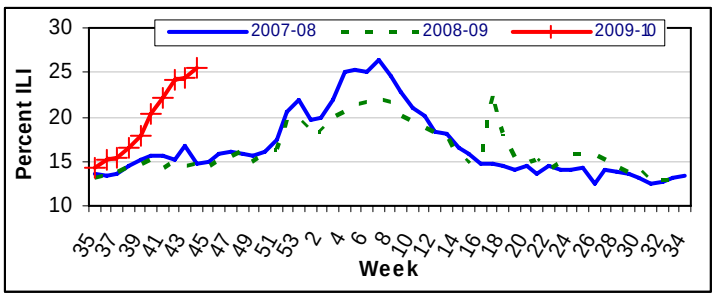


Figure 3: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, 5-14 Years