

INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) Respiratory activity, including influenza and RSV, either decreased slightly or stayed the same during week 11. While influenza A remains predominant (83%) for the entire respiratory season, influenza B activity, similar to past years, has increased late in the season. During the past week, 55% of the isolates were influenza B. A total of 7 viral respiratory outbreaks have been reported in community and healthcare settings including RSV, Influenza, and Adenovirus.

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 11	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [±]	8.8	5.1
Percent Positive RSV Tests [‡]	11.2	18.4
Percent Flu A / Flu B [±]	45 / 55	84 / 16
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	0	5 (0)
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	7
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)		62,058

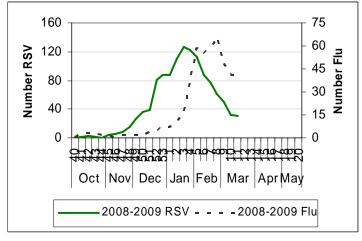
*See http://lapublichealth.org/acd/flu.htm for a description of surveillance methods.

± Sentinel sites (9 participating facilities).

‡ Sentinel sites (4 participating facilities).

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

Figure 1: Positive Influenza and RSV Tests by Week



RSV data in Figure 1 represent testing completed in four reporting facilities for the 2008-2009 season. Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities.

Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week

California

During week 10 (March 8-March 14) influenza activity in California remained regional based on data from Northern and Southern California. Antiviral prescriptions continued to decrease throughout California.

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

United States

Nationally, influenza activity decreased during week 10. During this week, 30 states reported widespread activity, 18 states reported regional activity, and 2 states reported local activity. Influenza activity is lower compared to the same week last year when 42 states reported widespread activity.

http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm

In the News

Mandatory Flu Vaccination Program Achieved Almost **Total Compliance**

BJC Healthcare implemented mandatory flu vaccination for its 25,982 active employees in October of 2008. Exemptions were allowed for religious and medical reasons. A compliance rate of 98.4% was achieved. Eight employees refused vaccination and were, therefore, terminated. The study found many of the exemption requests to be based on misinformation and concluded that better communication would be helpful in future vaccination campaigns. While California law only requires that healthcare facilities offer influenza vaccine to their employees, other facilities have also made vaccination mandatory with good success.

http://infectiousdiseasenews.com/article/38087.aspx

