



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Influenza activity remained low during week 47. To date, there have been no confirmed severe pediatric influenza cases and a total of 20 positive RSV tests in LAC. Emergency Department ILI (influenza-like illness) surveillance is currently slightly lower than rates experienced during 2007-08. Influenza activity usually peaks in January-February in LAC. Since influenza can be spread before symptoms appear, all healthcare workers should be vaccinated for influenza or they put their patients at risk.

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 47	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.5%	1.0%
Positive RSV Tests‡	6	20
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	34,024

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

±Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities).

‡ Sentinel sites (2 participating facilities).

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California

During week 47 (November 16-November 22, 2008), influenza activity in California remained **sporadic**, with activity in Northern California higher than Southern California. Outpatient activity and hospitalizations for ILI remained low as did laboratory detections.

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

United States

Influenza activity increased slightly during week 46 (11/9-11/15) but remains low. During this week, 1 state reported low activity, 19 reported **sporadic** activity and 29 states reported no activity (one state did not report). Influenza activity is lower compared to the same week last year.

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

Figure 1: Positive Influenza and RSV Tests by Week

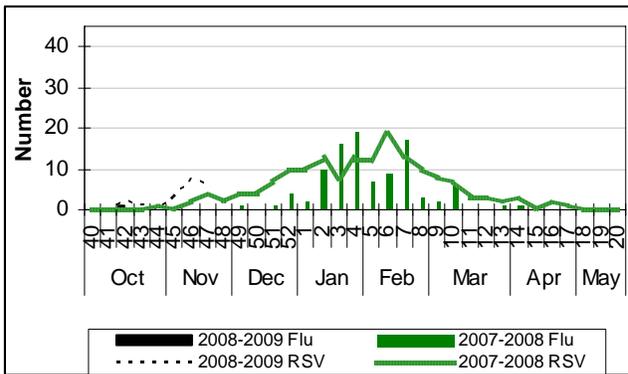
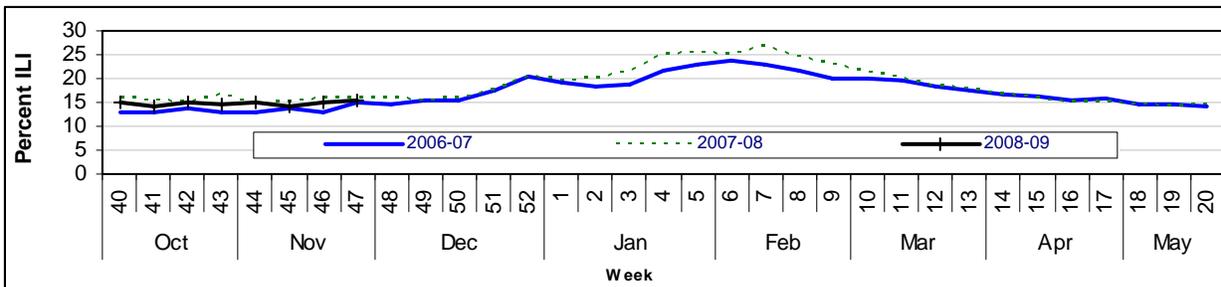


Figure 2: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI



In the News

A survey, conducted by Consumer Reports Health, found that only 52% of survey respondents planned to be vaccinated for influenza this season. While there are many reasons why people choose not to be vaccinated, the two most common identified by this survey were: 1) the respondents opinion that they “don’t get sick” and 2) the respondent knew someone who had gotten sick from the vaccine. These findings indicate a need to educate people that they cannot get sick from the flu shot and that, without the vaccine, they and their families are at higher risk of getting the influenza.

<http://www.reutershealth.com/archive/2008/11/17/eline/links/20081117elin002.html>