



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County (LAC) Overall, influenza activity has remained relatively high in Los Angeles County. The percent positive of influenza tests increased in weeks 26 and 27 (Figure 1) but appears to be leveling out. Nine new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks occurred in schools, camps, detention centers, and health facilities during weeks 26 and 27. The percent of ED visits due to ILI is slightly higher relative to the same time in previous years.

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 26-27	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests [±]	18.4	7.0
Percent Positive RSV Tests [‡]	0.0	13.4
Percent Flu A / Flu B [‡]	100 / 0	83 / 17
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases [†]	0	11 (0)
Respiratory Outbreaks	9	50

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

± Sentinel sites (6 participating facilities).

‡ Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities).

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

California During weeks 25 and 26 (June 21-July 4), influenza activity in California remained **widespread**.

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

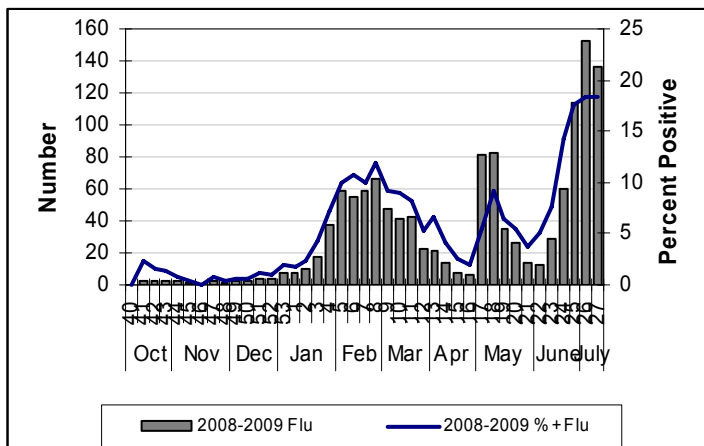
United States Influenza activity decreased slightly across the United States during weeks 25 and 26. In week 26, 9 states reported widespread activity, 12 states reported regional activity, 10 states reported local activity, and 18 states reported sporadic activity. However, there were still higher levels of ILI than normal for this time of year. Over 97% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC in week 26 were novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

In the News In the MMWR for July 17, 2009, the CDC summarized findings of a series of 10 patients with novel influenza A (H1N1) infection and refractory acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) admitted to a tertiary-care ICU in Michigan. Nine of the 10 patients were obese (body mass index [BMI] ≥ 30) including seven that were extremely obese (BMI ≥ 40). Clinicians should be aware of the potential for serious complications of novel influenza A (H1N1) especially in patients that are extremely obese.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0710a1.htm>

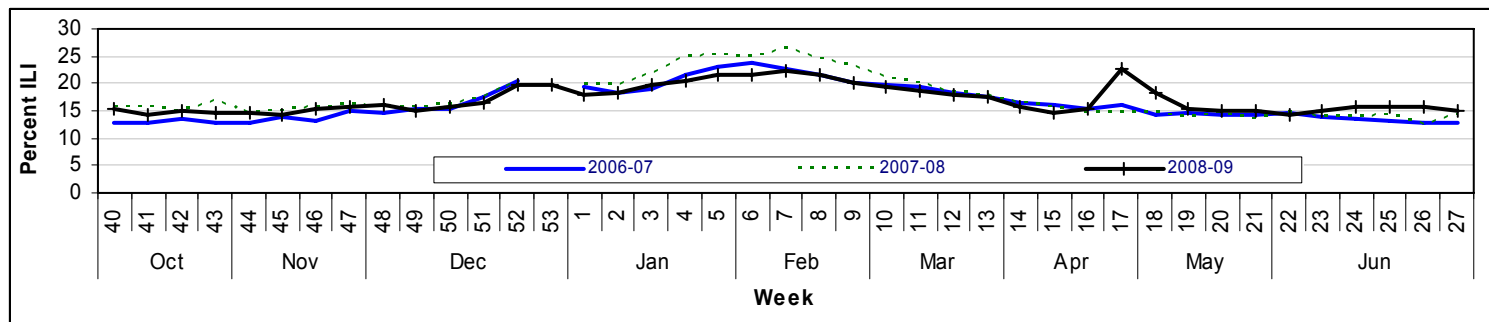
In light of these findings, and similar observations in California cases, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued a Health Alert with increased dosing recommendations for oseltamivir in severely ill and obese patients. CDPH concludes that treatment with higher doses of antivirals should be considered for hospitalized patients with a BMI>30 and for all severely ill patients with ILI, regardless of date of onset of symptoms. See: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx> for more details.

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



*Influenza data represent testing completed in nine facilities except for weeks 22-25 where influenza data represent testing completed in 7 facilities.

Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week





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Breakdown of Novel H1N1 Cases in Los Angeles County

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus by Age Group Los Angeles County as of July 15, 2009		
Age Group (years)	All Cases Total (%)	Hospitalized Total (%)
0 – 4	66 (10)	9 (15)
5-17	325 (51)	11 (18)
18-29	120 (19)	15 (24)
30-49	88 (14)	16 (26)
50-64	31 (5)	9 (15)
65+	4 (1)	2 (3)
Unknown	3 (0.5)	0 (0)

During weeks 26 and 27, 293 new novel H1N1 cases were reported, 29 of whom were hospitalized. Since May 2 when the first case was reported to Public Health a total of 637 cases have been reported 62 of whom have been hospitalized. Hospitalizations are continuing to increase. While the number of hospitalizations seem to have decreased during the week of 6/28-7/4, it is important to note that there is often a delay in reporting and confirmation of cases. Thus, we expect the number of hospitalizations after 6/28 to increase as more reports come in. While the majority of outpatient cases have occurred in school age children (ages 5-17), half of hospitalizations have occurred in adults aged 18-49. Almost all of the patients admitted to the intensive care unit had pre-existing conditions which would make them at higher risk for severe complications of influenza. This parallels trends in the United States and California. For more information on testing, treating, and preventing influenza in Los Angeles County go to: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/Diseases/Swine.htm>.

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus: Case Characteristics Los Angeles County (as of July 15, 2009)				
Case Status	Gender (M %/ F%)	Mean Age (years)	Median Age (years)	Age Range (years)
Hospitalized Cases N=62	50 / 50	29	28	0 - 72
All Cases N=637	48 / 52	19	15	0 - 99

Figure 3: Influenza A Novel H1N1 Hospitalized Cases by Week of Onset as of July 15, 2009

