

Flu Season Has Started – First Flu Death Identified

The first confirmed influenza related death in Los Angeles County (LAC) for the 2013-2014 influenza season has been reported. The decedent was a 54 year old woman with underlying medical conditions who resided in the San Fernando Valley. Influenza is circulating in LAC and activity is currently below baseline which is expected for this time of year. Sentinel laboratories are reporting positive results for both type A and B strains (Table 1). Levels of percent positive for influenza like illness symptoms from reporting emergency departments in the county are at low levels as well. Additional respiratory viruses are also circulating in the county, predominately rhinovirus and parainfluenza, common for this time of year. In addition, community respiratory outbreaks have already been reported with the first confirmed outbreak occurring in a school setting. These factors highlight the need for everyone 6 months of age and older to get vaccinated now.

Table 1. LA County Surveillance Summary 2013-2014

LA County Surveillance Summary	Week 42 10/13/13- 10/19/13	2013-14 YTD (9/1/13-Present)
Positive Flu Tests/Total Tests (Percent Positive Flu Tests)	5/596 (0.8%)	21/3468 (0.6%)
Percent Flu A/B	80/20	81/19
Community Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Flu Deaths, Confirmed†	1	1

†Confirmed influenza death is defined by a positive lab test, compatible symptoms, and clear progression from illness to death

Influenza Vaccinations for Healthcare Workers

On October 2, 2013 the Director of Public Health issued a Health Officer Order mandating healthcare facilities to require their healthcare personnel get an annual influenza vaccination. Those who decline vaccination will need to wear a mask when they are in contact with patients during the influenza season. For more information see: [Health Officer Order for Annual Influenza Vaccination Programs for Healthcare Personnel or Masking of Health Care Workers during the Influenza Season](#)

Get Your Flu Vaccine Now!

[Click here for flu vaccination resources in LAC](#)

Influenza Across the Nation

Overall activity across the nation is minimal which mirrors the situation locally. As of October 12, 2013, the majority of states reported none to sporadic activity and only 3 states (Texas, Alabama, and South Carolina) reported the higher measure of local activity. These weekly estimates are compiled by the CDC using data from the State and Territorial Epidemiologists. For more information go to:

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

