



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County

Influenza activity remained low during week 44. To date, there have been no confirmed severe pediatric influenza cases and only 3 positive RSV tests in LAC. Additionally, ED ILI surveillance remains at expected levels and is currently lower than rates experienced during 2007-08. Finally, there has been one outbreak of respiratory illness so far this season, the etiology of which was adenovirus.

Table: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 44	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.7%	1.4%
Positive RSV Tests‡	0	3
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (DPH)	383	1,540

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

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

±Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities).

‡Sentinel sites (2 participating facilities).

Figure 1: Positive Influenza and RSV Tests by Week

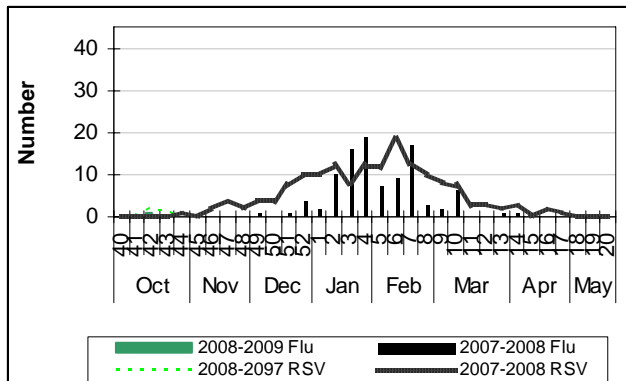
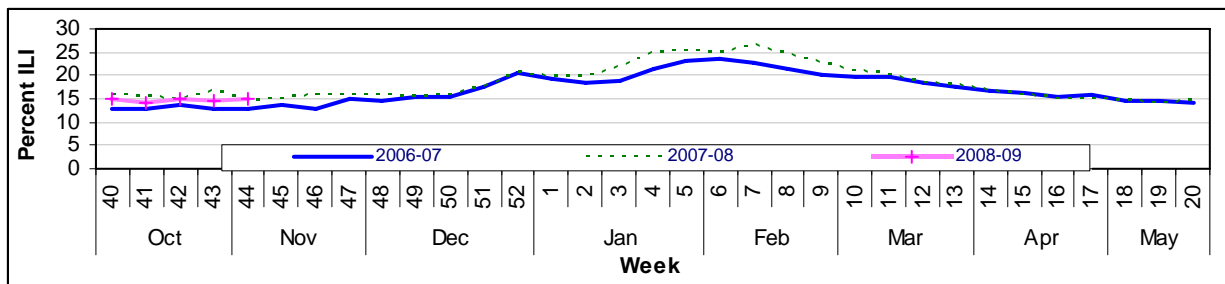


Figure 2: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI



California

During week 43 (October 19-25, 2008), influenza activity in California was **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 in the United States during week 43 but remains low. Thirteen states reported **sporadic** influenza activity and the remaining jurisdictions reported **no activity** (one jurisdiction did not report).

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

In the News

Effectiveness of Maternal Influenza Immunization in Mothers and Infants

Influenza vaccine is recommended for pregnant women but not licensed for use in infants under 6 months of age. Researchers in this study sought to assess clinical effectiveness of inactivated influenza vaccine provided during pregnancy in preventing maternal and infant illness. Data suggest a 63% reduction in illness in infants up to 6 months of age as well as a reduction in overall respiratory illness by approximately one-third.

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/359/15/1555>