



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

THIS WEEK IS NATIONAL INFLUENZA WEEK (DECEMBER 8-14, 2008) - GET VACCINATED!

Los Angeles County

Influenza activity remained low during week 49. To date, there have been no confirmed severe pediatric influenza cases and a total of 59 positive RSV tests in LAC. Emergency Department ILI (influenza-like illness) surveillance is currently slightly lower than rates experienced during 2007-08.

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 49	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.7%	1.0%
Positive RSV Tests‡	25	59
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	48,376

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

±Sentinel sites (8 participating facilities).

‡Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities).

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

Figure 1: Positive Influenza and RSV Tests by Week

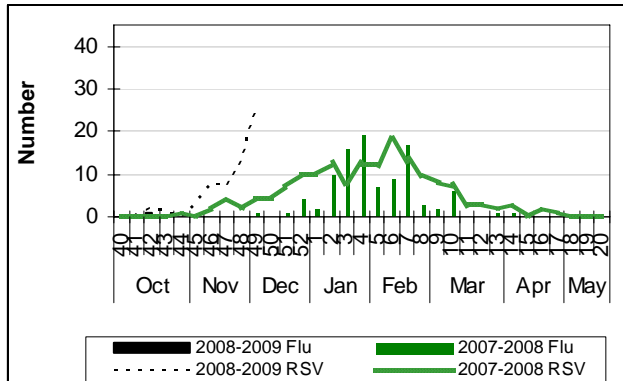
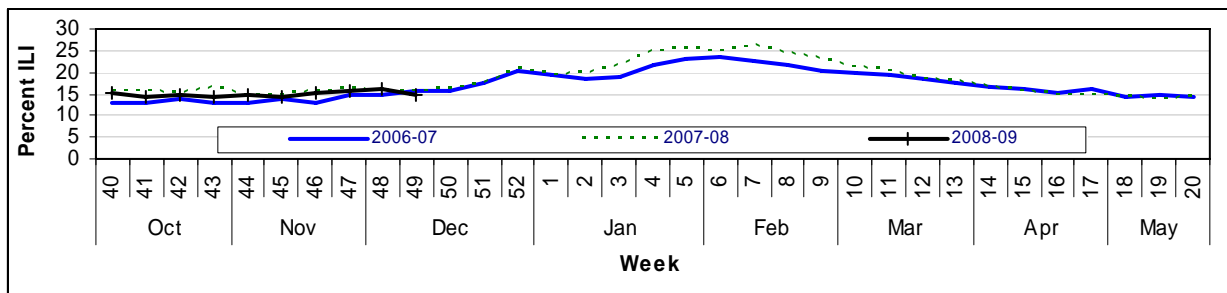


Figure 2: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI



California

During week 48 (November 23–November 29, 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 48 but remains low. During this week, one state reported **low** activity, 22 reported **sporadic** activity and 27 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>

In the News

Influenza Vaccination Among College & University Students

This study, conducted on three college campuses in Minnesota, assessed the effectiveness of influenza vaccination in prevention of influenza-like illness (ILI), ILI associated health care use, and academic performance. Surveys were conducted on four cohorts of students from 2002–2006. Analysis revealed a significant decrease in ILI, ILI associated health-care visits and impaired school performance. These results suggest vaccination of college and university students provides value to the students, the colleges/universities and the health-care system.

<http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/162/12/1113#AUTHINFO>