



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County

Influenza activity remained low during week 45. To date, there have been no confirmed severe pediatric influenza cases and only 5 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 Los Angeles County so there is still time to vaccinate/be vaccinated. All healthcare workers should be vaccinated yearly for influenza.

Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 45	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	0.8%	1.3%
Positive RSV Tests‡	2	5
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	0	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	--	12,644

*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 44 (October 26-November 1, 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 44 but remains low. Fifteen states reported **sporadic** activity while the other 35 states reported no activity. 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

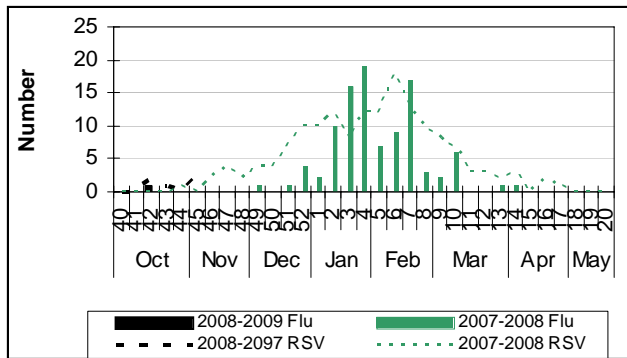
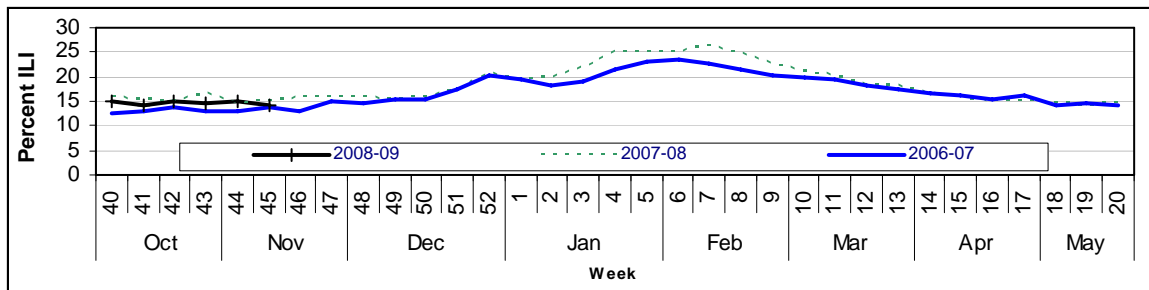


Figure 2: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI



In the News

High-Dose Influenza Vaccine Shows Increased Immune Response Among Adults 65 Years of Age and Older

A study of the effects of high-dose influenza vaccination found that giving persons aged 65 and older four-times the regular dose of influenza vaccine increased their chances to stay healthy throughout the winter when compared with persons receiving the regular dose. This study found no adverse effects of high-dose vaccination in this population.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/high-dose-influenza-vaccine-shows-increased/story.aspx?guid=%7B85F17ED3-34B9-44C9-97BD-A5C1E123C268%7D&dist=hprr>