



INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

WHAT'S NEW WITH FLU...NEW DATA STARTING 10/31/08

Based on feedback we have received, several changes have been made to the information being presented in this year's influenza watch as well as to the layout .

Table 1: Surveillance System Overview

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Weeks 40-42	2008-2009 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests±	2.9%	2.9%
Positive RSV Tests‡	0	0
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases†	0	0
Respiratory Outbreaks	1	1
Influenza Vaccines Administered (PH)	0	0

*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

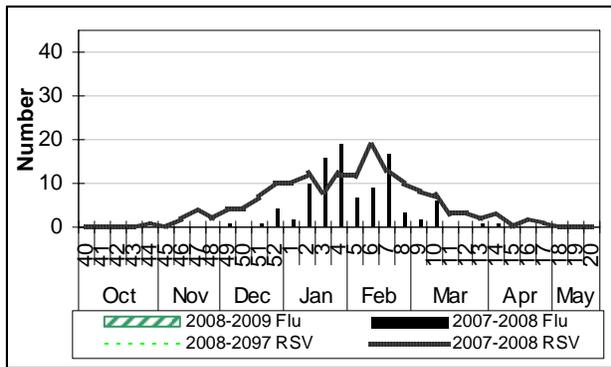
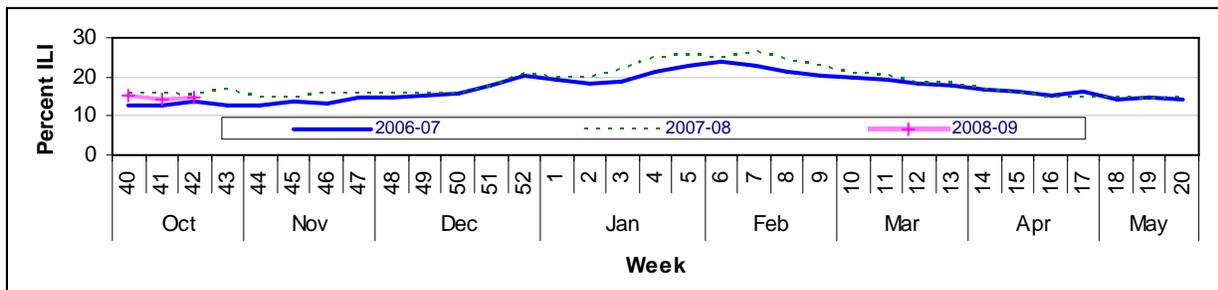


Figure 2: Percent of Emergency Department Visits for ILI



Changes to Surveillance System

- We have added several new laboratories in order to capture a more accurate representation of influenza testing in Los Angeles County
- We are now monitoring geographic clustering of ILI visits to local emergency departments in order to detect regional outbreaks and potential areas for increased vaccination.
- In addition to what is presented in Influenza Watch, we also monitor respiratory disease activity in selected schools and nursing homes and trends in deaths caused by pneumonia and influenza throughout the county.
- We have started a pilot project monitoring other respiratory viruses at selected laboratories

Changes in Influenza Data and Layout

1. Percent positives for influenza and RSV tests now displayed in table 1.
2. Figure 1 displays counts of positive tests with data added from several new laboratories. Comparison between years should be limited to trends only.
3. We have removed ILI activity in Children <6 years. Figure 2 demonstrates percent of emergency department visits for ILI in all age groups.