



# INFLUENZA WATCH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**Los Angeles County (LAC)** Fewer sentinel sites reported in week 46, thus, the total number of positive flu tests decreased. However, the percent of flu tests that tested positive also declined indicating a true decrease in flu (Figure 1). RSV activity is picking up. A total of 7 new ILI (influenza-like illness) outbreaks (5 in elementary schools and 2 in high schools) were reported. The percent of emergency department visits due to ILI decreased in all ages (Figure 2) but most sharply among those aged 5-14 years (Figure 3). Since the beginning of the pandemic in April there have been a total of 279 ICU/deaths (97 which were deaths) due to laboratory confirmed H1N1; since the beginning of the 2009-2010 flu season on August 30, there have been 46 deaths due to laboratory confirmed influenza of any type.

**Table 1: Surveillance System Overview**

SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM*	Week 46	2009-2010 YTD
Percent Positive Influenza Tests <sup>±</sup>	11.8	19.0
Percent Positive RSV Tests <sup>‡</sup>	2.9	0.5
Percent Flu A / Flu B <sup>‡</sup>	99.7	0.3
Severe Pediatric Influenza Cases <sup>†</sup>	1 (0)	78 (8)
Respiratory Outbreaks	7	321
Influenza Deaths	0	46

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

± Sentinel sites (7 participating facilities in week 46)

‡ Sentinel sites (3 participating facilities in week 46)

†The number of deaths is indicated by the parenthesis.

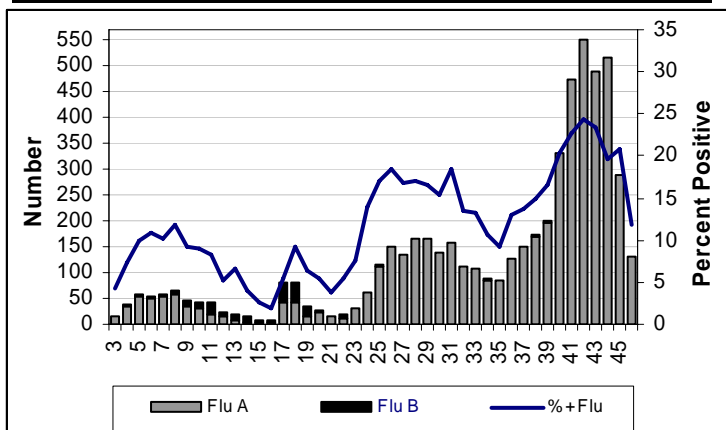
**California** During week 46 (November 15-November 21), influenza activity in California remained **widespread**.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/PROGRAMS/VRDL/Pages/CaliforniaInfluenzaSurveillanceProject.aspx>

**United States** Influenza activity decreased in the US during week 45 (November 8-November 14). In week 45, 43 states reported widespread activity and 7 states reported regional activity. Over 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses reported to CDC in week 45 were novel influenza A (H1N1) viruses. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly>

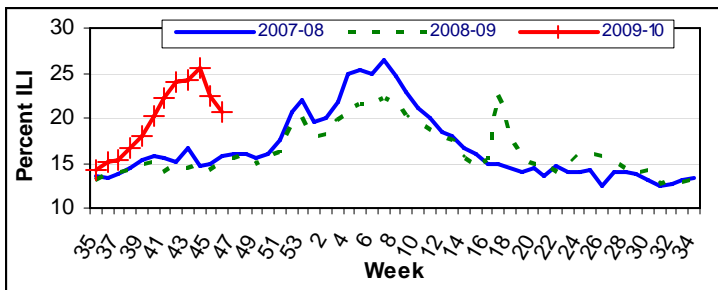
**In the News** An article posted on *CNN.com* on November 26 discusses data from the CDC that show an increase in serious pneumococcal infections around the country. This increase is linked to a rise in pandemic H1N1 cases as flu infections often result in the thinning of the lining of the respiratory tract thereby making the lungs more susceptible to bacteria that cause pneumonia. Because people under the age of 65 are particularly vulnerable to H1N1, the majority of bacterial pneumonia cases also fall into this age group. The CDC recommends that all high-risk adults (smokers, diabetics, persons with HIV, and persons with chronic lung, heart, and liver disease) get vaccinated for pneumococcal disease (and influenza). According to the CDC, only 25% of high-risk adults under the age of 65 have received the pneumococcal vaccine. <http://www.cnn.com/2009/HEALTH/11/26/h1n1.bacterial.pneumonia/>

**Figure 1: Total Positive Flu and % Positive Flu by Week**



\*Influenza data represent testing completed in 9 facilities except in weeks 39, 44, 45 (8 facilities) and week 46 (7 facilities).

**Figure 2: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, All Ages**



**Figure 3: Percent of ED Visits for ILI by Week, 5-14 Years**

